

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT MALTINGS FARM,**

**SOUTH STREET,**

**CASTLETHORPE,**

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**NGR SP 8015 4435**

*On behalf of  
Rivar Ltd.*

**JULY 2014**

**REPORT FOR** Rivar Ltd  
5 West Mills  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 5HG

**PREPARED BY** Gwilym Williams

**ILLUSTRATION BY** Andrej • elovský & Gwilym Williams

**FIELDWORK** 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013

**REPORT ISSUED** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**ENQUIRES TO** John Moore Heritage Services  
Hill View  
Woodperry Road  
Beckley  
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

Tel/Fax 01865 358300  
Email: [info@jmheritageservices.co.uk](mailto:info@jmheritageservices.co.uk)

**Site Code** CTSS 11  
**JMHS Project No:** 2418  
**Archive Location** The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire  
County Museum Services with accession code  
2011.183.

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	3
<b>2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Research Design	5
3.2 Methodology	5
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Fieldwork	8
Areas 500, 800, 1000 and 1200	8
Areas 200, 600, 700	10
Area 900	22
Area 300	23
Area 100	39
Area 1100	42
4.2 Reliability of results and methodology	43
<b>5 FINDS &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS</b>	<b>43</b>
5.1 Pottery <i>by Jackie Wells</i>	43
5.2 Fired clay and building material <i>by Jackie Wells</i>	46
5.3 Brooches <i>by Andrej • elovský</i>	47
5.4 Worked flint <i>by Martin Tingle</i>	48
5.5 Environmental Remains	49
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>7 CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>8 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1</b> Pottery type series, fabric concordance & quantity	57
<b>APPENDIX 2</b> Aging and metrical data	58

**FIGURES**

Figure 1	Site location	2
Figure 2	Site plan with overview of interventions	7
Figure 3	Enclosure ditch: Areas 1200, 1000, 500 & 800	9
Figure 4	Areas 200, 700 & 900: plan and sections	12
Figure 5	Area 300	25
Figure 6	Early/mid Roman period feature sections	30
Figure 7	Early/mid Roman period pit 393 sections	33
Figure 8	Area 100: plan & sections	42

**PLATES**

Plate 1	Unmonitored access road adjacent to Area 200	6
Plate 2	Enclosure ditch 1009; looking north	8
Plate 3	Area 200 (rear of Maltings Farm house); Looking west	11
Plate 4	Area 200 (central part); looking north over crane-base; gully 2007 exiting Area 700 to east (right of picture)	11
Plate 5	Pits 239, 243, 245 & 249, gully 247, & layers (255) 13 – centre of picture – and cobbles (256) – left of picture	13
Plate 6	Gully 2007; looking north	15
Plate 7	Gullies 617 & 619	15
Plate 8	Wall <b>612</b> prior to investigation; wall <b>613</b> on left of picture; surface (615) to bottom of picture; looking northeast	19
Plate 9	Wall <b>612</b> ; external face partially exposed; looking southwest	20
Plate 10	Dutch barn	22
Plate 11	Cobbled surface (902)	23
Plate 12	Area 300; looking north after cleaning prior to excavation	24
Plate 13	Pit 336 under excavation	29
Plate 14	Pottery in base of pit 349	31
Plate 15	Pit 393; looking southwest	32
Plate 16	Gully 2003; looking northwest	36
Plate 17	Gully 2004; section 351, looking east	37
Plate 18	Hearth 105	40
Plate 19	SF2 - Colchester-type brooch	47
Plate 20	SF3 - Hod Hill-type brooch	48

**TABLES**

Table 1	Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch numbers & associated contexts with finds 1 postholes	24
Table 2	Early/Mid Roman ditch numbers & associated contexts with finds	35
Table 3	Quantification of late Saxon and medieval pottery	46
Table 4	Quantification of post-medieval and modern pottery	46
Table 5	Quantification of fired clay	47
Table 6	Condition of the bone (number of bags)	50
Table 7	Taxa representation according to date	50
Table 8	Anatomical representation of calf from (365)	51

## **Summary**

*During a watching brief at Maltings Farm, South Street, Castlethorpe it became clear that an extensive area of a Romano-British farmstead and associated enclosures was extant beneath the former farmyard to the rear of Maltings Farm house.*

*The area had not been evaluated prior to development and as a consequence its archaeological potential was unknown. A portion of the investigation area was destroyed without archaeological monitoring, as the main contractor was not aware that access roads and services were part of the planning condition.*

*Mesolithic and Neolithic activity was evidenced by residual flint found in the possible Iron Age enclosure ditch and later pits. Other remains investigated included a large north/south oriented 4m-wide enclosure ditch on the east side of the settlement, which may have been associated with an early phase of settlement activity represented by ditches and pits dating from the Late Iron Age.*

*Pits, an oven, the footings of a postulated barn, identified from stone pads, as well as what appear to be small enclosures were also identified from the Late Iron Age and early/mid Roman periods. Special finds include two fibulae brooches, in addition to a good assemblage of pottery, indicating the occupation of the settlement from late prehistory into the Roman period.*

*Within the yard of Maltings Farm, a number of pits dating from the medieval period were investigated. Their precise function could not be ascertained. On the east side of the intervention area, a medieval building was also identified from stone footings and an associated surface. This sealed an earlier undated pond.*

*A second post-medieval pond, which does not figure on historic OS maps was also represented*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

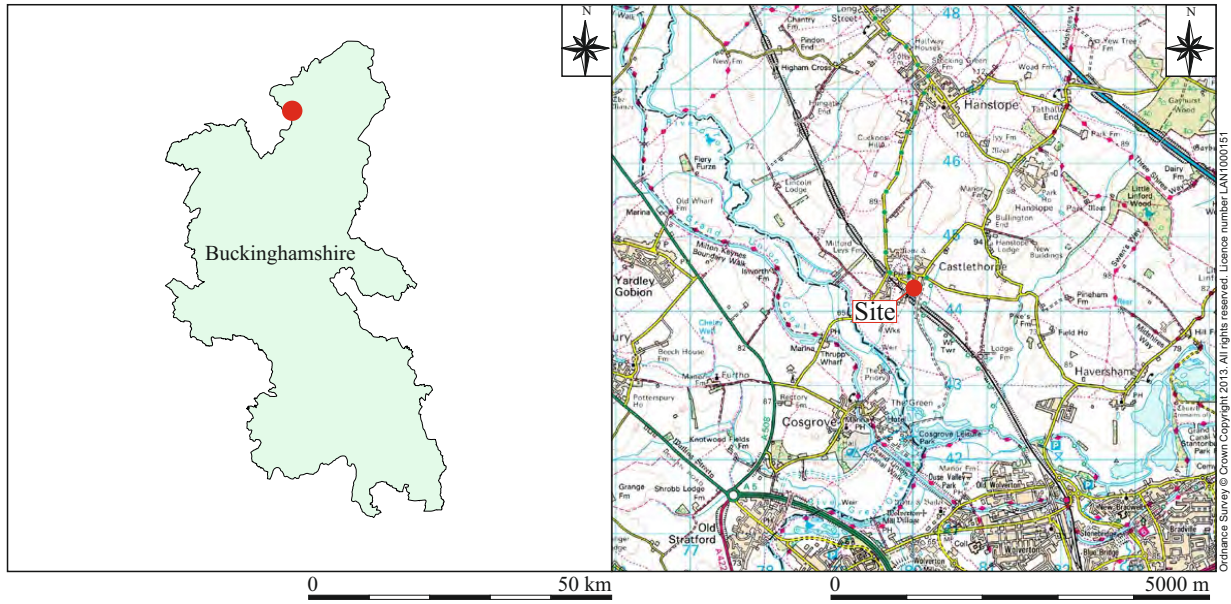
### **1.1 Site location (Figure 1)**

The site was located to the east of South Street in the south-east part of Castlethorpe (NGR SP 8015 4435), which itself is located on a plateau that gently rises to the east. The plateau falls away to the east and south beyond the edge of site. To the south of the site, the West Coast Main Line splits the settlement of Castlethorpe in two.

The underlying geology is Boulder Clay. The site was previously a farmyard with barns.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted by Milton Keynes Council for the demolition of modern barns and hard-standings, alterations and conversion of barns to form three



Key ■ Monitored area ■ Area with no archaeological impact ■ Not monitored

Figure 1: Site location

dwellings, erection of 11 dwellings, car ports, garden sheds, landscaping, parking and alterations to Maltings Field on South Street (08/01873/FUL).

Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present, a condition (14) for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the permission. This was a result of advice given to Milton Keynes Council by their Senior Archaeological Officer (SAO).

A *Written Scheme of Investigation* outlining the methodology by which the work would be carried out in order to achieve the aims of the further works was prepared by JMHS, which was submitted to and agreed with the Senior Archaeological Officer.

### **1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background**

#### *History by Stephen Yates*

Castlethorpe was formerly part of the parish of Hanslope (VCH 1927, 348-62), and indeed may have originally been known by that name. A further part of the parish is known to have extended into the neighbouring county of Northamptonshire. This latter part of the parish has subsequently been transferred to the parish of Hartwell.

The manor of Hanslope is known to have existed at the time of the Conquest in 1066 when Aldene held the manor (VCH 1927, 348-62). In 1086 Winemar held the manor and it was assessed as containing 10 hides. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the manor was held by William Maudit, Earl of Warwick, and from that time the manor descended with the Warwick estates. The main demesne lands of the Hanslope manor were located at Castlethorpe. The main manor had hunting rites in Salcey and Whittlewood Forests.

The manor of Hanslope was located in the castle of Castlethorpe, but it is also apparent that the church that is located at the centre of the village of Castlethorpe was previously once more important (VCH 1927, 348-62). The church of Saint James at Hanslope is known to date from 1160. For much of its documented history the church of Saint Simon and Saint Jude (formerly Our Lady) at Castlethorpe is documented as a chapel of Hanslope. However, this was not always the case and it is recognised that an application to have the chapel of Hanslope raised to the status of mother church and Castlethorpe turned from mother church into a chapel was approved by Bishop Grosteste of Lincoln 1235-53. The presentation to the church descended with the manor until 1522 when it passed to Newark College. A chapel once stood at Gorefield in the neighbouring parish of Stoke Goldington, which was also noted as a chapel of Hanslope.

Though the details concerning the manor and church of Hanslope and Castlethorpe may appear to digress, the information noted here is relevant as it indicates that Castlethorpe was the original village site with the main manorial centre and church, and that the village of Hanslope was originally a hamlet attached to that centre. It is the post 1253 landscape that provides the villages with their High Medieval and subsequent names. Castlethorpe is first recorded from 1252 as Castelthorpe (Mawer and Stenton 1925, 14), the name is self-explanatory that it is the location of the castle of Hanslope, whereas the suffix Old English *þorp*, a village. The name Hanslope is



first recorded as *Hammescle* in 1086 (Mawer and Stenton 1925, 6-7), the first part of the name is suggested as an Old English personal name *H•ma*, familiar in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. The suffix is equated with slope.

### *Archaeology by Gwilym Williams*

The development site lies within an area of archaeological interest; prior to the intervention starting it was believed that the plot could possibly have been part of the later medieval development and expansion of the settlement. Late prehistoric/Roman remains have been revealed previously at Castlethorpe, but these were not considered sufficient to warrant potential archaeological significance for the present development.

To the west of Maltings Field, south of and partly destroyed by the line of the west Coast Main Line, is an area of earthworks, identified previously on OS maps as fishponds, part of Castlethorpe Castle, located approximately 475m to the west of the present site.

During excavation ahead of the laying of a replacement sewer through the earthworks in 1993 (Bonner *et al* 1995) a small assemblage of flint dating from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age was recovered (*ibid*, 95), indicating low-level prehistoric background activity. During the excavation, an Iron Age/Roman pit was found; adjacent medieval pits yielded a small quantity of residual sherds as did the earthworks (*ibid*, 92, 90).

Further evidence for late prehistoric activity (Anon 1962) has been recovered in the vicinity of the southwest rampart of the castle where two sherds of late Iron Age pottery were recovered from a 'black layer', a similar distance to the west of the present site. Sherds of Romano-British pottery were also found during the sewer replacement excavation, as well as elsewhere at Castlethorpe (MMK334), although the precise location is not recorded.

The village appears to be medieval in origin and although there has been some discussion of a Saxon origin (Green 2011, 22-23), this is circumstantial and lacks archaeological evidence at present. Despite there only having been a few archaeological interventions most of these have evidenced some medieval remains. Immediately to the west of the site at Maltings Field a sunken way (Fell 2000, 9) was present, believed to link Castlethorpe with Cosgrove to the south; no house-plots were apparent.

Interventions have been undertaken at a number of locations at the site of what was previously believed to be fishponds associated with the castle, located 475m to the west. These were shown clearly not to be fishponds during an intervention carried out by Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeological Service in 1993 (Bonner *et al* 1995) and other possibilities such as outer defences associated with the bailey, or a *viridarium* (literally green place, but in the context a more formal garden) built by Williams Beauchamp were also dismissed (*ibid*. 97).

To the northwest of the site is the site of the castle, an area of extensive earthworks delineating the motte and bailey of the Norman castle, demolished by Fawkes de Breauté in 1215, and later acquired by William Beauchamp from 1263.

A pit was recorded to the rear of 22 North St – to the west of the present site, in 1986, which yielded a small assemblage of medieval pottery, in addition to one sherd of Romano-British pot (MMK3859); to the northwest of the present at 7C North St a ditch yielded possible medieval pottery (MMK5646).

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- to make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains

In particular

- to record any evidence associated with the medieval settlement and later use of the old barns

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of the majority of groundworks that had potential to reveal or disturb archaeological remains. The monitored groundworks included surface stripping (internal and exterior), the excavation of new foundations and services, and the excavation of a balancing pond. Nevertheless significant areas of the development were not monitored.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

### **3.2 Methodology**

During excavation of the footings in Area 100 (see section 4.1) it became clear that the quantity and quality of remains was unexpectedly high. The building of access roads and the excavation some service runs had already been carried out unmonitored (Fig. 1 (grey areas); Plate 1).

Graham Knowles, the site manager for Acorn Construction, reacted well to the need to modify his programme of works to take into account the requirement to record the

presence of archaeological remains. Areas where proposed housing was located were subsequently stripped under archaeological control (Fig. 1 maroon and blue).

The central area where a crane base was located was not monitored, however (Fig. 1). The blue areas were monitored, but the impact appeared to have been insufficient to attain archaeological deposits. These areas are not dealt with further in this report.

The watching brief was carried out over a period of 12 months by the author and Anne Foard-Colby with assistance from Gavin Davis, Marge Feryok, David Gilbert, Wayne Perkins, Charles Rousseau and Paul Wragg.



*Plate 1. Unmonitored access road adjacent to Area 200*

#### **4 RESULTS**

Areas were assigned discrete blocks of numbers. Description of each area follows with a final summarizing of the archaeological remains as a whole.

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material. CBM refers to undifferentiated ceramic building material, which could be brick, tile or daub.

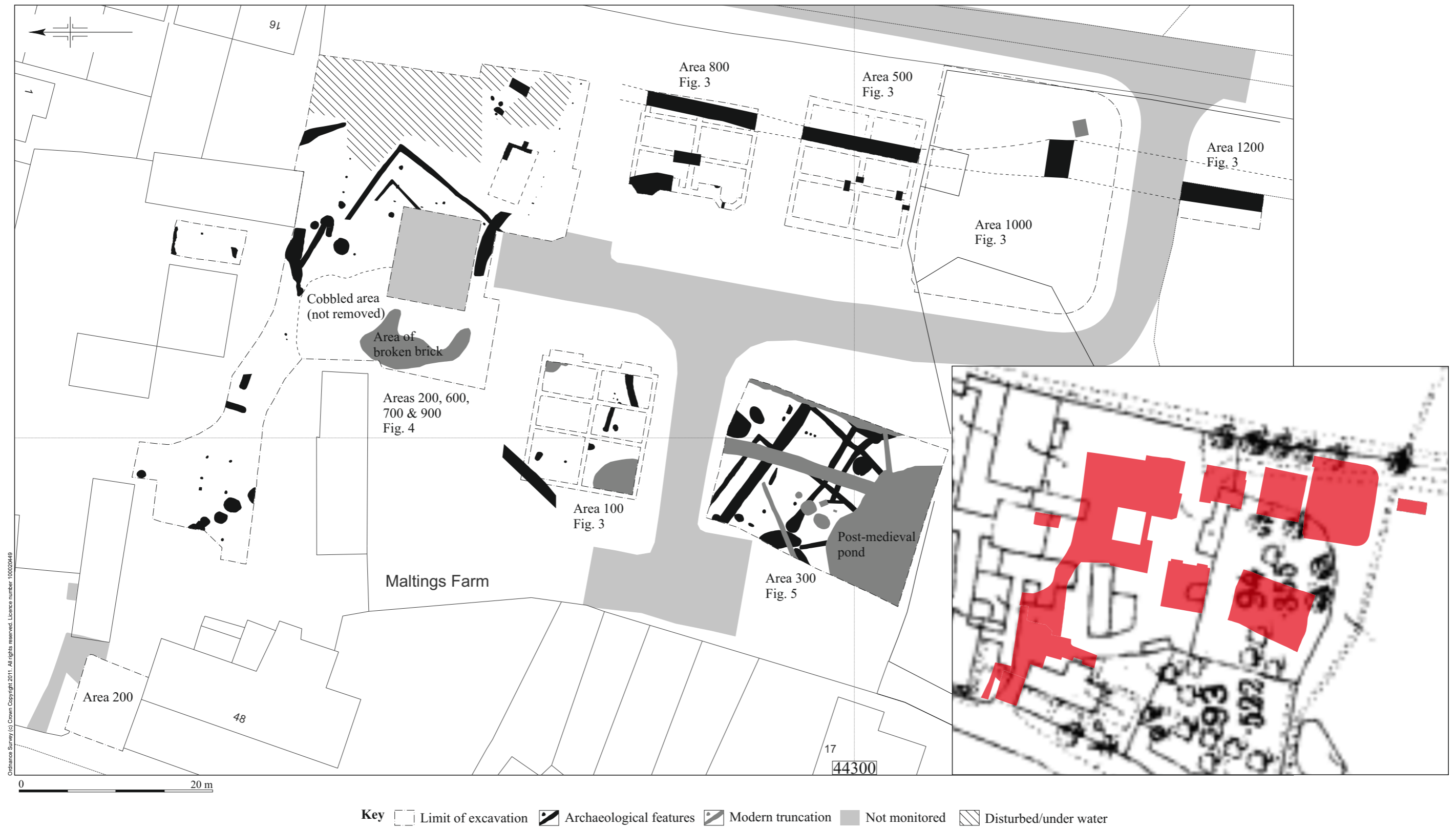


Figure 2: Plan of site showing overview of investigated areas and features; 1885 OS 1:2500 in bottom right corner

## 4.1 Fieldwork (Figs 2-6)

### 4.1.1 Areas 500, 800, 1000 and 1200

These Areas defined the eastern border of the site. Areas 500 and 800 were stripped for houses; Area 1000 was excavated for a balancing pond at the southern extent of the development area, and Area 1200 was located just to the south of the development area where a trench was excavated for drainage. These four areas are grouped together as the Late Iron Age ditch 504, 804, 1009 and 1205 that probably delimited the eastern boundary of a large enclosure was present in all four interventions (fig. 3; Plate 2). This ditch measured up to 3.7m across and 1m deep, although it was narrower where it was deeper. For the most part it was only seen in section, although it was partly revealed in plan in Area 1200, as well as Area 1000. The primary fill was a tenacious, dark yellow-brownish silt-clay with inclusions of *c* 1% degraded chalk (1008); this appeared to contain mainly eroded natural from the ditch edges. It was overlain by tenacious, light brown silt-clay with a higher degree of degraded chalk at around 2% (1007), from which a scraper and a sherd of pottery weighing 99g in a local fabric that cannot be more closely dated than to Late Iron Age. The ditch was sealed in places by a post-Roman plough soil (1006) of dark brown clay up to 0.39m thick.



Plate 2. Enclosure ditch 1009; looking north

#### *Undated features*

The other archaeological remains observed on the east side of the intervention area were less easily characterised. This due in large part to the weather conditions, although a lack of dating only conflates the problems of interpretation. These features were only present in Areas 500 and 800.

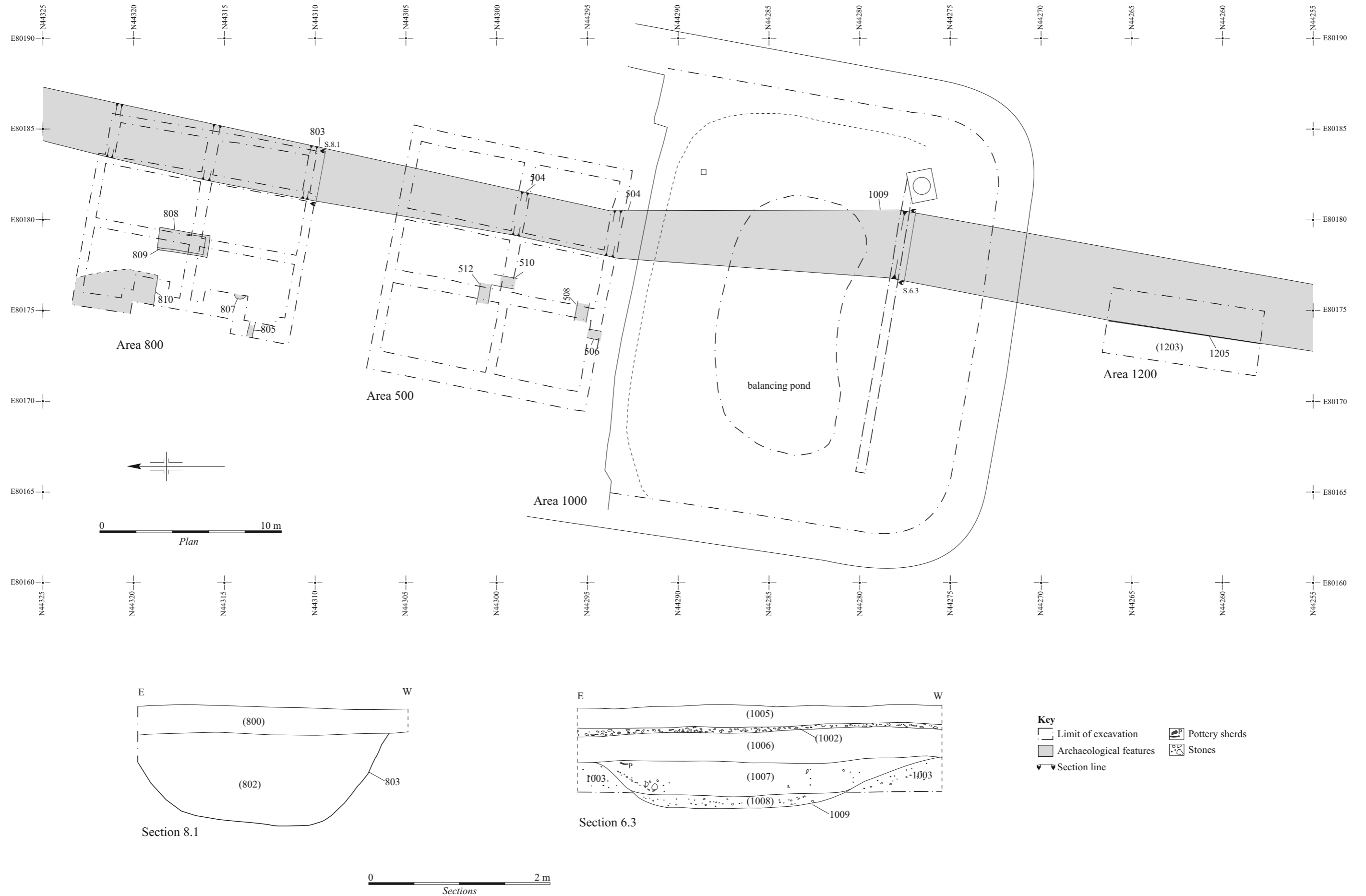


Figure 8: Plan of east side of site showing investigated areas and features; Late Iron Age enclosure ditch

Area 500 also revealed four sections of possible gullies 506, 508, 510 and 512, two running roughly parallel with the Late Iron Age enclosure ditch and two at right angles to it. They were undated and as so no physical relationship was capable of being established it is not certain that they are indeed contemporary. The gullies were all *c* 0.5m across and 0.3m deep. They were filled with dark grey silt-clay (505), (507), (509) and (511) respectively, but were only seen in the sides of the footings trenches. These were not entered for reasons of health and safety.

To the north in Area 800, was a gully 805 that was at right angle to the enclosure ditch; it was *c* 0.5m across and 0.3m deep, filled with dark grey silt-clay (804). Immediately adjacent to this was the possible pit 807, filled with dark grey silt-clay (806). No finds were recovered from either feature.

To the north in the centre of the building plot was a rectangular stone-lined structure **808**, which measured 5.5m by 2.5m and was *c* 1m deep. Due to the soft nature of the ground here, this feature was not approached, particularly after the collapse of the large sub-square pit 811 on the northeast side of the plot, which was filled with soft black organic-rich clay (810), all of which had to be removed as the area was collapsing. No dating was recovered from either feature.

### *Discussion*

The identification of a possible Late Iron Age enclosure ditch is very important for understanding of the Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Castlethorpe. It limits the eastern border of the site and all other excavated areas must be considered internal to it. There has been some suggestion that the castle earthworks may well be a modification of a ringwork (Bonner *et.al.* 1995, 82). The identification of this postulated enclosure ditch almost 300m to the east of the castle begs the question as to whether the castle defences were derived from a ringwork or from a larger hillfort type of enclosure.

The other features are less easily characterised, due as has been noted elsewhere to the weather and salvage nature of the work. The gullies seen in both Areas 500 and 800 may well be related to the small enclosures seen to the west, although their precise relationships cannot be elucidated. The stone structure and the large pit were undated but are clearly part of the farm use of the site. In neither case can they be easily associated with the mapping evidence, although it is to be noted that the stone structure lies in the vicinity of a possible structure on the 1888 1<sup>st</sup> Ed OS (fig 2). It may well be that the building mapped had a half cellar or similar in the northeast corner. This however can only remain conjecture in the absence of a more thorough intervention.

### **4.1.2 Areas 200, 600 and 700**

These Areas were originally excavated individually, but expanded to form a single area. Area 200 was originally located on the west side of the area, adjacent to Maltings Farm farmhouse (Figs 2 & 4; Plate 3), and had previously been reduced to the boulder clay (202), without archaeological monitoring. Areas 600 and 700 were to the east and rear of Maltings Farm house. .



*Plate 3. Area 200 (rear of Maltings Farm house); looking west*



*Plate 4. Area 200 (central part); looking north over crane-base; gully 2007 exiting Area 700 to east (right of picture)*



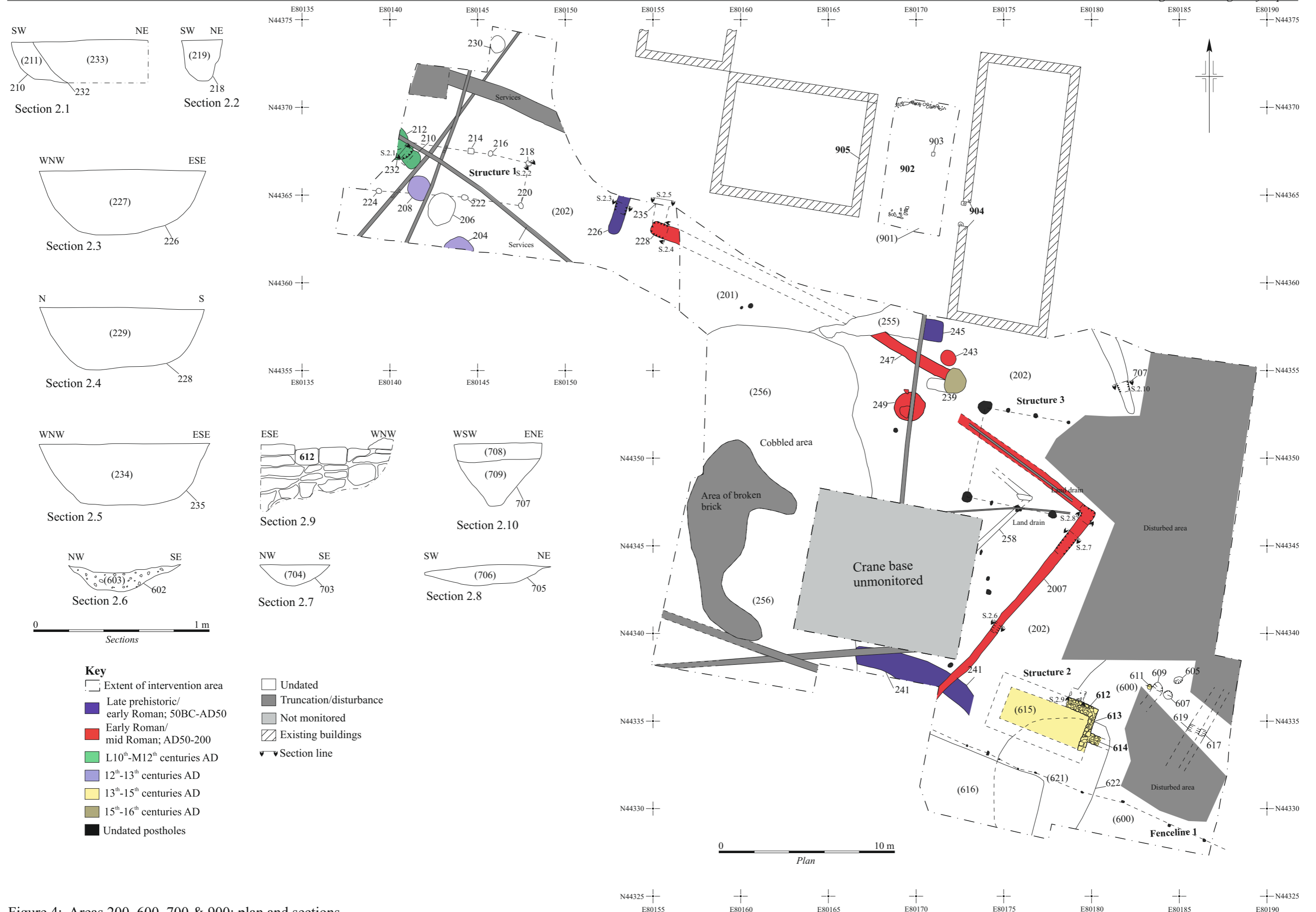


Figure 4: Areas 200, 600, 700 & 900: plan and sections

Parts of the intervention area were heavily truncated/damaged by modern construction work and had become inundated with water making the identification of features and subsequent excavation difficult. The east side of the area was inaccessible.

### ***Late prehistoric/early Roman***

There were a small number of features dating from the late prehistoric/early Roman period; while it is possible that some of these were later features with residual material for the most part they indicate an early phase of activity.

In the western part of the area was the terminal end of gully 226 (fig 4), oriented north by northeast/south by southwest and measuring 0.9m across and 0.35m deep. The gully extended into the north section of the investigation area and only 2.25m of the entire length was seen. It was filled with mid grey brown clay, with up to 5% small stone and occasional charcoal flecks (227) that yielded four sherds of shell-tempered late Iron Age pottery, weighing 11g.

Approximately 17m to the east of the gully 226 was the pit 245 (fig 4; Plate 5), measuring 1.25m across by at least 0.2m deep, which was sub-rectangular in form and filled with soft dark brown to black humic clay with patchy green hued soil (244); a single sherd of sand and grog-tempered pottery, weighing 9g, was recovered from this feature. The greenish hue to the soil might be indicative of cess or similar organic rubbish disposal.



*Plate 5 Pits 239, 243, 245 & 249, gully 247, & layers (255) – centre of picture – and cobbles (256) – left of picture*

Almost 18m due south of pit 245 was the ditch 241 (fig 4), measuring over 7m long by 1.2m wide and at least 0.2m deep, filled with stiff dark brown/black silt-clay, with occasional small stone, infrequent charcoal lumps (240). There were four sherds of

coarse grog-tempered pottery recovered from this fill. In addition there was one fragment, weighing 2g, of burnt clay

Area 600 was reduced to a relict soil horizon (600), rather than the natural clay (601). The precise nature of this soil horizon, which was 0.17-0.20m thick, is unclear, but it may well represent the spread of the remains of the bank for the settlement enclosure ditch 1007 (see section 4.1.1). Cut into this deposit (600) was a small cluster of later pits and/or postholes of varying sizes.

### *Discussion*

The later prehistoric/early Roman settlement activity is widely distributed and poorly characterised. Two ditch sections and two pits are the total quantity of remains spread over a large area, a certain amount of which was unmonitored or flooded (see figs 2 and 4). It is possible that under more controlled circumstances a higher confidence rating might be achieved. Nevertheless, it is clear that potentially significant remains of a late prehistoric/early Roman were present.

### ***Early/mid Roman***

The early/mid Roman-dated features comprise two pits, several sections of gully 2007 (Fig 4; Plate 6) and two sections of gully 247 and 228 that appears to form the same feature.

### *Ditches/Gullies*

The gully 2007 measured 13.5m (northeast/southwest) before turning at 90° to the northwest, where it extended for a further 8.5m before running out, due to truncation. The cut had slightly rounded, concave sides with a 'U' shaped base which was generally *c.* 0.50m wide and 0.12m deep. The gully 2007 had one fill, numbered variously (236), (603), (704) and (706) in the separate excavated interventions, which was a firm, grey-black sandy clay with inclusions of fragmentary limestone, flint and iron stone at around 30%. Nine sherds of pottery, weighing a total of 110g, in a range of late prehistoric and Roman fabrics were recovered from the fills of the gully, as well as two fragments of burnt clay. This feature had been heavily truncated at the northwest end.

Parallel with gully 2007, and 3.3m to the west, was a 3.5m length of northeast/southwest oriented gully 258 which returned to the northwest, at a distance of *c.* 1m from the northwest return of 2007; the gully is undated but the fill was similar to that of gully 2007 and the excavator considered it contemporary.

To the north of the northwest end of gully 2007 was a short stub of gully 247, almost 5m long × 0.6m wide × 0.15m deep, oriented northwest/southeast, and filled with firm, grey-black sandy clay with inclusions of fragmentary limestone, flint and iron stone (246). There were 12 sherds, weighing 83g, of pottery in a similar range of fabrics to those within gully 2007, recovered from the fill of the gully 247; it was sealed by a layer of stiff clay and cobbles (255) at the northwest end.



*Plate 6. Gully 2007; looking north*

Approximately 13m to the northwest was the terminal, or possible return of the gully, cut 228, filled with similar grey brown clay (229), pottery from which is undated, although there were also two fragments weighing 4g of burnt clay. The gullies 2007, 258 and 247 (including western terminal 228) would appear to be part of the same agricultural regime as observed in Area 300 (see section 4.1.4), representing either lambing pens or animal races.



*Plate 7 Gullies 617 & 619*

Two short sections of gullies were seen in the southeast of the area, in what was originally recorded as Area 600 cut into deposit (600). The rounded terminal of a gully 609 oriented northeast/southwest, filled with friable, mid grey-brownish silty clay with occasional inclusions of fragmentary daub, rounded pebbles and flecks of charcoal (608) was undated. The southwest extent was truncated by modern activity.

Close by was a short section of the gully 617 (Plate 7), filled with mid grey-brownish silty clay with occasional inclusions of fragmentary daub, rounded pebbles and flecks of charcoal (618); it was 0.29m deep and 0.46m wide. The gully was recut by the gully 619, filled with very similar fill (620), measuring 0.26m deep and 1m wide, yielding a rib fragment from a large mammal. Due to the ground conditions, the ditches were only seen for a limited extent in plan and their function and date can only be hinted at.

Nevertheless, all three of these gully stubs are apparently parallel with the gully 2007, and may well form part of the postulated series of small enclosures which seem to typify the early/mid Roman period farmstead. On site observations of the features liken them to those which were investigated in greater depth in Area 300.

#### *Pit*

Also cut into deposit (600), pit 607 was located approximately 12m to the east of ditch 241. It was round in plan, measuring 0.60m in diameter but only 0.06m in depth with a gentle but irregular profile similar to the undated pit 605 below. The pit contained a single fill of friable mid grey-brownish silt-clay with inclusions of pebbles, fragments of daub and flecks of charcoal (606). A sherd of a late prehistoric/early Roman pottery, weighing 7g, recovered from the fill was probably residual.

Pit 605 was sub circular in plan with a diameter of 0.45m and a depth of 0.10m. It had gentle – but irregular- walls and base. It was filled with friable, mid grey-brownish silty clay with occasional inclusions of fragmentary daub, rounded pebbles and flecks of charcoal (604), yielding a single sherd of Early Roman pottery, weighing 2g.

#### *Possible Roman barn*

The postulated barn comprises five or six postholes/postpads arranged in two pairs with a further two additional postholes (Fig. 4; Plate 3). The postholes were all *c* 0.35m in diameter apart from the postpad 214, which was a piece of stone measuring 0.44m × 0.4m

The postholes 218 and 220 are paired, as are post-pad 214 and posthole 222, at a distance of *c* 2.45m from one another. Posthole 216 is located between 214 and 218, at a distance of 1.2m from the former and 2.2m from the latter: it may well define an entrance. Posthole 224 is located to the west, but due to the presence of medieval pits and modern service-trenches any potentially associated postholes or postpads have been removed.

The features are undated but appear to predate the Late Saxon/Medieval phase, and have therefore been assigned a possible Roman date.

### *Discussion*

The early/mid Roman activity was dominated by the presence of parts of a system of relatively small enclosures. The function of these is not easily apparent, but in the context of the intervention, would appear to have been probably for stock-raising. These consisted of a number of lengths of gully 2007, 258 and 247/228, as well as 609, 617 and 619, which were all on a similar alignment to the gullies in Area 300 (see section 4.1.4), where the enclosures for stock-raising were best represented.

The partial nature of the investigation means that only a select number of gully lengths were investigated. These produced dating in the form of Roman pottery; furthermore, extensive later truncation – sometimes a direct result of groundworks, although in other cases related to farming predating the development – has resulted in a small and skewed data-set limiting our ability to establish the precise nature of the farming activity, but in Area 300 (see section 4.1.4) sheep-raising is proposed.

The presence of features such as the pit 249 west of northwest terminal of gully 2007 is not easily explained. The early/mid Roman period remains may well comprise at least two sub-phases of activity, although their order is not readily apparent. If this is so, the observations in Area 300 (see section 4.1.4) may well be valid.

### ***Late Saxon-Medieval***

There were five pits dated late Saxon to medieval: three of which had a stratigraphic relationship (210, 232 and 212), while two were discrete (208 and 204); a sixth pit 206 was located amongst these pits, with similar fill, but was not dated.

#### *9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries*

The sub-rounded, steep-sided, flat-bottomed pit 210, which measured 1.2m diameter and 0.22m deep, was filled with dark grey clay and charcoal flecks (211) which yielded one sherd, weighing 12g, of St Neots-type ware vessel with a rim diameter of 0.18m; it may date from slightly earlier than the rest of the medieval pits. A sheep/goat tibia was also recovered from the pit. The pit 210 was cut by the pit 232, a sub-circular pit measuring 1.1m and more than 0.25m deep, which was filled with dark grey clay (233). The pit 232 was cut in turn by the pit 212, which measured over 1m across and was filled with dark grey clay with charcoal flecks and up to 5% stone (213). Neither of the latter pits yielded dating.

Further pits include 208, located immediately adjacent to 210, which was also sub-circular in plan, although truncated by a service on its west edge, it measured 1.1m in diameter. The pit 208 was filled with dark grey clay with charcoal flecks and 5% stone (209) which, in addition to a fragment of large mammal bone, yielded four sherds of St Neots-type ware, weighing 36g, and a single sherd of Olney Hyde ware, weighing 3g; the pit dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries onwards. East of the pit 208 was pit 206, which was undated, but also filled with dark grey clay with charcoal flecks and 5% stone (205). The pit measured 1.2m diameter.

Immediately adjacent to pit 206 was the pit 204, which extending beyond the edges of investigation, was at least 1.1m across and 0.1m deep, filled with mid to dark grey clay with charcoal flecks and 5% stone (203), dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries onwards.

### *Discussion*

These late Saxon/medieval dated pits are undoubtedly related to a predecessor of the present Maltings Farm, part of the original early Norman expansion around the castle, which South Street represents. Although the date for the St Neots-type ware starts in the late Saxon period, it is more than likely that the limited remains present here are later, as St Neots-type ware is used until the middle decades of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Similarly, Shelly Ware (MC1) and Olney Hyde ware (MC3) are later 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century industries, respectively.

### ***Undated – possibly medieval***

The pond 622, which was located on the western side of area 600, is undated; a sherd of medieval pottery is noted as having been recovered from the lower part of the pond fill (621), but this can no longer be found.

The pond 622, which measured >7m × 6m × 1.7m, cut the soil horizon (600) and was overlain by the floor of Building 2 (see below) and the postulated associated external yard (616). The pond had straight sides, seen during excavation of the footings trench, but the base was not seen to sufficient extent to characterise it. The fill was dark, humus-rich silty clay containing a high degree of green cess-like material (621).

### ***13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries***

Sealing much of the pond 622 were the remains of Structure 2 and an associated external yard, which was separated from the building by a fence-line; to the north lay a postulated further building Structure 3 and to the west another cobbled area (256).

Only Structure 2 and the associated yard surface are dated, unfortunately. Structure 2, which measured 6m × 4.8m (c. 19'8" × 15'9") externally and 4.8m × 3.6m (c. 15'8" × 11'9"), was revealed as a short 'L'-shaped section of wall footing on the northeast side of the structure (Fig 4; Plate 8). The wall's outer faces (both interior and exterior) were constructed from rough-hewn and faced limestone blocks, five courses high with a rubble core. Although investigation was limited, the outline of the building was discernible.

Three separate built elements were identified numbered **612**, **613** and **614**, which were abutted by the floor (615). The first two of which were a single, tied-in section of masonry set at 90° to one another, whilst the latter, 614, abutted the main structure and may well have been added later.

The foundation wall section **612** was oriented roughly northwest/southeast, measuring 1.48m long, varying between 0.55-0.60m in width and 0.42m high (Plate 9). It can be presumed to be an external supporting wall in comparison with the thickness of wall exhibited by wall 613. A single rim sherd from a jug of Potterspury ware, weighing 34g, was recovered from the wall matrix **612**.

Wall 613 was oriented northeast/southwest was tied into 612 at 90° with extant dimensions 2.6m in length and varying between 0.30-0.43m wide, notably thinner than 612 although identical in construction.



Plate 8. Wall 612 prior to investigation; wall 613 on left of picture; surface (615) to bottom of picture; looking northeast

Finally, 614 was a short stub of foundation masonry which abutted 613. It was 0.70m long and 0.57m wide. Whether this spur of masonry represents another building, retaining wall or buttress for wall 613 is unclear from such a short wall section.

Within the internal angle of walls 612 and 613 the layer of fragmentary limestone chippings (615) extended to the south and west, covering an area 5.5m × 3.6m. The limestone chippings appeared to have been stamped into a matrix of grey brown silty clay which contained inclusions of flint pebbles and a small quantity of crushed CBM (615).

As the floor (615) abutted the west and south internal faces of these walls, it must be presumed to have functioned as an interior surface of the building. Five sherds, weighing a total of 17g, of Potterspurty ware were recovered from the floor (615). It is not possible to say whether the remains of the building were domestic, agricultural or for processing or storing goods.

Approximately 1.5 to the south of Structure 2 was another roughly rectangular surface made up of flint cobbles (616) measuring >8m × >4m. It was located close to the western baulk of this land parcel and in places had been mended, or had voids filled, with crushed CBM; it would appear to have been the same as the layer of patched cobbles (256) to the west. A line of loose black humic clay filled postholes formed fenceline 1 oriented east by southeast/west by northwest, parallel with Structure 2 and defining the northern edge of the cobbling (616).



To the northeast of Structure 2 was the pit 611, a small, oval feature 0.24m across and 0.04m deep, filled with mid grey-brownish silty-clay (610), which yielded a single sherd from a Brill/Boarstall ware jug, weighing 10g.



*Plate 9. Wall 612; external face partially exposed; looking southwest*

To the northwest of Structure 2, adjacent to the undated Structure 3 (see below), was the pit 239, a sub-rounded cut, measuring 1.4m × 1.2m and at least 0.25m deep, filled with dark brown, black sticky humic clay with moderate small stone and occasional larger stone. The pit 239 yielded a small assemblage of pottery, comprising a residual sherd of a Late Iron Age vessel, weighing 9g, and sherds of Shelly Ware, (one, weighing 29g) and Sandy Ware (one, weighing 2g) and a later sherd of late medieval reduced ware, weighing 9g.

Although undated, Structure 3, which was 2m to the east of pit 239, may well form part of the collection of medieval farm buildings. The structure comprises two parallel lines of postholes, filled with loose black humic clay, measuring at least 5m in length (east/west), 5m apart. The westernmost postholes are 0.6-0.7m across, and feasibly form the corner posts to the postulated structure.

Three further paired sets of postholes extend to the east at a distance from each other of between 1.4m and 2m; no central aisle of posts was present, but as this area had been stripped prior to the arrival of the archaeological team, it is very possible that postpads could easily have subsisted until quite recently.

A large flat stone was present within the limits of the structure over the return of gully 258; this may well be all that remains of any internal postpads. At the east end of the

postulated building wet weather and flooding on a previous visit had impeded an understanding of the archaeological potential and neither postholes nor postpads could be seen.

### *Discussion*

The earliest medieval remains are the rubbish pits excavated on the west side of the intervention area, nearest to the present Maltings Farm. The date range for the pits is late Saxon (AD 850) to medieval (13<sup>th</sup> century) from the small pottery assemblages recovered. The late Saxon date derives from the presence of St Neots-type ware, although this is not necessarily late Saxon as production of St Neot's-type ware continues in use until the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. Certainly some of the St Neots-type assemblage came from pit-fills which were clearly mid-12<sup>th</sup> century or later.

The early medieval pits do not appear to have a direct relationship with Structure 2 to the southeast and the postulated associated yard surfaces. As the concrete yard was removed without the presence of an archaeologist, it is not clear the extent to which the buried yard surfaces are of archaeological significance.

Site observations note that brick patching was present, and a large area of brick waste was present over yard surface (256). Whether this occurred during demolition or earlier and is part of the make-up for the concrete yard is unclear. The Structure 2 building does not feature on any historic mapping and it is very possible that this is indeed medieval in origin.

Although Structure 3, presumably a barn, is undated it could easily form part of the farm ensemble. There is no evidence for the postulated barn on nineteenth century mapping, nor on the Spencer estate map of 1761-5 (BRO Ma/33/1.T), neither of which incidentally illustrate either the pond or Structure 2. The adjacent medieval pit has been adduced as potentially indicating a medieval date to the barn, although this can only be surmised.

The OS 1:2500 map 1972 shows a Dutch barn in the vicinity, which still existed until 2013. It is tempting to consider that the postholes observed might be associated with it but as the crane base was unmonitored, it is not certain whether the larger, west end posts are a pair or part of a line of posts. Therefore the current interpretation leans to a roughly east/west oriented structure, comprising the large corner posts and associated smaller wall posts.

If the posts were part of the Dutch barn, the south end of the barn is missing, although the photograph (Plate 9) of the barn shows a wall, rather than open bays. The postholes, comprising fenceline 1, to the south, associated with Structure 2, which were filled with similarly dark humic clay, do not correspond with the south side of the barn.

Moreover, the irregular line of fenceline 1 (fig. 4) seems to acknowledge the layout of the medieval building and the postulated associated yard. The postholes along the east/west oriented axis of the Structure 3 barn are not easily explained in terms of the Dutch barn as photographed (Plate 10).



*Plate 10. Dutch barn*

Certainly the concrete yard surfaces would easily have had an effect on any buried remains with a significant organic component in the Boulder Clay matrix, which was observed both in respect of the postholes and the pond 622, which predated the medieval Structure 2, to impede water-loss.

It is clear that there existed some medieval ancillary structures on the east side of the site in addition to the rubbish pits adjacent to the present farmhouse. There is ambiguity as to whether some postholes are related to a modern Dutch barn or whether they represent the remains of an earlier structure fortuitously in line with the more recent barn. Nevertheless, the presence of the medieval activity so far from the South St frontage is of potential significance indicating that the medieval hamlet may well have extended at least as far as the modern village, which itself has a not inconsiderable amount of late 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup> century infill.

#### **4.1.3 Area 900**

A small area of limestone cobbling (902), lying directly on the natural clay (901), between buildings 2C and 3 (Yeates 2011) was revealed. Ordnance Survey mapping from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century confirms the cobbling to have been within a pair of wall-lines.

##### ***19<sup>th</sup> century***

Area 900 was reduced to the natural clay (901) after a limestone cobbled (902) surface had been revealed during machining (Plate 11). The roughly-hewn limestone cobbles had been laid on end in pairs or threes interspersed with other types of stone including the occasional flint cobble. The stones had a worn, polished appearance. The surface abutted both buildings 2C and Building 3.



Plate 11. Cobbled surface (902)

The outer east wall of Building 2C (905) was constructed of brick bonded with lime mortar whilst the outer west wall of Building 3 (904) was built of rough limestone blocks. The cobbled surface (902) was cut by a rectangular post hole 903 with its rotted, modern timber (906) still *in situ* which was undoubtedly the central gate stop for a barrier that once existed between the two buildings.

The other areas yielded 19<sup>th</sup>-century or later deposits of crushed brick and other building materials, both natural and artificial stone, across the site, which sealed the archaeological remains. These were mostly removed under archaeological control, but not always.

#### 4.1.4 Area 300

Area 300 was located in the southwest part of the redevelopment area (figs 1, 2 & 5). The area was stripped under archaeological control revealing extensive archaeological remains dating from the Late Iron Age/Roman period to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It should be noted that the conditions were not always conducive to good quality data collection as it rained almost incessantly, even on days when the sun did break through, throughout the excavation of this area.

##### ***Late Iron Age/Early Roman***

The two ditches 2000 and 2005, which dated from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period in Area 300 formed a rough T-shape at approximately 45° to the intervention area (Fig. 5; Pl. 12), with a postulated access between two possible enclosures, one to the east, the other to the west. A further undated gully 2006 is also suggested to comprise part of the enclosure. Two pits and two postholes, which were dated, were also present.

However, they have proved difficult to interpret, as they could not be associated with the undated features, exacerbated by the limited area opened up of what was potentially an extremely complex site.



Plate 12. Area 300; looking north after cleaning, prior to excavation

### **Boundary Ditch 2001**

The substantial boundary ditch 2001 (fig. 5; Table 1), which was cut into the natural clay (301), ran southeast/northwest for more than 14m, extending beyond the west edge of investigation, but truncated to the east by a modern farm-building; it was approximately 1.5m wide and up to 0.4m deep. Several sections (314, 338, 360 and 397) were excavated through the ditch, three of which are illustrated to show the change in profile (Fig 5: S.3.1-3).

Ditch	Plan context	Fill	Section	Pot	Bone
2001	(304) – cleaning	-	-	6 sherds (127g)	1 radius sheep/goat
	397	(374)	-	12 sherds (203g)	
	314	(312)	4.3	7 sherds (151g)	
	314	(313)	4.3	24 sherds (733g)	
	338	(337)	4.1	9 sherds (181g)	
	360	(361)	4.2	24 sherds (532g)	1 unid rib frag
<i>subtotal</i>				<i>82 sherds (1927g)</i>	
2005	401	(400)	-	4 sherds (103g)	1 metatarsal sheep/goat
	405	(404)	4.4	28 sherds (532g)	1 mandible sheep/goat
<i>subtotal</i>				<i>32 sherds (635g)</i>	

Table 1. Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch numbers & associated contexts with finds

The ditch 2001 had a sharp profile in section with sides at 45-90 degrees, and contained up to two fills (Fig 5: S.3.3), the primary fill (313) being a compact, silty clay around 0.2m thick whilst the secondary fill, (312), was a mid brown silty, humic

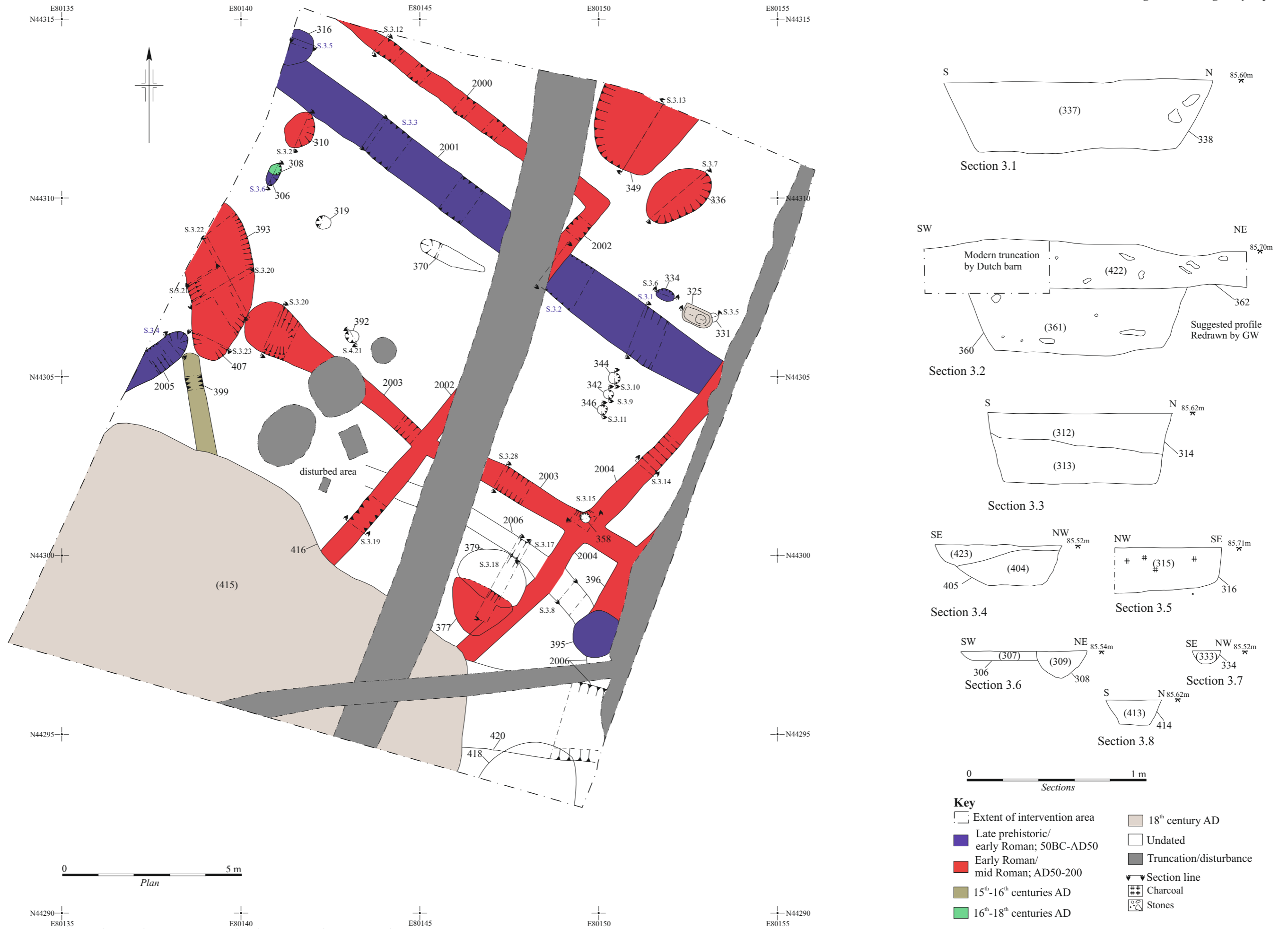


Figure 5: Area 300: plan and Late Iron Age/early Roman feature sections

clay with inclusions of flint, limestone and occasional flecks of charcoal. During excavation 82 sherds, weighing 1927g, as well as two fragments, weighing 12g, of burnt clay, and two fragments of bone, including the radius of a sheep or goat were also recovered.

The primary filling of the ditch appeared to have been largely due to erosion of material mainly from the south, which was tentatively identified as indicative of the former presence of a bank. The other sections excavated through the ditch were not observed to have two fills – although this may well be due to the weather conditions.

There was a number of other features present also dating from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, although none were as substantial. The pits and postholes were not particularly coherent in form.

The gully 2005 extended for a short length into the excavation from the southwest side of the intervention area, north-eastwards. It was at least 2.3m long and 0.7m wide, with a depth of c 0.2m; the gully was filled with a primary fill of bright yellow grey clay (404) sealed by a layer of dark yellow grey clay (423). It appeared that there might well have been a tip-line from west to east in the profile (Fig. 5; S 3.1). During excavation 32 sherds, weighing 509g, of Late Iron Age pottery as well as the mandible and a metatarsal of either sheep or goat were recovered.

The pit 316, located at the northwest end of the ditch 2001, was cut into the north side of the ditch and postdates the backfilling of the ditch 2001; nonetheless its relationship with the succeeding Early – Mid Roman phase is unclear. The pit, which measured 0.97m (north/south) and 0.25m deep, had a flat base and virtually vertical sides (Fig. 5; 3.5). It extended beyond the western edge of investigation. It was filled with loose, dark grey-brown silty clay with inclusions of sandstone, chalk and flint cobbles as well as lumps of charcoal (315); five sherds, weighing 77g, of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered in addition to four fragments of cattle bone. It would appear to represent a rubbish pit, although the limited view of the feature does not preclude it having been a ditch terminal.

To the southeast was a second large feature, pit 395, which measured approximately 1.3m in diameter and 0.25m deep, containing a single fill (375) of soft, mid grey-brownish silty clay; two sherds, weighing 3g, of Late Iron Age pottery and a fragment of unidentified large mammal vertebra were recovered from the fill.

Two smaller features 306 and 334, undoubtedly representing postholes or similar, were located south and north of the ditch 2001, respectively. The posthole 306, located on the west side of site, appeared to be sub-oval in plan, although was truncated to the north by a later posthole; it measured 0.32m × 0.24m and was 0.05m deep, filled with compact yellow clay and brown humic clay (307) which yielded a sherd of Late Iron Age pottery, weighing 4g, as well as an intrusive fragment of agateware (Fig 5; S 3.6).

The second posthole 334, located on the east side of the site north of ditch 2001, was also sub-oval in plan measuring 0.48m × 0.31 and 0.2m deep (Fig 5; S 3.7). It was filled with compact dark brown, orange sandy clay with some charcoal inclusions

(333); a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery weighing 4g was recovered from the deposit, as well as one fragment, weighing 5g, of burnt clay.

Roughly parallel with ditch 2001 and almost at a rough right angle to ditch 2005 was the shallow gully 2006, which extended from the east side of the investigation area, where it was truncated by the later pit Roman pit 395, west for at least 7.4m where it was truncated by a disturbed area of modern pitting (Fig 5).

The gully 2006 was also clearly cut by the Early/Mid Roman gullies 2002 and 2004; its relationship with the pit 379 was questioned in the original site records, but cumulatively as pit 379 cut gully 2004, which in turn cut gully 2006, then the gully 2006 must be contemporary or earlier than the pit 379 (S. 3.8).

The gully 2006 was gently curved to the north, measuring between 0.5m and 0.7m wide and approximately 0.2m at its deepest (Fig. 5; S 5.8), becoming shallower to the west; it was filled with pale grey brown clay silt with red mottling, charcoal flecking and occasional chalky stones (369). No finds were recovered from the gully.

### *Discussion*

Although the quality of data-recovery was not consistent over the excavation of the ditch 2001 it would appear that the ditch represents a significant boundary within the settlement area. It is very possible the gully stub 2005, which was at an approximate right angle some 8m south of the southern edge of ditch 2001, formed part of the enclosure representing the earliest farming activity at this point. The shallow gully 2006, to the east of gully stub 2005, may well represent part of the enclosure, too; no dating was recovered from the gully, but its orientation roughly correlates with those of features 2001 and 2005.

Although it is difficult to be certain as so little of the archaeological area was opened up, the high proportion of Late Iron Age pottery and complete absence of Roman pottery in ditch 2005 would seem to point to there having been an earlier Late Iron Age phase to the farming settlement. Nevertheless, the orientation, if not the actual ditches, of this early phase of activity was respected by the later enclosures, which may well be indicative of a certain degree of continuity of occupation.

Only one of the sections through the ditch 2001 unambiguously interpreted two fills within the feature, and suggested that the lower fill tipped from south to north, perhaps indicating a the former existence of a bank on that south side. Similarly, a section through ditch 2005 seemed to indicate a tipline from the west.

The function of these enclosures remains uncertain, although it is likely that they were related to animal husbandry. It is notable that the only bone positively identified is sheep/goat, rather than cattle which is what one might expect in the context. Furthermore, there was a clear absence of faunal remains from the gullies in Area 200, the only other area which was opened up to a large extent.

The pits and postholes cannot be easily associated either with one another or with adjacent features in order to suggest the possibility of there having been Late Iron Age structures in Area 300. Indeed, pit 316 clearly postdates the backfilling of ditch 2001,



but the only pottery recovered from it was Late Iron Age locating it between the end of the Late Iron Age/Early Roman phase and the Early/Mid Roman phase. It is of course entirely possible that all the pottery in the fill is residual and present due to the excavation of ditch 2001 and that pit 316 and the later pit 310 are associated (see below).

### ***Early/Mid Roman***

Following the backfilling of ditches 2001 and 2005 a number of pits were also dug and later backfilled with refuse; in addition a series of narrower and shallower gullies 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004 (Table 2) were subsequently laid out over and on the same alignment as the earlier ditches.

### ***Pits***

There were a number of medium to large pits also investigated during the intervention in Area 300 (Figs 5 & 6). The pits were spread across the intervention area and it is not readily clear how their disposition relates to the later gullies. They are all dated to the Early Roman period (see below), but in contrast with the gullies are still dominated by assemblages Late Iron Age pottery.

The bias evidenced in the assemblages may well be a consequence of their function rather than an exclusively chronological factor. Nevertheless, given the rather limited state of the data-set for the site as a whole, the preponderance of Late Iron Age fabrics, amongst smaller Roman assemblages, in combination with a difficult disposition of gullies and pits has required that some form of chronology be proposed.

In the majority of cases (pits 310, 336, 349 and 393) there was no clear stratigraphical relationship between the pits and the gullies, and it was only in the case of pit 379, the pit cut through the gully 2004.

The pits 310, 336 and 349 were located on the north side of the intervention area. As there were few stratigraphic relations between the features, the dating can only be surmised. Relative quantities of material remains in features may well be indicative of date, rather than a consequence of functional or depositional practices.

### ***Pit 336***

Pit 336 was a large oval pit, with the long axis aligned northeast/southwest, and steep sides and a sloping, concave base measuring 1.96m x 1.28m and 0.42m deep cut into the natural (301). It was recorded with a single homogenous fill (Fig. 6; S 3.17; Plate 13) of mid grey-brownish silty clay with orange mottling containing limestone pieces, flecks of charcoal and five pieces of burnt clay weighing 16g (335)/(372). The latter fill number was the west section of the pit.

Twenty-six vessels of various forms were represented by 59 sherds, weighing 1295g; this assemblage was largely of Late Iron Age date with three sherds of early/mid Roman pottery, weighing 112g and a single sherd of intrusive redware, weighing 3g, was also present.

There were also 18 fragments of animal bone, of which three were identified as cattle and two as sheep; the rest were unidentified, although 19 fragments were from the skull of a large mammal.



*Plate 13. Pit 336 under excavation*

Although the fill was recorded as homogenous, the section seems to indicate potential multiple phases of back-filling (Fig 6: S.3.17), and it is unclear from which part of the backfill the pottery and bone derive. The feature was flooding during excavation which impeded a good understanding of the taphonomic process. Despite the conflation of episodes of back-filling, it would appear that the pit was filled from the northeast.

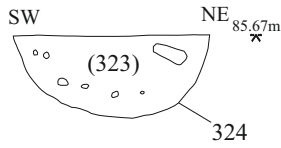
The oval form with the rounded base and slightly stepped 'upper base' is unusual and may be indicative of an industrial or craft purpose for the cut, rather than rubbish disposal. Although some charcoal was observed in the pit, it does not seem to have functioned as an oven or kiln.

#### *Pit 349*

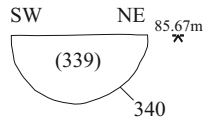
Pit 349, which was immediately adjacent to the northwest of pit 336, was a large, sub-rectangular pit, with gently curving sides and a flat base, measuring at least 2.8m by 2m and approximately 0.24m deep (Fig 6: S.3.18; Plate 14).

A single fill of compact dark brown clay-silt with inclusions of flint and re-deposited natural (350) was recorded; the fill (350), which contained a dump of two incomplete Early Roman vessels, probably jars, comprising five sherds, weighing 86g and 22

**2000**

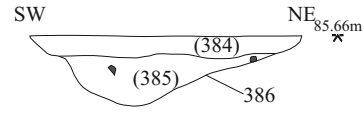


Section 3.9

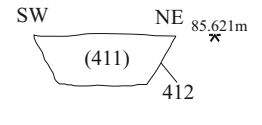


Section 3.10

**2003**

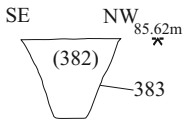


Section 3.11



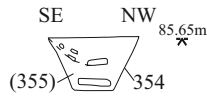
Section 3.12

**2002**

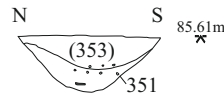


Section 3.13

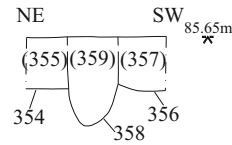
**2004**



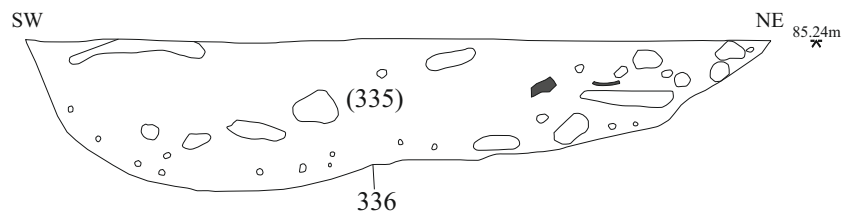
Section 3.14



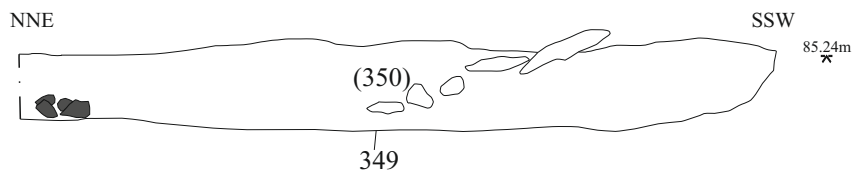
Section 3.15



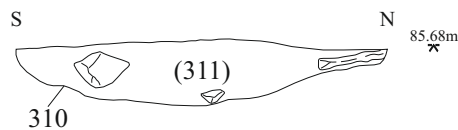
Section 3.16



Section 3.17



Section 3.18



Section 3.19

**Key**




-  Pottery sherds
-  Charcoal
-  Stones



Figure 6: Early/mid Roman period feature sections

sherds weighing 845g, appears to consist, in fact of two dumping events. A single cattle scapula was also recovered.

The later back-filling event contains the vessels and bone, whereas an earlier episode of back-filling was defined by a tip-line of large stones (Fig 6: S 3.18) from the southern edge of the pit 349.



*Plate 14. Pottery in base of pit 349*

As the pit was only partially excavated in bad climatic conditions it is not clear what the purpose of the cut might have originally been, although it is unlikely to have been excavated for rubbish disposal. The sub-rectangular form, with steep edges and a flat base, may well be indicative of a craft or industrial function for the cut such as tanning or retting, although evidence for any such was not present.

#### *Pit 310*

On the west side of the intervention area, was pit 310, which was 0.96m in diameter and 0.2m deep (Fig. 6 S 3.19), and filled with dark grey brown clay (311), containing a number of large stones and tile, which it appears was not retained. A single sherd of early Roman jar, weighing 50g, was recovered in addition to a rib fragment from an unidentified medium mammal. The function of this pit could not be established.

#### *Pit 393*

Approximately 3m south of the pit 310 was the large, sub-oval pit 393, which extended beyond the western edge of the investigation area (Figs 4 & 7; Plate 15). The pit, which measured at least 4m long, 2m wide and 0.6m deep, had a gentle break of slope at the top in the short axis; it was sharp in the long axis. The sides were steeper in the short axis, although even in the long axis where the slope was slightly

concave, it was reasonably steep. The base was quite flat across, although slightly rounded the length of the cut.



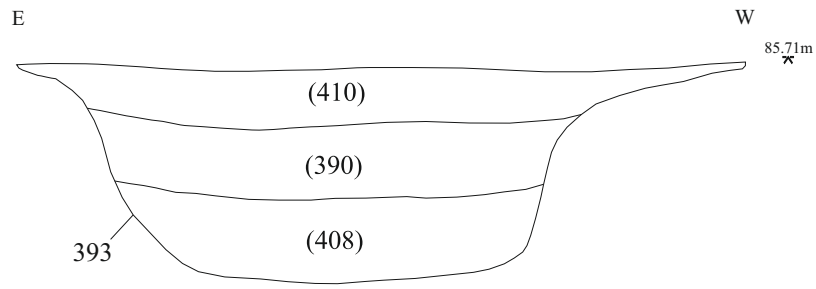
*Plate 15. Pit 393; looking southwest*

The pit contained three fills: a basal fill of firm mid grey green clay with frequent gravel and occasional pebbles (408), which measured *c* 0.2m thick and was archaeologically sterile.

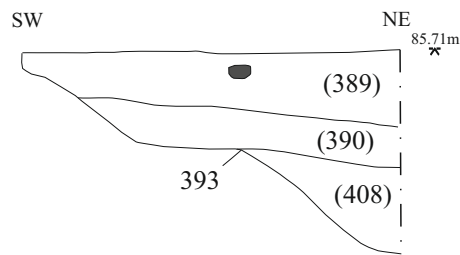
The basal deposit (408) was sealed by a layer of compact dark grey/black clay with frequent fine gravel (390), which was *c* 0.2m thick. Approximately 19 vessels, including jars and beakers as well as other domestic pots, were represented by 58 sherds, weighing 1423g, largely comprising Late Iron Age fabrics, although five sherds, weighing 27g, were in Roman fabrics.

Seven animal bones, three of which could be identified as cattle, were also recovered from the deposit. Three post-medieval sherds, weighing 17g, were also in the assemblage from this deposit; it is proposed that these are intrusive and were introduced accidentally by the excavator during excavation of the feature.

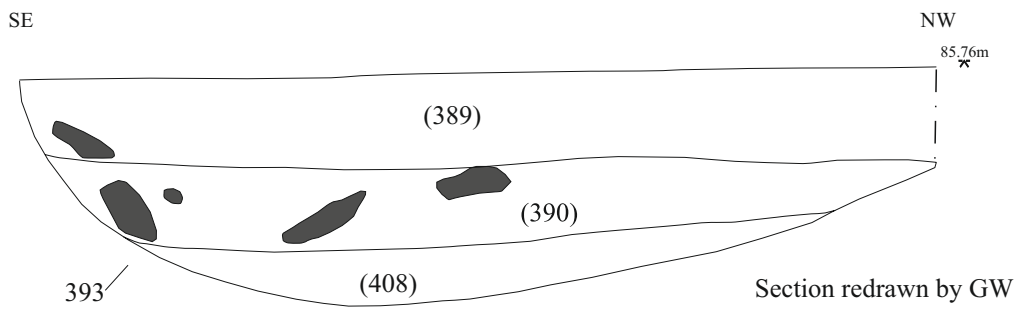
Sealing this layer and completing the backfilling sequence was compact dark grey/black clay with frequent gravel and grit and occasional pebbles and flint nodules (389), which was up to 290mm thick. This layer yielded 35 vessels, represented by 81 sherds, weighing 1435g, with a number of cross-fits with the earlier deposit, indicating that the two deposits backfilled the pit 394 as a single short sequence of events.



Section 3.20

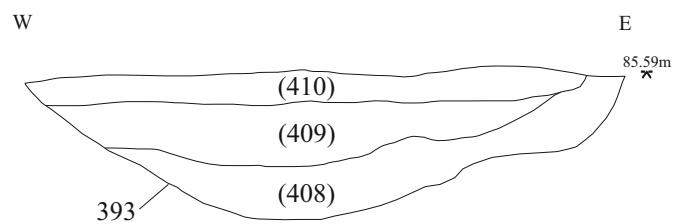


Section 3.21



Section redrawn by GW

Section 3.22



Section 3.23

**Key**

- Pottery sherds
- Charcoal
- Stones



Figure 7: Early/mid Roman period pit 393 sections

In addition to the pottery, 19 animal bones were also present (three cattle and four sheep/goat) from a range of body parts; the rest of the animal bone was not capable of identification. Two cast copper alloy brooches, one Hod Hill-style and one Colchester-style (see section 5) were also recovered from the deposit (289).

The weather conditions during which the pit was excavated were extremely bad, with unceasing heavy rain. It is clear that the post-medieval sherds must have been introduced into the sealed context (290) during excavation.

The function of the pit remains uncertain. Certainly the backfill comprises a limited range of domestic waste, mostly pottery vessels, but also a small faunal assemblage, in addition to two brooches in a reasonably good state of preservation, rather than industrial or crop-processing waste.

The location of the pit, hard by the terminal of gully 2003, rather precludes the possibility of their functioning contiguously, and as a result, the chronological relationship of the two features is uncertain. The greater quantities of Early Roman pottery in the ditches, in contrast with the general tendency for the pits to be dominated by Late Iron Age assemblages, might be indicative of an overall trend for the later phase pitting to pre-date the gullies, although in the absence of a larger and more complete data-set, it is hard to be too certain of the precise chronology or function of the archaeological features investigated.

Pit 377 was located in the southwest corner of the site, cutting the gully 2004 at its southern end, and was itself cut by the shallow pit 379. It is the only pit which cut the later enclosure gullies.

The pit was sub-triangular with rounded corners and measuring approximately 1.8m × 1.2m and 0.80m deep. It was sectioned on its north side, where it had steep sides with a rounded base. It contained three fills; the primary fill (381) of loose, dark grey-brownish clay with frequent gravel, chalk and charcoal flecks 0.38m thick. Five fragments of large mammal limb bone were recovered from this fill. The overlying fill was compact mid-grey-brownish clay with flecks of daub (380), which yielded a single sherd, weighing 8g, of early Roman pottery. Finally, the final fill was compacted, light grey-yellowish clay with gravel inclusions (378), 0.15m thick.

The pit 379 cut the two uppermost fills (380) and (378). This was a superficial, oval pit 1.63m on the long axis but only 0.14m deep with shallow, gradually curving walls to a flat base. It contained one fill (387) which was a compacted, mid-grey-brownish sandy clay that contained a quantity of silt (10%) and flecks of chalk and charcoal as well as angular stone inclusions. The fill was archaeologically sterile and can not be dated.

### *Gullies*

In addition to the pits described above, there were four lengths of gully 2000 and 2003 were oriented northwest/southeast, while gullies 2002 and 2004 were oriented northeast/southwest on the same alignment as the earlier Late Iron Age enclosure ditches (Table 2).

Ditch	Plan context	Fill	Section	Pot	Bone
2000	(303) – cleaning			10 sherds (204g)	-
	322	(321)	-	-	-
	324	(323)	4.??	14 sherds (113g)	-
	340	(339)	4.12	1 sherd (6g)	2 radii sheep/goat
<i>subtotal</i>				<i>25 sherds (323g)</i>	
2002	362	(422)	4.2	-	-
	383	(382)	4.19	6 sherds (68g)	1 limb frag. large mammal
<i>subtotal</i>				<i>6 sherds (68g)</i>	
2003	356	(357)	-	6 sherds (32g)	1 limb frag. large mammal
	386	(384)	4.20	8 sherds (194g)	
	386	(385)	4.20	23 sherds (616g)	1 pelvis cattle; 1 femur, 1 metacarpal sheep/goat; 1 rib frag. med. mammal
	386 - finds collection	(388)	-	7 sherds (95g)	-
	386 - finds collection	(403)	-	2 sherds (90g)	-
	396	(376)	-	1 sherd (5g)	-
	412	(411)	4.28	-	-
<i>subtotal</i>				<i>47 sherds (1032g)</i>	
2004	351	(352)	4.14	12 sherds (124g)	-
	351	(353)	4.14	-	-
	354	(355)	4.15	-	-
	364	(365)	-	1 sherd (2g)	31 mixed frags. many skull elements
<i>subtotal</i>				<i>13 sherds (126g)</i>	
<i>total</i>				<i>91 sherds (1549g)</i>	

Table 2. Early/Mid Roman ditch numbers &amp; associated contexts with finds

The gully 2000, which extended beyond the northeast edge of excavation, was more than 9m long and measured between 0.35m and 0.55m wide and up to 0.25m deep. The profile was generally similar: a broad U-shape, with a sometimes irregular base, but generally curving sides (Fig. 6; S 3.9 & S 3.10).

The fill changed from a compact, dark brown fill with inclusions of orange sandy clay and flecks of charcoal (339) to mid grey-brown with pebble inclusions (323) over the different sections dug through it.

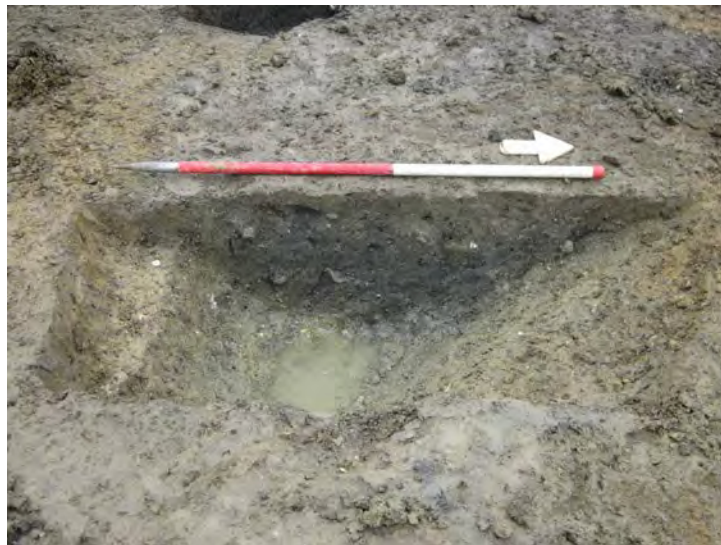
The gully yielded an assemblage of 25 sherds, weighing 323g, of pottery, which was almost entirely Roman in character, as well as one fragment, weighing 6g, of burnt clay. Two sheep/goat limb-bones were also present in the fill of the gully 2000.

Parallel with gully 2000 was gully 2003, which measured over 12.5m in length and was between 0.35m and 0.7m wide; it ballooned slightly at the west end. In profile it varied between flat-based with sides at *c.* 80° and irregular (Fig. 6; S 3.11 & S 3.12; Plate 16).

The section at the west end revealed two fills: a basal fill of black-grey clay with stone inclusions (385) and an upper fill (384) of brown clay. The 47 sherds of pottery, weighing 1032g, recovered from the gully 2003 was similarly heavily weighted towards Roman production, with only 10 sherds, weighing 37g, in a Late Iron Age



tradition, as well as two fragments, weighing 11g, of burnt clay. Cattle and sheep/goat were the identified species present.



*Plate 16. Gully 2003; looking northwest*

The gullies 2002 and 2004, oriented northeast/southwest, were at right angles to the gullies 2000 and 2003, and appeared to have been backfilled broadly at the same time.

Gully 2002, which was partly truncated by the footing for a modern Dutch barn that cut through the centre of the investigation area, extended southwest approximately 13m from the southeast end of gully 2000. It was *c.* 0.55m wide and up to 0.4m deep; the profile was a flattened V-shape, with sharp break of slope at the top and base and sides at *c.* 60° (Fig. 6; S 3.13) filled with dark grey clay with stone inclusions of limestone, flint, slate and ironstone (382), which yielded a fragment of large mammal limb bone. Although no datable finds were recovered, shows it very clearly cutting the earlier Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch 2001 (Fig. 5; S 3.2). The gully was truncated at the southwest end by the ?post-medieval pond 416.

Parallel with gully 2000 was gully 2004, which measured approximately 11m in length and was also *c.* 0.55m wide and 0.4m deep. The east footing of the Dutch barn truncated the northeast end of the gully, while pond 416 had removed the southwest end.

In section, the gully 2004 varied between a flat-based V-shaped (Fig. 6; S 3.14) and a more rounded base gully (Fig. 6; S 3.15). Stone was present in the fill (355), which may well have comprised two episodes of backfilling, as, while some of the stone in the backfill is horizontal, a number of the stones are not in the same plane, but rather seem to indicate a tipline.

Twelve sherds, weighing 124g, of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill (352) of the gully; a further sherd weighing 2g, was recovered from fill (365). The fill (365) yielded 31 elements of cattle bone, including some skull fragments and jaw bones as well as a range of limb elements.



Plate 17. Gully 2004; section 351, looking east

The recording of these two adjacent sections through the gully 2004 was ambiguous, but there is a suggestion from the records that the fill (365) may have backfilled a terminal; a sketch plan contradicts written notes regarding the location of the cut 351 of the gully, which had been filled with deposit (352). There is a significant body of literature on terminal deposits of both pottery and animal remains, as well as other material remains, however, in light of the extension of the gully 2004 to the southwest, the significance of the assemblage of either bone or pottery remains unelucidated.

#### ***Late Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval***

The posthole 308, which measured 0.30m diameter and 0.15m deep cut the Late Iron Age posthole 306, on the west side of the intervention area. It was filled with dark grey silty clay (309) and yielded a single sherd of St Neot's-type ware, weighing 5g.

The gully stub 399 lay approximately 5m to the south of the posthole 308. It measured 2.7m long and 0.50m wide; it was 0.12m deep. The gully was filled with dark grey silty clay (398), which yielded a sherd of Brill/Boarstall, weighing 13g, in addition to a small sherd of Roman pottery, weighing 1g. the gully dated from the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and was truncated by the later post-medieval pond 416 at the south end.

In the southeast corner of the site were the ditch 420 and ?pit 418, seen during the watching brief for the excavation of the footings. Previously the features had been concealed by the fill the pond 416.

The ditch 420, which was oriented roughly east/west, measured over 4m long and 2.2m wide; it was V-shaped and at least 1.2m deep. The fill was mid grey silty clay with chalk and flint pebbles, with yellow brown mottling (419); no finds were present.

The pit 418 measured 2.2m by 1.4m; it was 0.8m deep. The pit was filled with mid yellow brown silty clay with few rounded and angular flint pebbles (417). No finds were recovered. The pit 418 overlay, but did not cut, the ditch 420.

The pond 416 was a large feature which initially extended beyond the east and west edges of the excavation area; it measured between 5m and 7m north of the southern limit of investigation, comprising approximately one-third of the investigation area of Area 300. It was observed to a maximum depth of 3m. The pond was filled with a heterogeneous mix of layers, but due to the narrowness and depth of the footings trenches the recording of these layers was not possible. It was noted that the deeper the more organic the fill being excavated with branches and peaty deposits being disturbed. The sole of a shoe, identified as post-medieval on site, was recovered, but this has been since misplaced.

To the north lay the posthole 325, an oval cut, measuring 0.9m by 0.5m and 0.2m thick; the cut was filled with three discrete fills: the basal fill was dark grey silty clay with cominuted charcoal (325), sealed by a mixed yellow clay and black silty clay with chalk inclusions (328); in the top of fill (328) was a small pocket of dark grey silty clay with orange sandy clay and chalk inclusions (330). The posthole yielded a sherd of redware, weighing 15g, and a tiny sherd of agate ware, weighing 1g; this pottery dates from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The small size of the sherd of agate ware may well indicate it to be intrusive.

### ***Undated features***

To the south of ditch 2001, and almost parallel with it, pit 370 was an elongated pit measuring 2.15m long and 0.47m wide – too short to be considered a linear feature. The western end (or terminal) was sectioned which revealed that it had a vertical wall on the northern edge and a sloping 45 degree wall on the southern edge with a relatively flat base. It contained one fill of compact red-greyish silty clay with inclusions of pebbles and gravel (371). No finds were recovered from the feature, which may represent a natural change in the geological strata as no other features were characterised by such a fill-colour.

### ***Three aligned postholes: 342, 344 & 346***

The line of three postholes was approximately 1.25m long, with the posts measuring *c* 0.3m diameter and *c* 0.2m from one another.

Posthole 344, 0.30m at the north end of the line was sub-circular in plan, 0.30m at the long axis and 0.20m deep, it was filled with compact dark grey silty clay (343).

To the south, posthole 342 was circular in plan, 0.06m in depth and showed a profile of an elongated ‘U’ shape, with a single fill (341), the same as fill (343).

Posthole 346 is the southernmost of the three aligned postholes, circular in plan with a diameter of 0.28m and a depth of 0.10m. The fill (345) was identical to (343) (above) but had a possible packing stone at the base.

Morphologically these postholes are similar but the lack of dating material makes it difficult to interpret these features to any degree and their proximity to one another may be fortuitous.

Posthole 392 was located *c* 7m to the west of the line of posts; it measured 0.35m across and 0.25m deep, and contained a similar fill (391) to the group of three postholes with a cobble and two limestone fragments in the fill as post-packing. No other finds were recovered.

Posthole 319, which was 3m north of posthole 392 and 9m west of the group of three postholes was filled with a similar fill of dark grey silty clay (318). It measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.15m deep.

To the northeast of the line of postholes, and east of the Late Iron Age posthole 334 was an undated posthole 331. This feature was partly cut by the post-medieval posthole 325. The posthole, which was filled with a similar dark clay fill (232) to the other postholes, measured approximately 0.3m across and 0.12m deep.

The group of undated features, largely postholes, are difficult to identify as a building. The postholes were similar in size to the barn identified in Area 200, but lacked the structural coherence characterised by the barn. It is of course very possible that the building might have been better revealed in a larger open-area, which due to the access roads not having been identified was not possible. Equally, the postholes might also represent two or even more structures. The site was under investigation for approximately one week, during most of which time it rained; further features might have been revealed subsequent to the site drying out, but it remains uncertain.

On the west side of the land parcel the north-eastern angle of the gully 2007 was visible, whilst from the northern baulk ditch 707 ran 4.3m to terminate at its southeast extremity.

A section excavated through the postulated ditch revealed a profile with sharp, near vertical walls and a flat base 0.50m wide and 0.31m deep containing two fills. The primary fill was a firm grey-black sandy clay with approximately 30% inclusions of gravel, limestone and ironstone (709). The upper fill was firm orange sand which had 20% inclusions of limestone and iron stone (708). No finds were recovered and it may well represent a geological feature.

#### **4.1.5 Area 100**

Area 100 was located on the west side of the development area (Figs 2 & 3). This area was initially monitored after ground-reduction, during the excavation of footings and pouring of concrete, when the hearth or oven (see below) was excavated. Subsequently, several days later, the area was roughly cleaned during rain to investigate further archaeological features which had been observed during the earlier work.

The area was excavated to the orange brown stony clay (102), natural Boulder Clay, which was also seen in the footings trenches. The clay (102) was cut by a number of features.

### ***Late Iron Age/Early Roman***

In the northwest corner was a hearth or firpit 105 which measured 1m × 0.7m × 0.04m, the base of which was lined with red brown biscuit-fired clay (104), approximately 0.02m thick, which was overlain in the centre north and east part of the shallow cut with charcoal-rich black clay with calcined flint (106) (Fig. 3; S.2.1 & 2.2; Plate 2). These two deposits were overlain by dark grey clay silt (103) yielding a sheep/goat metacarpel, which backfilled the possible hearth. Dating from the structure was between 50 BC and AD 50.



*Plate 18. Hearth 105*

Immediately adjacent to the south of the oven was the ditch 108, which extended beyond the edges of the investigation area, filled with pale grey brown silty clay (107) at least 0.25m deep; it was not fully seen due to the footing having been already concreted. Although surface pottery yielded a medieval date, some limited excavation of the secondary fill (107) recovered late prehistoric/early Roman pottery.

Approximately 2.3m to the east of the hearth 105 was the posthole 110, which measured 0.24m in diameter and 0.35m deep; it was filled with pale grey brown clay silt (109) and although it was undated, the paler fill makes it more likely that it was part of the late prehistoric/Roman group of features, rather than the more recent.

### ***Post-Roman***

The group of post-Roman features to the east and south of the late prehistoric/Roman features were not investigated although they were planned. The possible pit/large posthole 120 was characterised by the presence of black clay; additionally, to the north were the posthole 117, measuring 0.5m × 0.3m, and the putative ditch terminal 118, both also filled with dark grey black material. No dating was recovered from these features.

Further to the east again was a cluster of postholes and stakeholes 121, 122, 123 and 124 that were planned, but as they were modern, they were otherwise unrecorded.

In places, a layer of dark grey brown clay silt with occasional charcoal and daub (114), representing a relict subsoil of uncertain character, was recorded as present. This was unfortunately neither planned nor photographed.

To the south of the posthole cluster was an area of rough paving 113, comprising flagstone measuring 0.03m thick, 3.3m long and 0.64m wide. This paving was set into the top of the subsoil layer (103).

The large area of black and dark grey clay with mottling (119) which measured at least 4m × 4m, extending beyond the edges of the intervention, was modern. Similarly the shallow pit 116 which measured more than 2m × 1.5m × 0.1m and filled with mottled red brown clay silt with charcoal and stone (115) was also modern.

### *Discussion*

The results indicate the presence of some clearly late prehistoric/early Roman activity comprising the kiln or oven and the adjacent ditch; although the dating is similar, the stratigraphic relationship was not apparent and so it is not possible to assert the relationship between the two features, though clearly they cannot have functioned contemporaneously. The posthole 110 is probably part of the same phase of late prehistoric/early Roman activity, although is undated.

The more recent features do not indicate a coherent pattern, which may well indicate several phases of recent activity associated with the recently abandoned farm. The fill of the features was similar to a number of modern features and further investigation of the features was limited.

#### **4.1.6 Area 1100**

Fronting onto South Street and adjacent to Maltings Farmhouse some ground reduction was carried out after services had been excavated and the line of the garden wall on the north side of the property had been moved without monitoring (Fig. 1).

The area was reduced to natural, yellow clay (1103) which was overlain by garden soils (1102) and made ground (1101). The previously unmonitored removal of the garden wall was made manifest, but the extent of archaeological activity within the small garden to the north of the access to Maltings Farm remains unknown.

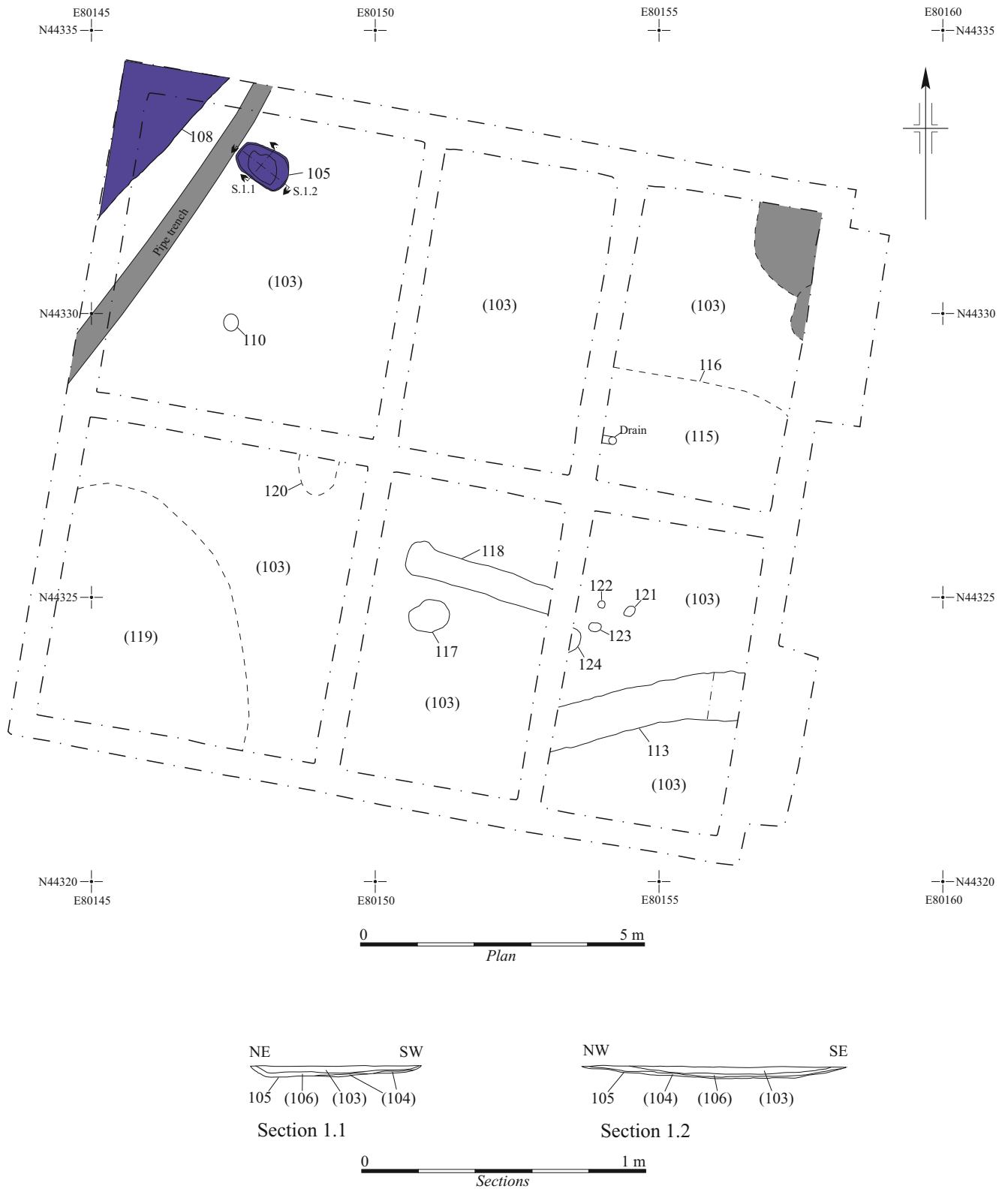


Figure 8: Area 100: plan and sections

## 4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The intervention at Castlethorpe was undertaken over a period of seventeen months, between July 2012 and November 2013, in a range of climatic conditions, often in reaction to 24 hours' notice.

It has already been noted above that much of the site had been impacted upon negatively prior to the establishment of an appropriate strategy to deal with the extensive archaeological remains which were clearly present. As a result the reliability is good within the context of significant archaeological remains which had been insufficiently assessed prior to the application of a condition by the Unitary Authority.

Subsequent to clarification of the archaeological potential in the context of the planning condition, the situation improved somewhat, although as is clear from the illustrations, things occasionally slipped.

The work was monitored by Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer for Milton Keynes Unitary Authority who provided much helpful guidance and advice throughout the exercise, despite his having to deal with a condition which preceded his appointment to the position.

## 5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

### 5.1 Pottery by Jackie Wells

#### Introduction

The assemblage comprises 269 vessels, represented by 555 sherds (10.9kg), the majority datable to the late Iron Age/early Roman periods. A small post-Roman assemblage, ranging in date between the 10th and 19th centuries was also collected.

Pottery was recovered from 44 features, with 47%, by sherd count, deriving from pits; 44% from linear features (ditches and gullies), and the remainder from various cut features and layers. The mean sherd weights recorded for pits and linears are identical (21g), suggesting similar deposition patterns for the main feature types.

#### Methodology

Pottery fabrics and, where possible, vessel forms were identified, and rim EVEs (Estimated Vessel Equivalents) recorded for late Iron Age and Roman wares. Quantification was by minimum vessel and sherd count, and weight; data was entered onto an MS Access database.

Fabric types are in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series and have been correlated with ware descriptions identified by Marney (1989: late Iron Age and Roman), and Mynard (1992: post-Roman) for pottery publications in the Milton Keynes environs (Appendix 1).



## **Assemblage composition**

### *Late Iron Age (59.2% total assemblage by sherd count)*

The late Iron Age assemblage broadly spans the late 1st century BC to the late 1st century AD, and totals 161 vessels, represented by 329 sherds (6.4kg). Fourteen features solely contained late Iron Age pottery: pits [239], [241], [245], [316], [395], [607]; ditch / gullies [226], [2007], [2004], [2005], [1009]; post holes [306], [334], and hearth [105].

A further twelve yielded mixed late Iron Age/early Roman assemblages: pits [249], [310], [336], [394]; ditch / gullies [108], [237], [2000], [2001], [2002], [2003]; wall [247] and layer [406]. The material survives in variable condition, with a high degree of surface erosion, although the mean sherd weight (20g) is reasonably high.

Sizeable pottery deposits were collected from pit [394] and gully [2001], which respectively yielded 2.4kg and 1.6kg. The largest single vessel, represented by 24 sherds (733g), derived from the primary fill of gully [2001].

Four cross-fits (sherds belonging to the same vessel, but deriving from separate contexts) were recorded between the fills (389), (390) of pit [394], suggesting rapid infilling of the feature with material deriving from a single source.

Typically for pottery of this date, grog-tempered fabric (group 46) dominates (81% of assemblage by sherd count), with shelly (groups 1a, 45) and sandy wares (group 47) constituting the remainder. A local source for all this material is likely, including, for some of the shelly ware, Harrold, north Bedfordshire (Brown 1994).

Vessel forms are characteristic of Thompson's north-west zone (1982, 16–17). They mainly comprise grog-tempered jars, often cordoned, with simple bead or everted rims, and necked narrow-mouthed jars (type B3-8). Rim diameters range between 100mm and 230mm, with one outlier, a large storage-type vessel, at 280mm. Also common are shelly lid-seated forms (types C5-1, C5-2), the latter with diagonal slashed decoration.

Single examples of a butt beaker (type G5-6; rim diameter 160mm), a bowl with a girth groove (type D1-3; 180mm), a platter with a vertical wall and internal moulding (type G1-6; 190mm), and a cordoned/corrugated cup (type E2-2; 150mm) occur. There are also two indeterminate carinated cups or bowls. Vessel modification is restricted to one body sherd with a post-firing drilled hole (diameter 5mm).

### *Roman (33.5% total assemblage)*

The Roman assemblage is predominantly of late 1st- and 2nd-century date, and totals 74 vessels, represented by 183 sherds (4.1kg). Roman pottery is exclusive to six features: pits [243], [349], [377], [605], and gullies [399], [705]. Sherds are moderately abraded, and have a comparable mean weight (22g) to the late Iron Age pottery.

Modest Roman pottery deposits were collected from pit [349] and gully [2002], which respectively yielded 931g and 854g. The largest single vessel is a lid-seated shelly jar, represented by 22 sherds (845g), and deriving from the fill of pit [349].

The fill of gully [2002] yielded a complete base and five lower body sherds (633g) from a sand-tempered jar. Three separate cross-fits occurred between: (i) fills (389), (390) of pit [394]; (ii) fills (385), (388) of gully [2003]; and (iii) fill (323) of gully [2000] and associated cleaning layer (303).

The Roman assemblage is dominated by local coarse wares, 40% of which (by sherd count) are shell-tempered wares (group 1a), originating mainly from kilns at Harrold, north Bedfordshire (Brown 1994). Local reduced sandy wares (principally groups 3 and 9) collectively total 22%.

The remaining assemblage comprises non-local fabrics from various sources. These include white / pink wares from the Verulamium region and Northamptonshire (group 18), oxidised wares (group 17), also from Northamptonshire, and reduced wares, distinguished by a pale grey core (group 14) as products of the Nene Valley. A single sherd of mica-gilded ware, of uncertain source, was also present.

Imported continental material comprises three abraded sherds (133g) of Central Gaulish samian (group 20), including a form 18/31 plate / bowl of early to mid 2nd-century date.

Vessel forms, although poorly represented, are suggestive of a low status, typically utilitarian assemblage. They mainly comprise jars with simple everted or lid-seated rims. The latter range in diameter from 100–190mm, with an outlier at 210mm. Single examples of a bowl with an undercut rim, a lid-seated rilled shelly bowl, both with rim diameters of 220mm, and a strap handle from a flagon occur. Decorative elements are vertical combing, rilling, horizontal grooves, rouletted panels, and cordons, the latter reminiscent of the late Iron Age tradition.

The late Iron Age and Roman pottery from Castlethorpe compares well with a range of larger assemblages recovered from a number of sites in the Milton Keynes environs (Marney 1989).

#### *Late Saxon and medieval (3.6% total assemblage)*

Thirteen vessels, represented by 20 sherds (206g), were collected from ten features in Areas 200 and 300 (Table 3). The pottery is fragmented, with a mean sherd weight of 10g, although not particularly abraded.

The earliest pottery comprises six shell-tempered sherds of St Neots-type ware (53g) of 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>-century date. A sooted jar with a rim diameter of 180mm is the only diagnostic vessel. Four sherds of local 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>-century shell- and sand-tempered ware (62g) were recovered from pits [204], [208] and [239].

Pottery of 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>-century date comprises a glazed jug sherd (10g) of Brill/Boarstall ware (pit [611]), and seven Potterspury ware sherds (59g), recovered from the surface cleaning of ditch [107], wall (612) and floor (615). Vessels forms are a glazed jug

and a sooted cooking pot with an out-turned undercut rim; diameter 160mm (cf. Mynard 1970; fig. 2, 27-28).

Feature	Feature type	Fill	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
107	Ditch (surface find)	108	1	8
204	Pit	203	1	28
208	Pit	209	5	39
210	Pit	211	1	12
239	Pit	238	3	40
308	Post hole	309	1	5
399	Gully	398	1	13
611	Pit	610	1	10
612	Wall	612	1	34
615	Floor	610	5	17
<b>Total</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>206</b>

Table 3: *Quantification of late Saxon and medieval pottery*

Single body sherds of 14th–15th-century reduced ware, and 15th–16th-century Brill/Boarstall ware derived respectively from pit [239] and gully [399].

#### *Post-medieval and modern (3.7% total assemblage)*

Area 300 features yielded 19 post-medieval and modern vessels, represented by 21 sherds (190g), the majority deriving from layer (406) (Table 4). Single sherds of Agate ware and lead-glazed earthenware occurred as residual finds in late Iron Age/early Roman features [306] and [336].

The pottery has a mean sherd weight of 9g, and is moderately abraded. Most sherds are local earthenwares, 17th-century products of the South Northants. industry, centred on the villages of Paulerspury, Potterspury and Yardley Gobion (Mynard 1992, 282). Vessel forms are bowls, and a ‘pie-crust’ plate rim, the latter in Staffordshire slipware, of 17th–18th-century date. Body sherds of 18th-century Agate ware and 19th-century Mocha ware, and blue and white transfer-printed ware are also present.

Feature	Feature type	Fill	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
306 (I)	Post hole	307	1	1
325	Post hole	326	2	16
336 (I)	Pit	302	1	3
394	Pit	390	3	17
406	Layer	406	10	133
416	Pond	415	4	20
<b>Total</b>			<b>21</b>	<b>190</b>

Table 4: *Quantification of post-medieval and modern pottery*  
(I) = intrusive

## 5.2 Fired clay and building material by Jackie Wells

Twenty-one redeposited fired clay fragments (100g) were collected from ten features within Areas 2 and 4 (Table 5). The amorphous pieces have a mean sherd weight of 4g, and are generally abraded. Fifty-two percent (by fragment count) occur in an oxidised sandy fabric characterised by irregular calcareous inclusions, and the remainder in a purely sandy fabric.

Feature	Feature type	Fill	Frag. No.	Wt (g)
228	Ditch	(229)	2	4
237	Ditch	(236)	2	7
241	?Pit	(240)	1	2
334	Post hole	(333)	1	5
336	Pit	(335)	5	16
394	Pit	(390)	1	23
399	Gully	(398)	4	14
2000	Gully	(339)	1	6
2001	Gully	(374)	2	12
2003	Gully	(385)	1	6
2003	Gully	(403)	1	5
<b>Total</b>			<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5: *Quantification of fired clay*

A highly abraded ceramic roof tile fragment (13g) of post-medieval or later date occurred as an intrusive find in late Iron Age ditch [1009]. Pit [316] and gully [2001] yielded two modern brick fragments (51g), including one deriving from an engineering brick. A piece of land drain (10g) was collected from the surface of ditch [108].

### 5.3 Brooches by *Andrej • elovský*

During the archaeological investigation at Maltings Farm, Castlethorpe, Buckinghamshire two copper-alloy Romano-British brooches were discovered in fill (398) of the pit 393.

This report comprises a preliminary analysis of the two brooches recovered. The work involved the cleaning, measuring and detailed examination of the brooches. The following information was revealed:



Plate 19. SF2 - Colchester-type brooch

**SF 2**

SF 2 was recovered from fill (389) of the pit 393, located on the east side of the intervention Area 300. The find represents a typical example of the Colchester type copper-alloy cast brooch (Hattatt 1982, 60-61). The bow is well preserved, of round cross-section with flattened faces. The head is heavily corroded, details of spinning not visible. The catch-plate is broken, although what remains might suggest that it was originally pierced. The pin is missing, however small heavily corroded piece of copper-alloy wire was found with this brooch, which might be a fragment of the pin. The brooch has a greenish brown patina.

Dimensions: overall length 60mm, head: 18×12×12mm, height of bow 19mm, cross-section 3.6×2mm, weight 8.03g

Dimensions of fragment of possible pin: length: 26.5 mm, diameter 2.4 mm (max. 4.7 mm), weight 0.95g

Date: mid 1<sup>st</sup> century CE (*terminus post quem*)



Plate 20. SF3 - Hod Hill-type brooch

**SF 3 (389)**

SF 3 was recovered from fill (389) of the pit 393, located on the east side of the intervention Area 300. The find comprises a variant of Hod Hill type copper-alloy cast brooches (Hattatt 1982, 88-96). The brooch is in good general condition. It has a rolled-over sub-rectangular head, and behind the head is a prominent semi-circular transverse rib. The perforated bow, which is defined by two decorated cross ribs, has vertical fluting, decorated with horizontal lines. The fourth cross rib is not decorated.

In between the bow and the leg is a trapezoidal plate with four flutes and spherical cross-mouldings. The leg has a central rib and it is decorated with lines, which seem to form a 'herring bone' pattern. At the end of the leg is a pronounced knob. The catch-plate is broken, as is the pin. The brooch has a greenish brown patina; no trace of tin, silver or niello was observed.

Dimensions: overall length 68mm, head: 19×8×4mm, height of bow 16mm, cross-section 6×2.8mm, length of pin 24mm (as preserved), diameter 1mm, weight 11.57g.

Date: mid 1<sup>st</sup> century CE (*terminus post quem*)

More precise classification and dating would be possible after conservation work and analysis of the x-ray plates, which have not been carried out.

#### **5.4 Worked flint** by *Martin Tingle*

Two pieces of worked flint, weighing a total of 65g, were recovered during the interventions at Maltings Farm.

Context (390) - Blade core Fragment (58g)

Made from a grey/ white patinated flint, the piece has at least two distinct blade scars: 73mm × 16-6mm (length × breadth); and 63mm × 10- 6mm (length × breadth). An unusual piece possibly made from tabular flint, which could be Mesolithic.

Context (1007) - End Scraper (7g).

End scraper made from a broken flake of a blue/grey unpatinated, of probably chalk-derived flint, of uncertain date but possibly Neolithic.

#### **5.5 Environmental remains**

##### **5.5.1 Floral remains**

No environmental samples for charred plant remains were taken as the excavator felt that the features did not warrant sampling.

##### **5.5.2 Faunal remains** by *Claire Ingrem*

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered during a watching brief at Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes. The site consists of a large enclosed settlement thought to have been a farm which contained small enclosures interpreted as possible lambing pens. A number of small to medium sized pits, which were of late prehistoric to very early Roman date, yielded the assessed assemblage (Williams *pers comm*).

#### **Methods**

The assemblage was assessed in June 2014. All hand collected bone fragments over 10mm were examined, with the number of potentially identifiable and unidentifiable bones being counted for each context, to provide a basic NISP (Number of Identified Specimens Present).

Condition	No. of bags
1	
2	49
3	42
4	1
5	
Total	92

Table 6. Condition of the bone (number of bags)

The number of bones or teeth that could provide metrical, ageing or sexing information was recorded.

The condition of the bone, the presence of butchery, gnawing and burning was also noted.

Ageing and metrical data were recorded during the assessment and are presented in the Appendix. The wear stages of the lower cheek teeth of cattle and caprines were recorded using the method proposed by Grant (1982) and age attributed according to the method devised by Payne (1973) for sheep/goat and Legge (1982) for cattle. Measurements were taken according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976).

	50BC- AD50	AD50- 200	12 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Undated	Total
Cattle	126	7				133
Sheep	1	1				2
Sheep/goat	3	14	1			18
Large mammal	5	15		1	6	27
Medium mammal		15			1	16
Unidentifiable	4	19			1	24
Total	139	71	1	1	8	220
Total identifiable	130	22	1			153
% identifiable	94	31	100			70

Table 7. Taxa representation according to date

### ***Condition of the bone***

In order to estimate the potential of an assemblage to provide taphonomic information, the condition of the bone is graded on a scale of 1 to 5. That assigned to '1' is deemed to be in excellent condition, demonstrating little post-depositional damage whilst bone material classed as '5' has suffered severe surface erosion and can be identified only as 'bone'. The condition of the bone recovered from Castlethorpe is given in Table 6 and this shows that almost all of the assemblage is in good or moderate condition.

### ***Data***

A total of 220 fragments of animal bone were recovered from Castlethorpe of which 70% are identifiable (Table 7). The majority belong to cattle and the remainder to sheep/goat. With the exception of one specimen recovered from a 12<sup>th</sup> century deposit, the identifiable pieces all derive from late Iron Age or Roman contexts.

	Side			Total
	Left	Right	Not known	
Frontal			1	1
Petrous			2	2
Occipital condyle	1			1
Upper premolar			3	3
Maxilla	1			1
Mandible	2*	1	1	4
Metacarpal	1		1	2
Metatarsal	1	1		2
*Metapodial			4 **	4
1st phalanx			4	4
2nd phalanx			1	1
3rd phalanx			4	4
Tooth fragment			2	2
Unidentifiable			90	90
Total	6	2	111	121

Table 8. Anatomical representation of calf from context 365 (NISP)

\* fragments (minimum number of elements =1)

\*\* unfused distal condyles (epiphyses)

#### 50BC-AD50

One hundred and thirty specimens came from Late Iron Age/very Early Roman deposits (Table 7). Apart from four sheep/goat specimens, all belong to cattle. Most of the material is from a single gully 2004 and this context (365) is particularly interesting as it appears to comprise the head and hooves of a calf.

Anatomical representation of the calf remains from the gully is shown in Table 8. All the specimens appear to belong to the same individual.

#### AD 50 – 200

Both cattle and sheep/goat are present in the small sample (n=22) recovered from Early to Mid Roman deposits with sheep/goat twice as numerous as cattle. Sixteen specimens came from pit fills and five are from a gully (Table 7).

#### 12<sup>th</sup> century AD

A single sheep/goat tibia came from the fill of a 12<sup>th</sup> century pit.

#### General information

Three cattle and two caprine specimens provide ageing data and this is listed in the Appendix. Two deciduous premolars belong to the calf represented in context 365 and provide an estimated age of 1-3 months.

One cattle and four caprine specimens offer metrical data (see Appendix 2).

Evidence for butchery, burning and canid gnawing is present on some specimens but was not observed on the calf remains.



### ***Discussion***

The assemblage of animal bone from Castlethorpe is small and as a result is unable to provide reliable information concerning animal husbandry practices or withstand detailed analysis.

It is only really possible to say with certainty that cattle and sheep were present during the periods 50BC –AD50 and AD 50 – 200 whilst during the 12<sup>th</sup> century there is only evidence for sheep/goat.

The recovery of remains representing the head and hooves of a calf aged between one and three months from a gully dated to the Late Iron Age/very Early Roman period is more interesting. Partial skeletons and articulated bone groups are commonly found at Iron Age and Roman sites (Grant, 1984) where many are thought to have symbolic or ideological associations. However, these ‘special deposits’ are generally found in pits (*ibid*; Hill, 1995) and whilst it is possible that the head and hooves from Castlethorpe results from some form of ritual activity, its recovery from a gully suggests it is more likely to have a functional explanation.

If this were the case, then it is quite likely that the remains represent tanning waste since young calves would have provided high quality skins; according to Serjeantson (1989: 129) the best quality vellum is made from the skin of still born or new born calves. The presence of such a young calf also suggests that cattle were raised at or near the settlement and given the evidence for possible ‘lambing pens’ it would appear that so too were sheep.

### ***Recommendations***

No further work is recommended.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

The archaeological intervention at Castlethorpe revealed an important sequence of Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity. The nature of the settlement was not fully established due to the limited and fragmentary nature of the intervention. Significant areas were not investigated due to parts of the development having been undertaken prior to John Moore Heritage Services being informed that the groundworks were started (Fig 1; Plate 1). As a consequence, although there were areas of good recovery of the archaeological record, elsewhere the archaeological remains were badly impacted upon and their interpretation remains provisional.

Nevertheless, the intervention established that the settlement, which was located on a southwest facing plateau, overlooking the River Tove, while to the south lies the confluence of the Tove with the Ouse. The site was bounded on the east side by a broad ditch almost 4m wide and up to 1m deep. It is possible, then, that rather than there having been a ringwork underlying the castle at Castlethorpe, the origins of the medieval settlement are as an Iron Age hillfort.

The site, which is approximately 4km from Watling Street, is well-located overlooking the River Tove, similar to a number of examples of hillforts, such as

those that line the Nene Valley (Deegan 2007, 94), or Danesborough to the south, also in the Ouse valley, which became the Roman town of *Magiovinium* (Zeepvat & Radford 2007, 2-3). A significant amount of work in the environs of Milton Keynes has demonstrated that continuity, relocation and abandonment are all evidenced from interventions carried out as part of the development of the New Town.

The density of activity and landscape use in the broader region makes it clear that the site at Castlethorpe falls easily into the template, in some respects. The possible existence of a hillfort at Castlethorpe has been insufficiently examined, in favour of the proposal of a much smaller ringwork focussed exclusively on the area of the later Saxo-Norman castle.

The alternative proposed here is that such an earthwork overlooked the confluence of the Ouse and its tributary the Tove, and may well be the origin of the present settlement. Certainly, Iron Age and Roman pottery has been recovered from all parts of the village, suggesting that there was extensive occupation in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. It is also worth considering that the development of *Magiovinium* and, by association, Bancroft villa, which is 4km to the south, may have been the reason that the settlement at Castlethorpe declined after the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.

Nonetheless, the exploitation of animals and possibly grain would appear to have been a significant element of the economy, as the limited range of goods includes Nene Valley and St Albans wares, as well as articles from farther afield such as Samian pottery and *Aucissa* brooches. The presence of cattle and sheep/goat, and the apparent absence of pig, would seem to be indicative of a 'native' rather than overly Romanized population (Hawkes 1999, 91).

The site investigated at Castlethorpe appears to have largely comprised the periphery of the occupation centre, the presence of the postulated barn, the hearth and the rubbish pits indicate that domestic structures should lie nearby, and indeed were quite probably machined away to make the access road.

Nevertheless, the presence of small enclosures may indicate that the animal husbandry regime practiced here required access to pens for the beasts. Similar examples have been investigated at a number of sites to the north in Northampton where they have been taken to attest to the continued importance of a pastoral economy, potentially dominated by sheep (Deegan 2007, 108). Most of these sites are also located on the boulder Clay or Lias. What is interesting with the examples of pens excavated at Castlethorpe is the relatively high proportion of cattle present, indicating a more mixed pastoral economy than elsewhere in the region.

The small pens of the early Roman period, which nonetheless respect the earlier Late Iron Age boundaries, are suggestive of a population which has an intimate knowledge of their hinterland. Such an interpretation of the settlement at Castlethorpe identifies the occupants as engaged with *Romanitas* even though, on present grounds, it appears that the settlement did not prosper and indeed may well have failed.

There appears to have been a hiatus between the Early Roman period and the early Norman construction of the church. Work at Leckworrth some 5km to the west indicates that the correlation between late prehistoric/Roman sites and later Saxon sites is imperfect (Jones & Page 2006; Blair 2014). For the most part Saxon (AD 400-850) occupation sites eschew the earlier Roman sites (Blair 2014).

The bank of the main enclosure ditch appears to have been silting up in the Late Iron Age and was possibly not visible in this area by the Roman period. It is sealed by a post-Roman, but otherwise undated ploughsoil. It appears to stand on the same alignment as the “South-western Enclosure” but could equally form the eastern side of the ditch seen to the north of the railway line and associated with the later castle. This ditch could easily be a re-working of an earlier earthwork. The bank of the South-western Enclosure” was tentatively dated to the medieval period (Bonner *et.al.* 1995), however this was on the basis of a single sherd. Here the bank was seen to have at least two phases of construction, with the latter phase c. 13<sup>th</sup> century.

It is of course possible that the castle dates from immediately after the Conquest, although Domesday does not identify where Healfdene of Hanslope, or his successor, Winemar of Flanders, actually had their seat. Winemar was tenant-in-chief at Hanslope, which was his *caput*. The rest of Winemar’s estate was in Northamptonshire (Page 1927). Nevertheless, the motte and bailey as extant are in part those thrown up by Williams Maudit, husband of Maud de Hanslope daughter of Michael de Hanslope, who succeeded Winemar, and can be presumed to overlie the location of Winemar’s baronial seat.

The pottery from the pits to the rear of Maltings Farm corresponds, broadly at any rate, with this period of use, although is clearly at some distance from the castle itself. Nevertheless, these pits are probably related to medieval buildings underlying the present building. It is in such a case, not unlikely that further buildings fronted South Street with associated pitting and domestic activities to the rear. The pottery is typical for the region at this period and is otherwise unremarkable.

The slightly later stone building with associated yard and fencing suggests that while South Street and North Street were the main axes through the settlement, there were other discrete parts in use as well, as can be still seen by the line of School Lane, for example. It is not certain whether this building formed part of a small-holding within the settlement or whether it was merely an outbuilding associated with a predecessor of Maltings Farm. The origin of the pond which predates the building and associated surface is unknown and could feasibly be prehistoric.

The limited post-medieval archaeological remains do not form a coherent body of data, and only seem to represent a number of isolated features, such as gullies, pits and the pond located at the south end of Area 300. In the context of a broader examination of the site, it may well have been possible to investigate with a view to an interpretation of the features, but this was not possible.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological intervention at Maltings Farm, South Street, Castlethorpe revealed parts of an extensive Late Iron Age and Early Roman site on the east bank overlooking the River Tove. Further results include some medieval and post-medieval activity, but this was so partial as to indicate that the potential had been high for a good archaeological sequence.

It is clear that the use of the watching brief condition was an insufficient safeguard for the recovery of archaeological remains, particularly where no evaluation had been undertaken to establish the quality or quantity of remains.

The evidence for Late Iron Age and Early Roman settlement at Castlethorpe indicated a 'native' settlement tied into the wider *Romanitas* of Southern Britain. The data recovered would seem to suggest that the settlement died out in the late 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, and that it was only re-occupied during the very Late Saxon or Norman period.

The use of the site during the later medieval and post-medieval periods was hinted at, but poorly understood.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blair, J., 2014 'Exploring Anglo-Saxon settlement In search of the origins of the English village' *Current Archaeology* **291** 12-22

Bonner, D., Parkhouse, J., & Smith, N., 1995 'Archaeological investigations of the earthworks at Castlethorpe, Buckinghamshire' *Records of Buckinghamshire* **37**, 79-99

Brown, A., 1994, 'A Romano-British shell-tempered pottery and tile manufacturing site at Harrold, Bedfordshire', *Beds. Archaeol. J.* 21, 19-107.

von den Driesch, A., (1976) 'A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites' *Peabody Museum Bulletin* 1.

Deegan, A., 2007 'Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlements and landscapes' in Alison Deegan & Glenn Foard (2007) *Mapping Ancient Landscapes in Northamptonshire* English Heritage 81-124

Fell, D., (ed) 2000 'Buckinghamshire Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd.' in *South Midlands Archaeology* **30** 9-11

Grant, A., 1982 The use of toothwear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. In R. Wilson, C. Grigson & S. Payne (eds.) *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites* BAR British Series 109 91-108.

Grant, A. (1984). Animal husbandry. *Danebury: Vol 2*. B. Cunliffe. London, Council British Archaeology. 2: 496-548.

Green, D., 2011 *Hanslope Buckinghamshire Historic Town Assessment* Buckinghamshire County Council/English Heritage/Milton Keynes Council

Hattatt, R. 1982: *Ancient and Romano-British Brooches*. Milborne Port: Dorset Publishing Company.

Hawkes, G., 1999 'Beyond Romanization: The creolization of food A framework for the study of faunal remains from Roman sites' *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology* **10** 89-95

Hill, J. D. (1995) *Ritual and Rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex: a Study on the Formation of a Specific Archaeological Record*. Oxford : British Archaeological Reports (British Series) 242.

Jones, R., & Page, M., 2006 *Medieval Villages in an English Landscape Beginnings and Ends* Windgather Press

Legge, A. J., (1982) The Agricultural Economy. In R.J. Mercer (ed) *Excavations at Grimes Graves*. R. J. Mercer. London, HMSO: 79-103.

Marney, P.T., 1989 *Roman and Belgic Pottery from excavations in Milton Keynes 1972–82*, Bucks. Arch. Soc. Mono. No. 2.

Mawer, A and Stenton, F 1925 *The Place-names of Buckinghamshire*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Mynard, D. C., 1970 'Medieval Pottery of Potterspury type', *Bulletin of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies* No. 4, 49–55.

Mynard, D. C., 1992, 'The Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery' in D. C. Mynard and R. J. Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford, 1974–80*, Bucks. Arch. Soc. Mono. No.3, 245-372.

Page, W., 1927 'Parishes: Hanslope with Castle Thorpe', *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 4* (1927), pp. 348-362. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62597> Date accessed: 08 July 2014

Payne, S., (1973) Kill off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale *Anatolian Studies* **23** 281-303

Thompson, I., 1982, *Grog-tempered Belgic pottery of South-Eastern England*, Brit. Arch. Rep. 108.

Serjeantson, D., (1989) Animal Remains and the Tanning Trade. In D. Serjeantson & T. Waldron (eds) *Diet and Crafts in Towns: the evidence of animal remains from the Roman to the Post-Medieval periods*. BAR British Series 199.

VCH 1927 *A History of the County of Buckinghamshire*, volume 4, London: Saint Catherine's Press

**APPENDIX 1 Pottery type series, fabric concordance and quantification**

<b>Beds. CTS code</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>MK CTS code</b>	<b>Sherd No.</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>
<i>Late Iron Age transitional</i>				
F03	Grog and sand	Fabric 46qr	4	31
F05	Grog and shell	Fabric 45	20	397
F06A	Grog – fine	Fabric 46; 46m	20	344
F06B	Grog – medium	Fabric 46	56	876
F06C	Grog – coarse	Fabric 46; 46k	40	1049
F07	Shell	Fabric 1a	36	666
F09	Sand and grog	Fabric 46qr	144	2753
F33	Grog and calcareous	Fabric 46j	1	4
F34	Sand	Fabric 47	8	326
<b>Total</b>			<b>329</b>	<b>6446</b>
<i>Early Roman</i>				
R01	Samian ware	Fabric 20	3	133
R02	Mica-gilded ware	Fabric 34a	1	16
R03	White ware	Fabric 18c	5	52
R03B	White ware (Verulamium region)	Fabric 18g	3	56
R05A	Oxidised sandy ware	Fabric 41h	16	135
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley	Fabric 14/33	9	52
R06B	Grey ware – coarse	Fabric 3a-n; 14c; 14/33; 28b	4	67
R06C	Grey ware – fine	Fabric 28; some 25/30b,c; 14a,b,r	11	71
R07B	Black ware	Fabric 9xy; 47dg; 19/29	20	357
R10A	White / pink ware	Fabric 18	1	39
R10B	White / pink ware	Fabric 18	6	633
R13	Shell	Fabric 1a	74	2108
R14	Black ware	Fabric 9	6	93
R17	Oxidised sandy ware	Fabric 17	1	1
R18A	White / pink ware	Fabric 18	2	60
R29	Fine sand and calcareous	-	15	75
R31	Lumpy white ware	-	6	112
<b>Total</b>			<b>183</b>	<b>4060</b>
<i>Late Saxon and medieval</i>				
B01	St Neots-type ware	SNC1	6	53
B05	Olney Hyde ware	MC3	1	3
B07	Shelly ware	MC1	2	57
C03	Sandy ware	MS3	1	2
C09	Brill/Boarstall ware	MS9	1	10
C10	Potterspury ware	MS6	7	59
E01	Late medieval reduced ware	TLMS3	1	9
E03	Late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware	TLMS9	1	13
<b>Total</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>206</b>
<i>Post-medieval and modern</i>				
P01	Lead-glazed earthenwares	PM8	6	43
P03	Black-glazed ware	PM1	3	40
P06	Trailed slipware	PM5	1	56
P19	Mottled brown-glazed ware	PM41	2	13
P30	Buff-bodied slipware	PM2	1	11
P39	Mocha ware	-	1	2
P45	Transfer-printed ware	PM25	5	23
P46	Agate ware	-	2	2
<b>Total</b>			<b>21</b>	<b>190</b>

**APPENDIX 2 Ageing and metrical data***i) Ageing data (NISP)*

Date	Taxa	P4	M1	M2	M3	Estimated Age
50BC-AD50	Cattle	(d)				1-3 months
50BC-AD50	Cattle	(d)				1-3 months
50BC-AD50	Cattle		l	j		3-6 years
50BC-AD50	Sheep	(g)				6-12 months
AD50-200	Sheep	(g)				6-12 months

*ii) Metrical data*

Date	Taxa	Element	Measurement				
			Bp	B@f	SD/LA	Bd	<b>Bfd</b>
50BC-AD50	Sheep/goat	Metatarsal	17.9	18.5	10		
50BC-AD50	Sheep/goat	Radius			15.3		
AD50-200	Cattle	Radius				54.1	47.1
AD50-200	Sheep/goat	Femur			11.8		
AD50-200	Sheep/goat	Pelvis			21.2		