Main Street, Great Casterton
Rutland

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Class Q Ltd. to undertake archaeological mitigation works on a parcel of land measuring approximately covering 600 m² located on Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland (NGR 499951 309211). The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Rutland County Council (2020/0706/FUL). Previous archaeological work carried out on the site included a desk-based assessment and a trial trench evaluation.

The majority of the archaeological remains was Romano-British in date and comprised ditches and pits. The period was divided into two phases of activity, through pottery dating and stratigraphic relationships. The first phase of activity comprised two parallel ditches, probably boundary ditches, with a small drainage offshoot from the northern ditch. A large pit was also present in this phase, along with a smaller fire pit. Finds from these features date the phase to the early Roman period, up to the 2nd century AD. The second phase of activity comprised a further two ditches, on a different alignment, a rubbish pit and two deposits of burnt material, all cutting into or across the earlier features. Finds from these features provide a late Romano-British date, up to the 4th century AD.

Other remains include two ditches dating to the post-medieval/modern period.

The finds assemblage is modest but provides good dating for most features. The pottery and animal bone assemblages provide evidence of domestic activity, whilst the environmental remains provide evidence of local industry, particularly crop processing. Interesting artefacts recovered from the Roman features include two coins, a copper toilet implement and a glass bead.

The finds and archaeological remains provide a picture of a site on the periphery of activity, with little occurring on the Site itself. The exception to this is the fire pit and large pit in the first phase, which have tentatively been associated with the local pottery making industry, particularly as a Roman kiln was uncovered during excavations on a site to the immediate east (Hunt 2011). It is possible that the large pit was initially used for clay extraction, before later being used for refuse disposal. This interpretation is limited as there is little evidence to support this supposition beyond the pit's location, size, and shallow profile. The fire pit has an even more tenuous link, a similar pit, with a lining of stone was recorded at the kiln site, though there was no conclusion to its function or date. The pit recorded on this site, however, seems to have been used for the disposal of by-products from the local agricultural and/or crafting industries.

Overall, the remains are typical for the period and region. The small size of the Site, the low number of features, and the fact it seems to be on the periphery of any Romano-British activity means it has little archaeological significance. The findings, however, do contribute to the picture of the Romano-British town at Great Casterton and provides an insight to the lifestyle of the inhabitants. Further analysis on the environmental remains in particular could provide information on the nature of the settlement activity, agricultural practices, and local environment, as well as fuel exploitation practices.

The report contains recommendations for further analysis and dissemination.

Rutland Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive under accession code OAKRM: 2021.7. Deposition of any archive will only be carried out with full written agreement from the landowner.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Class Q Ltd., for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works, in particular Tom Helliwell. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Senior Planning Archaeologist, who monitored the project for Leicestershire County Council, and to Hinge Plant for their cooperation and help on site. Fieldwork was directed by Gwen Naylor and the project was managed by John Winfer. This report was written by Gwen Naylor and Clare Jackson-Slater. Graphics were by Nancy Dixon. The finds assessment was by Lorraine Mepham, with the animal bone assessed by Lorrain Higbee. The environmental samples were processed by Jenny Giddins. The flots were sorted by and assessed by Megan Scantlebury (charred plant remains) and Ed Treasure (charcoal). The environmental assessment report was written by Megan Scantlebury, with contributions from Samantha Rogerson, and was edited by Inés López-Dóriga.

Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Class Q Ltd. to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and sample excavation on a parcel of land measuring approximately 600 m² located off Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland, PE9 4AU (the 'Site'). The work was centred on NGR 499951 309211 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.1 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Rutland County Council (2020/0706/FUL), for the construction of four residential two-storey dwellings, an access road, a public footpath and children's play area. Chloe Cronogue-Freeman, Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) at Leicestershire County Council recommended that prior to determination the applicant should carry out:

A field evaluation, by appropriate techniques including trial trenching, as identified necessary in the desk-based assessment [Witham Archaeology Report no.370], to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. Further design, civil engineering or archaeological work may then be necessary to achieve this.

1.1.2 The excavation was preceded by archaeological works consisting of a desk-based assessment (Witham Archaeology 2020) and an archaeological evaluation (**Fig. 2**) which comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of four trial trenches (each measuring 20 m by 1.5 m), equating to a 5.5% sample of the proposed development area (Wessex Archaeology 2021a).

1.1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). The SPA approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavation was undertaken 4–17 November 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the excavation, and the preceding evaluation, and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The Site is located in the northern part of the village of Great Casterton, which lies approximately 3.5 km north-west of Stamford. The Site is bounded to the north by Great Casterton Osteopathy Clinic, to the east by Pickworth Road, to the south by Main Street and to the west by domestic dwellings on Ermine Rise. The Site was formerly a beer garden and bowling green.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels lie at approximately 45 m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Limestone of the Lower Lincolnshire Member, with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey 2021).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (Witham Archaeology 2020), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous works related to the development

Walkover survey (2020)

2.2.1 Witham Archaeology undertook a walkover survey of the Site in May 2020. The survey identified evidence of significant landscaping at the east of the Site as well as evidence of a demolished building.

Archaeological evaluation (2021)

2.2.2 Archaeological remains were encountered in two of the four trenches. Romano-British field boundary ditches were exposed in the two western trenches (**Fig. 2**). The eastern two trenches were sited within an area previously remodelled for a bowling green and were archaeologically sterile.

2.2.3 Pottery recovered from the ditches, subsoil and topsoil dated to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. A small quantity of animal bone was also found.

2.2.4 Remains of cereal crops, namely spelt, barley and oats, were present in the environmental samples taken from the features on the Site.

2.2.5 The archaeological remains probably relate to the former cultivation of the Site, which appears to have lain within the agricultural hinterland of the Romano-British precursor to Great Casterton.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (AD 43 and earlier)

2.3.1 Three heritage assets of prehistoric date were identified by the LHER. North-east of the proposed area of development, three undated crouch burials were identified during an excavation. The burials are thought to date from the Iron Age or early Roman-British period.

2.3.2 Prehistoric (possibly Iron Age) cropmarks (MLE5471) identified from aerial photographs lie east of the Site. The cropmarks include a single enclosure, a ditch, pits and possible ring ditch

2.3.3 A possible Bronze Age ring ditch (MLE5798) was identified in aerial photographs to the south-west of the Site, south of Inthorpe.

Romano-British (AD 43–410)

2.3.4 Twenty-three Romano-British heritage assets recorded by the LHER fall within a 1 km radius of the Site, all located in and around Great Casterton. There are several Romano-British assets close to the Site, which is located to the north of the intersection of two Roman roads. The north to south aligned Tixover Road (MLE5425), passing to the east of the Site, which connected Great Casterton to at least Tixover to the south, and the north-west to south-east aligned Ermine Street (MLE5748), which connected London to Lincoln and passes the Site to the south.

2.3.5 The village of Great Casterton lies on the site of a Roman town that was located on a major Roman road (now known as Ermine Street) connecting London to Lincoln and York. The settlement lay within a loop of the River Gwash, north of the road crossing. The proposed area of development is located in the northern part of the village, near the intersection of Main Street and Pickworth Road, just outside the Roman town enclosure ditch and close to a Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the north-east.

2.3.6 A Roman fort is visible as cropmarks in the field west of the Ryhall Road. The fort was established in the AD 40s, contracted in the AD 70s and was disused by the AD 80s. South-west of the fort a Roman town was developed, measuring 7.3 ha, and surrounded by a defensive earthwork dating from the late 2nd to early 3rd century and reorganised with the construction of stone bastions in the 4th century. North of the ramparts a Roman cemetery and pottery kilns have been identified.

2.3.7 Excavations within the Roman town have identified evidence of a 1st-century bathhouse and other successive timber-framed structures. A primitive iron smelting hearth was also identified.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066)

2.3.8 There are three heritage assets of Saxon date within 1 km of the Site. The nearest is an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (MLE5305) located to the north of the Roman Town. During an emergency excavation undertaken during road widening works at Rhyhall Road in 1966 (ELE1676), 35 cremations and 15 inhumations were recorded, and several Anglo-Saxon finds recovered.

2.3.9 Great Casterton is mentioned in the *Domesday* Book of 1086, which suggests that there was a settlement present at least in the late Saxon period.

Medieval (AD 1066–1540)

2.3.10 Ten heritage assets of medieval date are recorded by the LHER within the search area. The Site is located within the medieval core of Great Casterton.

2.3.11 Great Casterton was held by Earl Morarc before the 1066 conquest and in 1086 was held by Hugh, son of Baldric from the king (Open Domesday website). The holding included 24 villagers, a 16 acres meadow and a mill. Although the church of St Peter and St Paul was mostly built in the 13th century, there are elements of the fabric that indicate the structure was extant in the Norman period.

Post-medieval (AD 1540–1900)

2.3.12 Four heritage assets of post-medieval date were identified by the LHER search within 1 km of the Site. A post-medieval malting kiln is recorded (MLE5291) to the north of St Peter and Paul church. To the south of the Site a turnpike road was identified (MLE20651), it was established in 1738–9. Structural remains of 17th to 18th-century cottages (MLE19782)

were identified at 3 Main Street during trial trenching. North-west of the assessment area at Tickencote, a possible post-medieval mill pond (MLE20689) was identified.

2.3.13 The 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the Site occupied by houses fronting Pickworth Road and structures to the rear on the eastern part of the development area. Three small allotments occupy the rest of the Site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the Site and the regional research framework (Knight *et al.* 2012, 70), the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b) were to:

- Determine what processes drove the growth of secondary urban centres;
- Determine if we can chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The fieldwork comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of remains within a single area measuring approximately 600 m² (**Fig. 1**). The mitigation area focused on the west of the proposed development area, where archaeological evaluation had revealed Romano-British ditches. The evaluation demonstrated that the eastern side of the Site had suffered disturbance and consequently there was a low likelihood for archaeological remains to survive there.

4.1.3 The mitigation area had to be adjusted slightly due to the presence of a greenhouse and large shed located in its north-east corner, preventing excavation taking place in that location.

4.1.4 Further obstructions prevented excavation within its south-east corner.

4.1.5 The SPA for the LPA was informed of these changes to the mitigation area.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Fig. 1**) – apart from the adjustments noted immediately above. The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (Campbell et al. 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The SPA monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the SPA.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 With the exception of its north-east section, archaeological remains were present and well distributed across the entirety of the Site.

5.1.2 The archaeological remains encountered were Romano-British in date and chiefly comprised ditches, gullies, and pits.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.3 All hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.1.4 Three main phases have been identified through excavation and analysis of the stratigraphic relationships, these have been summarised below (**Fig. 2**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The natural substrate typically consisted of a mid-orange brown silty clay with regular small to medium sized limestone inclusions. There was a slight variation in the underlying geology in the eastern part of the Site where it became more yellow brown in colour and the limestone bedrock was more apparent, with features cut into the bedrock.

5.2.2 A mid-yellow brown subsoil was visible to depths of 0.70 m.

5.2.3 A dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was present across Site at depths up to 0.35 m.

5.2.4 The depths of the overlying soil can be attributed to the build-up and use of the land over time, particularly through the modern uses as a beer garden and any activity related to the construction and destruction of the bowling green to the east.

5.3 Phase 1: Early to mid-Romano-British

5.3.1 The stratigraphically earliest arrangement of features on the Site consists of parallel ditches 1061 and 1062, drainage gully 1021, fire pit 1004 and large refuse pit 1043. The ditches were possibly the boundaries of an early field system/enclosure which went out of use during the 2nd century. The primary function of the large pit 1043 is unclear, though its size suggests clay extraction. The presence of fire pit 1004 might suggest there was some form of settlement occupation on the Site during this period. Artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the fills of these features suggest they became convenient receptacles of the nearby settlement's refuse once they had gone out of use.

5.3.2 Ditch 1061 ran for 18 m WNW/ESE along the southern border of the mitigation area. It was fairly shallow with the maximum recorded depth at 0.22 m, and a maximum recorded width of 1.42 m. The fill was generally a mid-orange brown with certain points being mottled with

a mid-grey brown clay, likely from gradual filling at different points in time **(Pl. 4, 5 and 8)**. Pottery recovered from the fill dated from the 2nd century onwards; animal bone, an iron nail, slag and a worked bone toggle were also recovered from the ditch fill, along with a small number of charred cereal grains and charcoal.

5.3.3 Ditch 1062 ran 8.9 m from the eastern bulk of the mitigation area and terminated in the west. The greatest recorded depth was 0.42 m in the east **(Pl. 2; Fig. 3 section B)**, reducing to 0.10 m at the terminus **(Pl. 3; Fig. 3 section C)**. It was parallel to ditch 1061, with a 5 m gap between them. The fills the two ditches were similar, suggesting that they were filled in around the same time. Pottery recovered from the ditch dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd century; animal bone, an iron nail, and slag were also recovered from the ditch fill. An environmental sample from the ditch contained a small number of charred cereal grains.

5.3.4 In the east gully 1021 was dug into the top of ditch 1062 **(Pl. 3; Fig. 3 section C)**, probably for drainage purposes. As it terminated 2.4 m north-west of the ditch **(Pl. 4)**, was only 0.10 m deep and 0.43 m wide it was unlikely to have been a boundary ditch. Pottery dating to the 2nd century was recovered from the fill, along with animal bone and a spindle whorl.

5.3.5 Fire pit 1004 lay near the eastern edge of the Site and measured 1.1 m by 0.82 m, with a depth of 0.36 m. It had a stone lining at the base with charcoal-rich deposit 1006 above, presumed to be the product left from the fire. The burnt deposit contained remnants of charred and calcined bone, indicating domestic use. The pit was capped with redeposited natural 1007 from the adjacent pit 1008 that appeared to have been purposefully dug to cap the fire pit **(Pl. 1; Fig. 3 section A)**. Pottery recovered from fills 1006 and 1007 dated to the 2nd century and charred cereals and local wild plants were recovered from fill 1006, along with predominantly non-oak charcoal.

5.3.6 Due to the limit of excavation, refuse pit 1043=1058 was not fully uncovered. The diameter at the widest visible point was 7.54 m and the maximum depth recorded was 0.5 m. Pit 1043 contained three fills: a primary fill 1057 evident only on the eastern side, dumping deposit 1044 and a capping deposit of redeposited natural 1045=1054 **(Pl. 6; Fig. 3 section G)**. The profile of the fills suggest that the pit was left open after it was initially constructed, allowing for the eastern edge of the pit to erode and silt up. The pit was then used for refuse disposal, until it was capped off to fully backfill and level the ground. Bar a copper alloy toilet implement within capping deposit 1045, all finds from the feature came from dumping deposit 1044. Pottery provides an early to mid-2nd-century date for the refuse disposal, however the recovery of two late 1st-century AD coins suggests that an early 2nd-century date is more likely. In addition, animal bone, an iron nail and a piece of crumpled lead were recovered from the fill. An environmental sample collected from fill 1044 contained moderate amounts of charred cereals and wood charcoal.

5.4 Phase 2: Late Romano-British

5.4.1 Phase 2 saw the addition of new features to the Site, with a change in orientation of ditches, shifting from east/ west, to a north-west to south-east orientation. A refuse pit and two occurrences of *in situ* burning were also present, suggesting a continuation of occupation near the Site during this phase. Dating from ditch 1059 and pit 1034 showed the features were filled in the late Romano-British period.

5.4.2 Ditch 1059 was aligned north-west to south-east and cut ditch 1061 in the south-east (**Pl. 4; Fig. 3 section F**) and cut pit 1043 in the north-west (**Fig. 3 section H**)**.** Its maximum depth recorded was 0.27 m, making it a fairly shallow feature (**Pl. 7; Fig. 3 section E**). The ditch was recorded during the evaluation (104). Pottery dating to the late Roman period was recovered from the fill, along with animal bone, fired clay and shell.

5.4.3 Gully 1060 was cut into and followed the eastern edge of pit 1043, indicating it was purposefully dug to respect the feature. It then curved and extended on a north-west/south-east alignment until it met ditch 1059. The gully was possibly used for drainage, as the cut deepened from 0.25 m at the terminus to 0.5 m at the north. The gully was recorded during the evaluation (107 and 108). Unlike other features on the Site, artefacts were scarce from the gully, with only a single sherd of shell-tempered Romano-British pottery recovered during the evaluation, from context 106 (Wessex Archaeology 2021a).

5.4.4 Two possible occurrences of *in situ* burning, 1014 and 1015, were located in the north-west; one (1014) located directly on top of pit 1043 and the other (1015) above gully 1060. Due to their close proximity, it is likely that they occurred around the same time. Both consisted of a charcoal-rich deposit sat upon heat affected clay; the charcoal comprised mainly oak. Sherds of Romano-British pottery were also recovered from the deposits; however, it is unclear whether they were residual and as the fill of gully 1060 is likely to be late Roman in date, it is possible that they are not of Romano-British date but later.

5.4.5 A large pit, 1034, measuring 2.39 by 1.77 by 0.94 m deep was located along the southern edge of the Site, cutting into the terminal of ditch 1061 (**Fig. 3 section D**). It contained numerous fills of dumped material and finds suggesting that the pit was used to discard material (**Pl. 5**). Artefacts include animal bone, iron nails, slag and Romano-British pottery, mainly dating to the 2nd to 3rd-centuries, but also including a 4th-century jar from the lower fill 1036. Charred cereal grains and local wild plants were also recovered from the primary fill.

5.5 Phase 3: Post-medieval/modern

5.5.1 Gully 1031 was only visible for 2.7 m from the southern bulk running north-west. It cut pit 1034 and ditch 1061 **(Pl. 5)** before terminating within pit 1034. Romano-British and post-medieval material, the latter including a possible gaslight fitting, was recovered from gully 1031. The feature had been deliberately capped off with a thin layer (0.09 m) of degraded and possibly heat-affected red sandstone.

5.5.2 A NNW/SSE aligned ditch, measuring only 0.07 m deep, and containing modern material was recorded during the evaluation. No further evidence of the ditch was uncovered or recorded during the excavation.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The mitigation has produced a finds assemblage of moderate size, which consists largely of pottery and animal bone; other material types are represented in minimal quantities. This augments a smaller assemblage recovered from the evaluation, which has already been reported on (Wessex Archaeology 2021a). The assemblage is almost entirely of Romano-British date, with a few later (post-medieval/modern) items. Finds derived almost exclusively from various feature fills (pits and ditches) with a few finds from the subsoil.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context. Totals by material type, including the evaluation data, are presented in Table 1, while Table 2 gives the breakdown of the mitigation assemblage by context.

Table 1 Finds by material type

MATERIAL TYPE	EVALUATION		EXCAVATION	
	No. frags	Weight (g)	No. frags	Weight (g)
Pottery	37	841	484	10,288
Ceramic Building Material	-	-	7	609
Fired Clay	1	17	1	1
Clay Tobacco Pipe	4	7	2	4
Stone	-	-	1	130
Glass	2	37	1	-
Slag	-	-	3	240
Metal				
Copper Alloy	-	-	4	-
Lead	1	-	1	-
Iron	1	-	9	-
Other Metal	1	-	-	-
Worked Bone	-	-	2	-
Animal Bone	9	73	181	2549
Marine Shell	1	25	2	20

Table 2 Finds totals by material type

Context	Description	Animal bone	Metal (no.)	Pottery	Other finds
1002	Subsoil			3/19	1 CTP
1006				4/44	1 glass
1007	Pit 1004	2/1		6/163	
1011	Gully terminal 1010	4/9		16/142	1 worked bone
1014	Burnt layer	11/5		2/6	
1015	Burnt layer			2/6	
1022	Gully 1021	2/3		3/5	
1032	Gully 1031	8/44	1 Cu	16/146	
1036		36/1454	6 Fe	41/795	97 g slag, 1 stone
1038	Pit 1034	1/7		7/147	1 shell
1044		71/399	2 Cu; 1 Fe; 1 Pb	286/7349	1 shell
1045	Pit 1043		1 Cu		
1024		2/36		3/63	
1040				1/7	
1049	Ditch 1059	8/190			
1026		3/68		11/180	7 CBM, 1 worked bone
1030		6/35		22/137	40 g slag
1051	Ditch 1061	9/10	1 Fe	17/171	
1013		9/132	1 Fe	2/15	103 g slag
1018	Ditch 1062	7/135		5/52	1 CTP
Totals		**181/2549**	**16**	**447/9447**	

CBM = ceramic building material; CTP – clay tobacco pipe; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage from the excavation amounts to 447 sherds (weighing 9447 g), of which seven sherds are post-medieval/modern and the remainder (440 sherds) Romano-British. Condition is almost universally good; sherds have suffered minimal surface and edge abrasion, but sherd size is relatively large (mean sherd weight overall is 21.1 g, although this is probably skewed by the presence of several large sherds from thick-walled vessels in one context. A number of conjoins were noted (none cross-context) and these are mostly on fresh breaks, although there are a few on old breaks.

6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context, using a combination of known ware types (e.g., Nene Valley colour coated ware) with broader 'catch-all' types based on dominant inclusion type (e.g., grog-tempered ware). Correlation has been made with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes where possible (Tomber and Dore 1998). Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been used here as the number of measurable rims are relatively low. Instead, the Estimated Number of Vessels (ENV) has been used, counting conjoining sherds, or those almost certainly from the same vessel, as 1. The number of conjoins are reflected in the total ENV of 380 vessels.

6.2.3 Identifiable vessel forms have been noted, and any other diagnostic features. The level of recording accords with the 'basic record' advocated by national standards (Barclay *et al* 2016), aimed at producing a rapid characterisation of the assemblage. Totals by ware type are given in Table 3 (including the evaluation assemblage), while Table 4 lists the excavation assemblage by context.

Table 3 Pottery totals by ware type

Ware type	Fabric code	EVALUATION			EXCAVATION		
		No. sherds	Wt. (g)	ENV	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	ENV
ROMANO-BRITISH							
Samian					23	272	17
?C Gaulish colour-coated ware	CNG CC	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dressel 20 amphora	BAT AM				1	170	1
Nene valley mortaria	LNV WH / LNV PA	2	30	2	1	31	1
Nene Valley colour-coated ware	LNV CC	5	274	4	19	245	16
Nene Valley greyware		17	268	5	54	427	43
Great Casterton Ware	GRC CC				1	1	1
London-type ware					2	4	2
Sandy/calcareous ware					20	294	6
Greywares, type unspec		1	3	1	79	965	70
Grog-tempered wares					33	469	28
Oolitic tempered ware					1	21	1
Oxidised wares, type unspec					4	18	4
Shell-tempered wares		6	204	6	177	6186	166
White-slipped oxidised sandy ware					1	18	1
Whiteware, type unspec		1	2	1	23	242	15
POST-MEDIEVAL/MODERN							
Redware		1	20	1	5	80	5

Ware type	Fabric code	EVALUATION			EXCAVATION		
		No. sherds	Wt. (g)	ENV	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	ENV
Refined whiteware		3	39	3	2	3	2
Total		**37**	**841**	**24**	**447**	**9447**	**380**

Table 4 Pottery by context (mitigation)

Context	Date	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	ENV	Comment
1002	MOD	Refined whiteware	2	3	2	cup/small bowl rim (transfer-printed) and plain body
1002	MOD	Redware	1	16	1	body sherd, late white-slipped redware (bowl)
1006	RB	Shell-tempered	4	44	4	body sherds
1007	RB	Samian	3	139	1	form 18/31, ?CG Lezouz; stamp CERIALIS.F (Cerialis ii, Lezoux, AD135-65)
1007	RB	Greyware	2	14	1	body sherds, conjoin on fresh break
1007	RB	Shell-tempered	1	10	1	body sherd
1011	RB	Grog-tempered ware	1	12	1	body sherd, horizontal grooves (shoulder & girth)
1011	RB	Greyware	4	53	2	body sherds; conjoins on fresh breaks
1011	RB	Nene Valley whiteware	6	44	1	everted rim jar, shoulder cordon
1011	RB	Samian	5	33	1	form 37 dec bowl
1013	RB	Great Casterton Ware	1	1	1	body sherd; barbotine dec
1013	RB	Shell-tempered	1	14	1	rim; everted rim jar
1014	RB	Greyware	2	6	2	body sherds
1015	RB	Shell-tempered	1	4	1	body sherd
1015	RB	Greyware	1	2	1	body sherd
1018	RB	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	5	52	2	1 narrow base, prob beaker (4 conjoining, on fresh and old breaks); body sherd with painted curvilinear dec below colour coated zone
1022	RB	London-type ware	2	4	2	body sherds, one with compass-incised dec
1022	RB	Samian	1	1	1	small body sherd
1024	RB	Shell-tempered	2	32	2	body sherds
1024	RB	Greyware	1	31	1	convex bowl, externally beaded rim
1026	RB	Greyware	3	8	2	body sherd; conjoin on fresh break
1026	RB	Shell-tempered	3	65	3	body sherds; 2 with frequent, well sorted, finely crushed shell
1026	RB	Nene Valley greyware	1	5	1	body sherd
1026	PMED	Redware	1	36	1	unglazed flowerpot, body sherd
1026	RB	Whiteware	3	66	1	conjoining body sherds (fresh breaks)
1030	RB	Greyware	2	9	2	body & base sherds
1030	RB	Whiteware	2	11	1	body sherds; conjoin on fresh break

Context	Date	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	ENV	Comment
1030	RB	Nene Valley greyware	10	54	8	body sherds; 2 from cordoned jar
1030	RB	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	2	19	2	flanged rim; body sherd
1030	RB	Shell-tempered	6	44	6	body & base sherds
1032	RB	Greyware	3	14	3	1 small rim sherd (jar/beaker); 2 body sherds
1032	RB	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	1	3	1	body sherd, rouletted dec
1032	RB	Nene Valley greyware	7	28	7	body sherds
1032	RB	Shell-tempered	2	12	2	body sherds, fine sparse shell
1032	RB	Whiteware	1	67	1	base (slight footring); large jar?
1032	PMED	Redware	2	22	2	unglazed flowerpot rims
1036	RB	Greyware	6	136	6	1 narrow base from small globular vessel; 2 dish rims (1 plain rim, convex dish; 1 grooved rim, flared dish)
1036	RB	Nene Valley greyware	18	214	10	3 bases (1 rouletted jar; 1 bowl/dish); 1 rim (flared dish, rim slightly externally expanded); 9 misc body sherds; all conjoins on fresh breaks
1036	RB	Whiteware	1	6	1	body sherd, burnished lattice dec
1036	RB	Shell-tempered	8	185	7	1 rim (jar); 2 bases; 5 body sherds
1036	RB	Dressel 20 amphora	1	170	1	body sherd
1036	RB	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	6	69	6	1 rim (wide-mouth jar); 1 base; 4 body sherds
1036	RB	Samian	1	15	1	form 18/31 rim
1038	RB	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	3	101	3	1 plain-rimmed convex dish (noticeably hard-fired); 2 body sherds
1038	RB	Nene Valley greyware	3	30	3	body sherds
1038	RB	Samian	1	16	1	body sherd
1040	RB	Greyware	1	7	1	body sherd
1044	RB	Shell-tempered	15	237	13	finer, better sorted shell; 4 small-medium jar rims, shoulder rilling; 1 thick-walled convex dish; 4 rilled body sherds
1044	RB	Shell-tempered	128	5398	120	several rim sherds from one or more large storage jar; mostly coarse sherds from medium-large jars, many internal surfaces abraded
1044	RB	Nene Valley whiteware	1	31	1	mortarium body sherd
1044	RB	White-slipped oxidised ware	1	18	1	body sherd
1044	RB	Oxidised ware	4	18	4	1 flanged dish/bowl rim
1044	RB	Whiteware	7	31	7	misc body sherds, cream/pink

Context	Date	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	ENV	Comment
1044	RB	Sandy/calcareous ware	20	294	6	15 sherds almost certainly from 1 vessel (several conjoining on fresh and old breaks): globular jar with short everted rim and girth grooves; 3 sherds oxidised (incl jar rim)
1044	RB	Grog-tempered ware	32	457	27	1 cordoned jar with burnished lattice on shoulder; 4 other jar rims; convex dish; misc body & base sherds
1044	RB	Greyware	54	685	49	2 rusticated body sherds; 1 beaker rim; 2 necked jars; 2 cordoned jars
1044	RB	Nene Valley greyware	10	85	10	1 jar rim (just the edge); misc body & base sherds
1044	RB	Oolitic tempered ware	1	21	1	base sherd
1044	RB	Samian	11	67	11	2 dec (1 quite worn); 1 platter base (prob 18/31), scratched graffito on underside of base; 2 rims (1x 18 or 18/31); 2 dec body sherds
1044	RB	C Gaulish colour coated ware	1	1	1	orange-red colour coat (mostly worn off); roughcast dec (clay pellets)
1044	PMED	Redware	1	6	1	base sherd, int glaze
1051	RB	Nene Valley greyware	5	11	4	body sherds
1051	RB	Whiteware	2	4	2	body sherds
1051	RB	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	2	1	2	Small body sherds
1051	RB	Samian	1	1	1	Flake
1051	RB	Shell-tempered	6	141	6	1 beaded jar rim
1051	RB	Whiteware	1	13	1	body sherd

Romano-British

6.2.4 Romano-British pottery was recovered from 17 contexts, although the assemblage is dominated by one large group (285 sherds) from pit 1043 (deliberate backfill 1044). The assemblage includes both finewares and coarsewares which represent local products as well as imported finewares and other, unsourced coarsewares.

Imported finewares

6.2.5 Twenty-three sherds of samian represent a maximum of 27 vessels. The most diagnostic of these is a form 18/31 platter from which the full profile survives, from pit 1004. This vessel bears the stamped mark of Cerealis ii, who worked at Lezoux *c* AD 135–165, although his most common forms (which include 18/31) suggest activity no later than AD 160 (Hartley and Dickinson 2008, 350-2, stamp 6–b). One other 18/31 rim was found in pit 1034 while one base, two basal angle sherd and a second rim, from pit 1043, could also be from platters of this form. The base has part of a scratched graffito on the underside, possibly lettering. A rim from 1011 is from a form 37 decorated bowl and there are two other decorated body sherds from pit 1043 from unknown forms.

6.2.6 One other possible imported fineware was identified in the form of a small sherd from pit 1043 in a fine white-firing fabric, originally colour-coated but with the surface reddish-brown

slip almost entirely worn away, and with roughcast decoration (clay pellets). This has been tentatively identified as Central Gaulish colour coated ware, a 1st–2nd-century AD ware with a *floruit* in the Flavian-Trajanic period (*c* AD 70–120).

Amphora

6.2.7 There is one sherd from a Spanish Dressel 20 amphora in the earlier, coarser fabric variant (BAT AM 1; *c* AD 50–300), from pit 1034.

Nene Valley finewares

6.2.8 Given the position of the Site, the predominance of Lower Nene Valley products in the assemblage is not unexpected. A single sherd of Great Casterton ware, although produced in the same area, is considered separately as a chronologically distinct type – the six excavated kilns appear to have been operating in the late 2nd/early 3rd century AD (Corder 1961, 50–3; internet source: Leicestershire and Rutland HER). The sherd seen here, from ditch 1062 (upper fill 1013), is from a closed vessel form (probably a beaker) with applied barbotine decoration.

6.2.9 Production of Lower Nene Valley colour coated wares of the more commonly occurring and widespread type (LNV CC) is considered to have been started by the migration of potters from British centres such as Colchester and from the Continent in the mid-2nd century AD, and the establishment of kilns at Great Casterton may have been part of the same migration (Perrin 1999, 87). The 19 sherds seen here include the profile from a shallow, plain-rimmed dish and a wide-mouthed jar (both from pit 1034). The dish is a form produced from the late 2nd century AD onwards, although most examples are 4th-century (*ibid*., cat nos 231–5). The wide-mouthed jar is more certainly of 4th-century date, when they constituted the most common jar type in use (*ibid*., cat no 280). These are the only two clearly diagnostic vessel forms present, although a narrow base from ditch 1062 (lower fill 1018) is probably from a beaker of some form.

Coarsewares

6.2.10 The coarseware component includes several ware types. Greywares make up the largest proportion, and of the total of 133 sherds, 54 can be identified as Nene Valley products, with their distinctive dark grey surfaces on pale grey fabrics. Diagnostic forms include a cordoned jar from ditch 1061 and a flared dish from pit 1034 with a slight beaded rim. The cordoned jar is an early form whose production may have been confined to the 2nd century AD although examples have been found in early 3rd-century contexts (Perrin 1999, cat no 26). Dishes featured in the Lower Nene Valley repertoire from the beginning of production; the initial focus on decorated vessels appears to have been replaced by plain forms in the later 2nd century AD and dishes with beaded or grooved rims such as this example were produced from then until the early 3rd century AD (*ibid*, cat nos 83–7).

6.2.11 Two small body sherds from 1022 have been identified as London-type ware on the basis of compass-drawn decoration. There is strong evidence for production of London-type ware (previously termed ‘London ware’, with the misleading connotation of a more restricted production area) in the Lower Nene Valley, mainly in the second quarter of the 2nd century AD but with possible earlier and later examples (Perrin 1999, 106–8).

6.2.12 Other greywares occurred in similar forms: dishes with beaded or grooved rims (1024, pit 1034), a plain-rimmed dish (pit 1034), a beaker with short everted rim (pit 1043), two necked jars and two cordoned jars (all from pit 1043). A narrow base from a small globular vessel from pit 1034 almost certainly represents another beaker.

6.2.13 The whitewares and oxidised wares each probably include the products of more than one source, and these may include the Lower Nene Valley industry. The whitewares include one Nene Valley mortarium. Other diagnostic forms are confined to an everted rim jar from gully terminal 1010 whose rim form suggests a 4th-century date (eg Perrin 1999, cat no 327). There are no diagnostic forms amongst the oxidised wares, which also include one white-slipped sherd.

6.2.14 Shell-tempered wares make up approximately 40% of the total Romano-British assemblage by sherd count, but this is skewed by the large group of these wares (143 sherds) from pit 1043, which may comprise large parts of a small number of vessels – rim sherds suggest a minimum of six vessels, all jars. The majority of the sherds (and two of the rims) are in coarsely-tempered fabrics and appear to belong to medium to large storage jars with heavy everted rims and shoulder cordons (eg Perrin 1999, cat no 427). A smaller proportion are in smaller, more finely-tempered and better finished vessels; the four rims in this group are from small to medium jars with rilled shoulders (*ibid*., cat nos 433–5). The parallels from Water Newton suggest a mid/late 2nd–3rd-century date for the shell-tempered group from pit 1043, although the complete absence of colour coated wares from this group is also suggestive (see below). There is one other rilled jar from pit 1034, and an everted rim jar of uncertain form from ditch 1062.

6.2.15 Shell-tempered wares represent a continuation of an indigenous ceramic tradition originating in the Iron Age, and they continued to be produced and used throughout the Roman period. The larger vessels tend to be standardised and vary little with time; on the Site there may be a chronological range from 2nd to 4th century AD, but dating is largely dependent on associated wares and vessel forms rather than on the shell-tempered forms themselves. There is some evidence for production of shell-tempered wares at Water Orton in the later 1st century AD (Perrin 1999, 118). Shelly clays were also exploited at Harrold in Bedfordshire from the 1st century onwards (Brown 1994), and this source is often associated with the distinctive late Romano-British (4th-century) ware type which contains frequent, finely crushed, well-sorted shell fragments. Three sherds here, from ditch 1061, match this type, but most of the rest are more coarsely and/or more sparsely tempered.

6.2.16 Other coarsewares occurred far more sporadically. A small group of grog-tempered wares (33 sherds, all but one from pit 1043) include a cordoned jar with burnished lattice on the shoulder and a plain-rimmed convex dish. Pit 1043 also produced the only examples of calcareous wares: one sherd in an oolitic-tempered fabric and 20 sherds in a sandy fabric with fine calcareous flecks (possibly also oolitic in origin). Fifteen of these sherds almost certainly belong to a single everted rim jar with girth grooves. These wares are of uncertain sources.

6.2.17 In chronological terms, the Romano-British assemblage has a potential date range of 2nd to 4th century AD. There is nothing definitely pre-dating the 2nd century AD, and while there is a possible focus on the later 2nd to 3rd century there are also forms which can be fairly confidently dated as 4th century. However, quantities of pottery per feature are low, with the exception of pit 1043. The pottery from this feature forms an interesting contrast to the rest of the assemblage. There is a much higher proportion of shelly wares, even allowing for the fact that these are likely to represent a small number of vessels, and Nene Valley colour coated wares are completely absent, although other Nene Valley products (greywares, mortarium) are represented. It seems likely that this pit group, which also contained samian form 18/31 platters, dates earlier than the rest of the Site, perhaps at the very beginning of Lower Nene Valley pottery production in the early–mid-2nd century AD, with other features dating between the mid/late 2nd and 4th centuries.

6.2.18 The range of vessel forms is relatively restricted, and the almost complete absence of mortaria can be noted, which may have a functional explanation (although two sherds from Nene Valley mortaria were recovered from the much smaller evaluation assemblage).

Post-medieval/Modern

6.2.19 The remaining seven sherds comprise five redwares and two refined whitewares. Of the redwares, one sherd from pit 1043 is from an internally glazed vessel, probably of 18th-century date or later; this appears to be intrusive in an otherwise solidly Romano-British context group of just under 300 sherds. One sherd from subsoil is in a late white-slipped redware (19th-/early 20th-century) and belongs to a kitchenware bowl. The other three sherds are from unglazed flowerpots (19th-/20th-century). These came from gully 1031 and ditch 1061 and these are also assumed to be intrusive in these features, which are otherwise dated as Romano-British. The refined whitewares (tea-/tablewares) both came from subsoil.

6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

6.3.1 The seven fragments of CBM recovered came from a single context (fill 1026 in ditch 1061) and all belong to a single item, a Romano-British *imbrex* roof tile in a relatively coarse fabric. The fragments conjoin on fresh breaks.

6.4 Glass

6.4.1 A tiny glass bead was recovered from a sieved soil sample taken from pit 1004. The bead is globular (diameter 4 mm, thickness 2 mm) and is in an opaque pale blue glass with four marvered opaque white and red lengthwise stripes, equally spaced around the bead. The bead is assumed to be of Romano-British date, on associated pottery, but no parallel can be found for it in the published repertoire of Roman period beads. The closest parallels, in terms of technique, are with long blue biconical or square-sectioned beads with bands or chevrons in opaque white with a red line in the centre, which are known from 3rd- and 4th-century contexts (Guido 1978, 98), although Guido records none from the East Midlands.

6.4.2 No other glass was recovered from the mitigation, but two fragments of modern vessel glass came from the evaluation.

6.5 Metalwork

6.5.1 The metalwork includes two coins as well as other objects of copper alloy (2), lead (1) and iron (9).

6.5.2 The two coins are both copper alloy Roman issues, and both date to the 1st century AD. Both came from pit 1043 (deliberate backfill 1044). The more legible of the two is an *as* of Vespasian, dated AD 74–6. The other coin is more worn and cannot at this stage be attributed to type.

6.5.3 The other copper alloy objects include a Romano-British toilet implement from pit 1043 (capping layer 1045). This comprises a long pointed shank; the ‘blade’ of the implement is broken off just above the shank so the precise type (spoon, spatula, probe, etc) cannot be determined. The other object is of modern date – a perforated cone, possibly a gaslight fitting.

6.5.4 The lead object is a crumpled and flattened waste fragment cut from a sheet, recovered from pit 1043. Associated finds indicate a Romano-British date.

6.5.5 The iron objects consist entirely of nails, of which one from pit 1034 is a hobnail, and there is a second possible hobnail (badly corroded and more ambiguous) from ditch 1062.

6.6 Worked bone

6.6.1 Two objects of worked bone were recovered. One is a spindlewhorl made from the unfused head of a cattle femur (gully terminal 1010). The other is a short section (length 78 mm) of a sheep/goat tibia shaft, with a small central perforation on one side only (i.e., not through the whole bone). The ends are worn and the whole object is polished, presumably through use. Its function is unknown; associated finds (in fill 1026 of ditch 1061) indicate a Romano-British date.

6.7 Animal bone

6.7.1 The quantity and provenance of the animal bones is provided in Tables 1 and 2. This report outlines the hand-collected and sieved material recovered from the excavation area, the bone fragments from the previous trial trench evaluation have been reported elsewhere (Wessex Archaeology 2021a).

6.7.2 The animal bones are in generally good condition, although a few fragments recovered from the fill in ditch 1062, are abraded and therefore likely to be residual, having been reworked and redeposited. The bones were rapidly scanned and assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).

6.7.3 The assemblage is quantified by species in Table 5. Note that the overall total is less than presented in the above tables because it considers fragmentation, hence refitting fragments from a single bone or loose teeth that can be reassociated to a mandible, are counted once.

Table 5 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	Romano-British	Total
Cattle	20	20
Sheep/goat	28	28
Pig	5	5
Horse	1	1
Domestic fowl	1	1
Total identified	**55**	**55**
Total unidentifiable	**102**	**102**
Overall total	**157**	**157**

Romano-British

6.7.4 Animal bones were recovered from several ditches, gullies, pits, and a burnt deposit. The assemblage is dominated by bones from domestic livestock, particularly sheep/goat and cattle. Both main species of livestock are represented by a broad range of skeletal elements, although the main emphasis is on post-cranial bones from meat joints. The general character of the assemblage is therefore one of domestic refuse from meat consumption, with little or no waste from the initial stages of carcass processing.

6.7.5 The pit deposits were relatively rich in animal bones compared to the fills of ditches and gullies. The largest concentration came from pit 1043, which contained a group of disarticulated sheep/goat bones from at least two adult animals and a lamb. A few cattle and pig bones were also recovered from the pit, as well as several small, unidentifiable

burnt fragments. These probably represent the remnants of roasted meat joints. Mostly cattle bones were recovered from pit 1034, including two distal humeri, potential from the same animal, plus a few pig bones and a sheep/goat humerus. In addition, a single sheep/goat tooth was recovered from pit 1004.

6.7.6 Few bone fragments were recovered from individual linear features, and these are mostly post-cranial elements, several of which show signs of butchery. Of note are two lamb bones from gully 1031, and bone objects (ON 4 and 5, see *worked bone*) from gully 1010 and ditch 1061, made from a cattle femoral head and sheep/goat tibia shaft.

6.7.7 In addition, several small, unidentifiable fragments of charred and calcined bone came from burnt deposit 1014, likely to represent an episode of *in situ* burning, potentially the remnants of a bon(e)fire.

6.7.8 A horse tibia was recovered from ditch 1059.

6.8 Other finds

6.8.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities (see Table 1) of clay tobacco pipes (stem fragments, 18th-century or later), stone (possible roof tile fragment, probably Romano-British), iron smelting slag and oyster shell. In addition, an undiagnostic and undatable fragment of fired clay was recovered during the evaluation.

6.9 Statement of potential

6.9.1 The pottery assemblage is limited in size and came largely from a single feature. It has provided chronological information and further analysis is unlikely to be able to refine that significantly, although specialist examination of the samian could tie down the dates of these vessels a little more tightly. The ware types represented are of the expected range for the area and, unsurprisingly, indicate that a significant proportion originated from relatively local sources in the Lower Nene Valley. The stamped samian vessel, and the sherd with a graffito, are of intrinsic interest. Overall, the assemblage provides a small but useful dataset to the local ceramic dataset but its further potential, at least insofar as the current project is concerned, is relatively limited.

6.9.2 The glass bead is of intrinsic interest, particularly as no direct parallel has yet been found. This object, together with the metal toilet implement, are the only personal items found on the Site and give a very small glimpse of the lifestyle enjoyed by its inhabitants.

6.9.3 The small animal bone assemblage offers limited potential for further analysis and can add little to our understanding of the livestock husbandry associated with the rural hinterland of the Romano-British town.

6.9.4 Other finds, given the very small quantities recovered, have a far more limited potential. The worked bone objects and coins are of intrinsic interest and have provided chronological as well as some functional evidence for textile working. Quantities of CBM, metalworking slag and building stone are far too small to draw any conclusions as to on-site Romano-British activity. Other finds (clay tobacco pipe, fired clay, marine shell) are either post-medieval/modern or undated, and as such have little or no further potential.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Nine bulk sediment samples were taken from Romano-British pits and ditches and layers, eight of which were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence. Two bulk sediment samples were processed from a ditch and gully during the earlier evaluation phase (Wessex Archaeology 2021a). Charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the samples have been assessed. The samples break down into the following feature groups:

Table 6 Sample provenance summary

Feature type	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)
Evaluation Samples		
Ditch	1	40
Gully	1	36
Mitigation Samples		
Pit	3	137
Ditch	3	99
Layer	2	8
Totals	**10**	**320**

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the Site and their potential to address the project aims (charcoal, charred plant remains). Appropriate recommendations for further work are provided. This assessment follows recommendations from Historic England (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 3 and 67 litres, with an average volume of approximately 31 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions of the residues (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned and sorted using a stereomicroscope (Leica MS5) at magnifications of up to x40.

7.2.3 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g., *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), or earthworm eggs and modern insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial, and animal bone was recorded. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified: C = <5 (‘Trace’), B = 5–10 (‘Rare’), A = 10–30 (‘Occasional’), A* = 30–100 (‘Common’), A** = 100–500 (‘Abundant’), A*** = >500 (‘Very abundant’/Exceptional’).

7.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (e.g., Cappers *et al.* 2006). Preliminary classifications were undertaken through examination of the transverse section: oak, non-oak/diffuse porous and coniferous. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The results from the earlier evaluation and the mitigation are presented in Appendix 2, Table 9.

7.3.2 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were of variable volumes (Appendix 2). Potential indicators of bioturbation are present in variable quantities, and included the burrowing blind snail, modern roots, uncharred seeds, fungal sclerotia and, earthworm eggs. This indicates the possibility of contamination from later intrusive material.

7.3.3 Charred plant remains were in varying states of preservation. Wood charcoal was noted in generally moderate to large quantities, depending on the feature, and in generally moderate condition. Remains of terrestrial molluscs, fragmented animal bone, highly fragmented coal, and clinker/cinder were also present in most contexts in varying quantities. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.

Phase 1

Early/mid-Romano-British

7.3.4 The sample from rubbish pit 1043 (fill 1044) was moderately rich in charred cereals, with spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) grains and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains noted alongside oats (*Avena* sp.), wild grasses (Poaceae), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments, docks (*Rumex* sp.), vetches/wild peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), sedges (Cyperaceae), trefoils/medicks/clovers (Trifolieae), and seeds of the goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae). The sample was also moderately rich in fragments of wood charcoal, which was predominantly oak (*Quercus* sp.), with some non-oak species also present.

7.3.5 Pit 1004 was identified as a stone lined fire pit with natural heat-affected clay suggesting *in situ* burning. The sample from this feature produced spelt wheat grains and glume bases, as well as indeterminate wheat grains and glume bases, and unidentifiable cereals. Many of the grains were germinated and a small number of coleoptiles (detached cereal sprouts) were also identified. Wild taxa from the sample included wild grasses, such as bromes (*Bromus* sp.), and rye-grasses/fescues (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.). Some of the wild grasses were also germinated. Other wild taxa included docks, trefoils/medicks/clovers, stitchworts (*Stellaria* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp.), species of the goosefoot family (Chenopoideace), red bartsia/eyebrights (*Odontities vernus/Euphrasia* sp.), vetches/wild peas, a species of the mint family (Lamiaceae), and a flax (*Linum* sp.) seed. The charred plant remains were in variable (heterogeneous) condition, with the cereal remains in fairly poor condition. The charcoal recovered from the sample was predominantly non-oak, including one piece with a cut mark. The charcoal was in good condition but very friable.

7.3.6 A sample from the fill of ditch 1012 produced a small number of charred cereal grains, including wheat grains indeterminate to species (*Triticum* sp.), barley grains, and a single spelt wheat glume base (chaff). The charcoal was highly fragmented. Fragmented coal and clinker/cinder fragments were occasional.

7.3.7 Ditch 1046 contained a small number of grains, including barley, wheat and some spelt wheat glume bases, alongside hazel nutshell fragments, and a dock seed. The charcoal consisted of a small quantity of highly fragmented oak, and some non-oak species. Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder were abundant in this sample.

7.3.8 The sample from ditch 1050 was similarly scarce in plant remains, with a small number of wheat and indeterminate cereals (Triticeae), wild grasses, and monocotyledon stems, likely originating from grasses or sedge species. Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder were also abundant in this sample.

Phase 2
Late Romano-British

7.3.9 Layers 1014 and 1015 also showed evidence for *in situ* burning. The sample from layer 1014 was rich in charcoal, with the >2 mm fraction of the sample dominated by oak charcoal, which showed evidence for heavy radial cracking. Non-oak species were also present. The charcoal was in moderate condition. The sample from 1015 was significantly smaller, although the charcoal was very similar in composition, with both oak which had heavily radial cracking as well as non-oak species. The plant remains identified from the layers consisted of a small number of poorly preserved cereals, including barley and indeterminate cereals. Fragmented coal was noted in the sample from layer 1014.

7.3.10 A sample from a large pit 1034, comprised spelt wheat grains and glume bases, wheat, and indeterminate cereals. Wild taxa included fumitories *(Fumaria* sp.), trefoils/medicks/clovers, henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), wild grasses, vetches/wild peas, and an indeterminate tree bud. Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder was noted as common.

7.3.11 The two samples from the evaluation stage, ditch 104 and gully 108, produced moderate assemblages of charred plant remains, including cereal grains, chaff, and wild taxa. The taxa included spelt wheat grains and a single glume base, barley grain, wheat grains, and indeterminate grain fragments, as well as a culm node (cereal straw segment) and an oat grain. Both samples contained a small quantity of highly fragmented coal.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 Overall, the samples offer a glimpse into agricultural and other plant exploitation activities in the Romano-British period, such as the exploitation of the local environment for fuel.

7.4.2 The environmental samples produced charred plant remains consistent with the main crops cultivated in the Romano-British period in southern Britain; namely, spelt wheat and hulled barley (Lodwick 2017). Oats were also recovered and may have been a crop alongside the spelt wheat and barley. However, the paucity of oat grains and the absence of diagnostic oat lemma bases (chaff), which would have allowed identification to species, suggests that oats were not a minor crop, but likely an arable weed.

7.4.3 Generally, the samples contain a mixture of cereal grains, chaff, and wild taxa, and are indicative of crop processing activities taking place on or in the vicinity of the Site. Many of the species of wild taxa, including bromegrass, rye-grasses/fescues, vetches/wild pea, stitchworts, red bartsia/eyebrights, and trefoils/medicks/clovers, are consistent with plants commonly accidentally harvested alongside cereal crops, and therefore are likely to constitute arable weeds in this assemblage.

7.4.4 Pit 1004 produced evidence for germinated spelt wheat. The germinated grains may reflect a spoilt crop or, alternatively the production of malt for brewing ale (cf. Lodwick 2017). While interpreted as a fire pit, it may be the base of an oven possibly used to dry intentionally germinated crops intended for brewing. However, the charred plant remains were recovered in a relatively low abundance compared to other known crop-drying ovens identified in southern Britain (van der Veen 1989). Additionally, it is possible that the feature was used to dispose of a crop of spelt wheat accidentally germinated during storage. Other excavations of Great Casterton have revealed Romano-British mortuary activities (Liddle 2015; Hunt 2012), as well as evidence for more extensive crop-processing activities than those recovered here, such as crop-dryers dating to the 3rd to 4th century AD (Grassam and McConnell 2005), thereby evidencing industrial crop-processing activities within the wider area during this period. It is possible that the plant remains recovered from this pit and other features on Site could constitute rake-out from crop-dryers nearby, beyond the

limits of this excavation, as well as the remains of other crop-processing activities occurring nearby.

7.4.5 It is notable that the most abundant samples of charred plant remains came from pits, including pit 1004. The two other pits, 1043 and 1034, have been interpreted as rubbish pits and both samples are consistent with the tertiary discard of domestic by-products from a mix of everyday 'routine' practices (van der Veen 2007; Fuller *et al.* 2014). It is likely that some of the samples from the ditches incorporate debris generated through both these everyday crop-processing activities, together with background 'noise' generated through other activities.

7.4.6 Charcoal is consistently present throughout the samples, and especially from layer 1014, and pit 1004. Oak seems to be the predominant wood exploited for fuel, with non-oak species also utilised. The hazelnut shell is another indicator of non-oak species being exploited, possibly for fuel, as well as for food resources. However, the predominance of oak charcoal in most of the samples potentially suggests a relationship to industrial or craft activities (Gale and Cutler 2000).

7.4.7 The highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder fragments, alongside charcoal, may be suggestive of later medieval to post-medieval fuel debris, possibly from domestic hearths or other sources of activity since coal became widely used as a fuel source in these periods. Considering the Romano-British chronology of the Site it is likely that the debris of later medieval to post-medieval occupation and industrial activities have become spread across the landscape and may constitute contamination within these samples. However, coal was exploited as a fuel source in earlier periods, including in the late prehistoric and Romano-British era.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Stratigraphic summary

8.1.1 The strip, map and sample excavation exposed six ditches and gullies, three pits and two deposits of *in situ* burning. The majority of the features were Romano-British in date and stratigraphic relationships and pottery dating divided these features into two phases:

- Early/mid-Romano-British
- Late Romano-British

8.1.2 The initial phase of archaeological remains showed evidence of an initial enclosure/field system on an ESE/WNW orientation. A large potential clay extraction pit was also present in this phase, along with a fire pit. Dateable material recovered from the ditch fills and pits suggest this phase ended in the 2nd century AD.

8.1.3 At some point in the late Roman period two ditches were dug across the early ditches, on a north-west to south-east alignment. A rubbish pit and two deposits of *in situ* burning were also present during this phase of activity. Artefacts recovered suggest a continuation of activity up to the 4th century AD but not beyond this date.

8.1.4 A single gully was recorded and dated to the late post-medieval/modern period.

8.2 Discussion

Early/mid-Romano-British features

8.2.1 The primary function of the large pit in the north-west corner of the Site is unknown, though it is unlikely to be refuse disposal. One possibility is that it was a clay extraction pit or clay puddling pit, due to its size, shallow profile and depth. If this is so, it could relate to the local pottery-making industry. A Roman pottery kiln was uncovered at Great Casterton Primary School, just to the east of the Site (Hunt 2011) and it is tempting to suggest that the archaeological remains on this Site could be an extension of that activity. However, the pottery kiln on the Primary School site dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd century, which is later than the backfill of the pit. Another factor against the Site being part of a production site was the makeup of the pottery assemblage. There were no wasters, kiln material or seconds within the assemblage, and though the majority were local wares there were also imported finewares present, suggesting domestic use.

8.2.2 The pit was the source of most of the finds recovered from Site, with the earliest artefacts (late 1st to early 2nd century) recovered from its fill. The amount of material heavily suggests that once the primary use of the pit had ended, it was then used to dispose of rubbish. The finds include coins, animal bone and domestic pottery evidencing that it was used by the nearby settlement.

8.2.3 The two parallel ditches were probably the boundary divisions of an early field system, with the northern ditch being a sub-division of a larger enclosure/field. The shallowness of the ditches was likely due to truncation and/or soil erosion and may explain why no extensions of the northern ditch, or the north/south returns of the boundaries were seen. Though the pottery from the fills date to the 2nd century, ditches can have long lives, and therefore these boundaries could have been in use alongside the large pit.

8.2.4 Ecofact evidence from the fire pit suggests the Site was possibly associated with agricultural activity during this phase. Burnt bone and charred germinated spelt wheat was recovered from the charcoal rich fill, presumably the remnants of last use. Germinated spelt wheat can be indicative of malt for brewing ale, though usually in larger quantities, or it can be spoilt crop from nearby crop processing. The use of oak for the charcoal also indicates that the pit was used for industrial or craft activity, rather than domestic. A similar pit was recorded during the excavation at the kiln site at Great Casterton primary school (Hunt 2011), which also had a stone lining at the base. No finds were recovered from that pit, and the comparison is limited, but this is possibly another link to the local pottery making industry.

Late Romano-British features

8.2.5 The function of the two north-west to south-east aligned ditches is unclear, they were potentially for drainage, particularly the ditch that curved around the large pit 1043, as the base of the ditch sloped down towards the north of the excavation area. The ditch cut through the upper fill of the pit, therefore when the pit was out of use, however, the path of the ditch around the pit suggests that there was some evidence of it still in the landscape, perhaps as a hollow or sunken ground, which was used to collect excess water.

8.2.6 Rubbish pit 1034 evidences that the Site was in use into the 4th century, with pottery dating from this period recovered from its primary fill. The pit cuts through ditch 1061 (the Phase 1 southern boundary ditch), indicating it had gone out of use by this period. This, along with the digging of a north-west to south-east aligned ditch could indicate a change in boundaries during the mid-to late Roman period, possibly due to a change in ownership or change in use of the site. The presence of charred cereal grain and wild taxa in the pit fill, however,

indicates that crop processing was still taking place close by, and burnt deposit 1014 suggests that craft or industrial processes were also taking place.

8.2.7 Unsurprisingly the pit deposits were the richest source of artefact and ecofact evidence, particularly pits 1043 and 1034 which were used for rubbish disposal. The pottery recovered from the Site was mainly Romano-British, dating from the 2nd to 4th century AD and comprising local and imported coarsewares and finewares. The condition of the pottery was good, with few abrasions, indicating primary deposition and therefore a good indicator of the date of features. Personal items such as coins, a toilet implement, a glass bead and a spindle whorl were recovered, indicating the Site was associated with the Romano-British settlement. This is supported by the animal bone assemblage, which was dominated by domestic livestock, particularly sheep, goat and cattle, and showed evidence of butchery and burning, suggesting it was domestic refuse from meat consumption.

8.2.8 The environmental evidence revealed charred plant remains consistent with cultivated crops dating to the Romano-British period in southern Britain. The mix of cereal grain, chaff and wild taxa were indicative of crop processing occurring in the vicinity of the site. The presence of oak charcoal in the burnt deposits, specifically in pit 1004 and layer 1014 suggests that they were used for industrial or craft activities.

8.2.9 Though the pottery evidence shows the Site was occupied from the 2nd to 4th centuries, there is little evidence of activity occurring on the site itself. The large pit and fire pit were the most interesting features on site and suggest associations with the local pottery making industry, though this is very tentative. The ecofact evidence particularly shows industrial activity occurred in the vicinity, however the charred cereal remains were not in the great numbers normally expected from a crop processing site. The artefact and ecofact evidence suggest the Site was on the periphery of the domestic settlement at Great Casterton and agricultural industry throughout its life and probably used for the disposal of rubbish from both.

8.2.10 There was no evidence of activity between the 4th century and the late post-medieval/modern period. It is probable that the Site became part of the agricultural hinterland after the Roman period until its development in the 19th century.

8.3 Conclusions

8.3.1 The strip, map and sample exercise has largely succeeded in meeting its aims. The location, extent, character, condition, chronology, significance and quality of archaeological remains within the Site are now better understood. The Site was in use during the Romano-British period and had two phases of activity within this period. The stratigraphic sequence was simple, and phasing was apparent through clear stratigraphic relationships and pottery dating. The potential of the stratigraphic narrative, therefore, has been realised and further stratigraphic analysis will not enhance the understanding of activity within the Site.

8.3.2 There was little evidence to contribute to the research objectives, largely due to the small size of the Site. However, the presence of Roman finewares, imported wares and coinage, reflects Great Casterton's location on the Romano-British communication and trade network, which could explain the town's presence and growth. There was little evidence of agricultural intensification, although potential changes to the field system layout evidences that they were not static during the Romano-British period, and presumably developed over time to meet the changing needs of the local populace. Environmental evidence from the Site shows crop processing occurred in the area from the 2nd century through to the 4th, but again no evidence of any intensification or expansion. The evidence gained from this

strip, map and sample exercise relates to these aspects of life in the Roman province but does not meaningfully enhance understanding of the issues in question.

8.3.3 Due to the small area excavated and the small number of features present the exact land use of the Site is unclear, however, artefact and ecofact evidence suggests it was on the periphery of domestic settlement and industrial activity, particularly crop processing, and provides some insight from the refuse accumulated from both. The presence of personal items such as a toilet implement and glass bead provides a small insight into the lifestyle of the population living at the Roman town, for instance.

8.3.4 The confirmed archaeological remains are regionally typical and are not of great archaeological significance, although some further analysis is recommended as the excavated data has the potential to contribute to research aims concerning agricultural practices and environmental resource exploitation, with items of intrinsic interest also present in the artefactual assemblage.

8.4 Recommendations

Finds

8.4.1 The samian sherds should be submitted to a specialist for further identification and comment; some minor refinement of the Site chronology may result. The graffito should also be submitted for specialist comment. Otherwise, no further work is proposed for the pottery, which has already been recorded to an appropriate minimum archive level.

8.4.2 A limited search should be made for better parallels for the glass bead, which should be illustrated (line drawing and/or photograph).

8.4.3 No further work is proposed for any other finds categories. The information presented in this report, including the pottery, can be adapted and summarised for inclusion in the publication report. The metal toilet implement and the two bone objects should be illustrated, by line drawing and/or photography. Selected pottery vessels could also be illustrated (maximum ten vessels).

Environmental evidence

8.4.4 Further analysis of the charred plant remains from pits 1004, 1034 and 1043 has the potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement activity, agricultural practices, and crop husbandry.

8.4.5 Charcoal analysis from a selection of features would provide further information on the local environmental context of the Site and fuel exploitation practices, including potential fuel sources for I bvndustrial and/or craft processes. Features/deposits which potentially contain material from several sources are well-suited to reconstructing the composition of past woodlands since they probably contain amalgamations of fuel debris, as opposed to primary deposits which may be related to a specific process e.g., a kiln (cf. Asouti and Austin 2005).

8.4.6 Material suitable for dating is available from most of the samples.

Plant remains

8.4.7 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a ‘P’ in the analysis column in Appendix 1. All identifiable charred plant remains will be extracted from the flot, which may be subsampled with the aid of a riffle box in the case of very rich assemblages. The analysis will involve full quantification and taphonomic assessment. The identifications will be undertaken using stereomicroscope at magnifications of up to 40x and in consultation with

a modern seed reference collection and specialised literature where appropriate. Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012), for cereals.

Charcoal

8.4.8 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a 'C2' in the analysis column in Appendix 2. Analysis would comprise identification of 25 fragments per context/sample, as opposed to the 100 fragments which would be normally identified for a detailed analysis. This rapid approach will not produce a complete taxonomic list; however, it will provide information on broad trends in fuel use and the nature of the local environment over time.

8.4.9 The transverse (TS), tangential longitudinal (TLS) and radial longitudinal (RLS) sections will be examined up to x400 magnification using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identifications will be assisted by the descriptions of Gale and Cutler (2000), Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990), together with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology. Other features will be noted where applicable, including growth-ring curvature and the presence/absence of bark, pith, tyloses and reaction wood. Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997).

Radiocarbon dating

8.4.10 A total of three radiocarbon samples from pit 1004, layer 1014 and pit 1034 are recommended to be submitted to the 14CHRONO Centre, Queen's University, Belfast, and/or the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory.

8.4.11 Radiocarbon dating conducted on a piece of charcoal from layer 1014 would improve the understanding of the site phasing, as it is unclear if the Romano-British pottery recovered from this feature is contemporary or residual.

8.4.12 The dating of a grain from pit 1004 would securely date the charred plant material and improve the quality of the dataset resulting from the analysis, as well as provide a reliable date for the deposit, where a glass bead without parallels in the (published) Romano-British repertoire of beads was found. Although samian pottery dating to the 2nd century AD was recovered from the pit (7.2.5), this may have been kept or re-used over a long period of time.

8.4.13 A radiocarbon date on a wheat grain from pit 1034 would securely date the charred plant material from this deposit, where a wide-mouthed jar of 4th century AD date was recovered alongside 2nd–3rd century AD pottery (7.2.9).

Table 7 Radiocarbon dating samples

Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample	Rationale
Phase 1 Romano-British	Pit	1004	1006	247881_1001	Charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain	Improve site phasing improve quality of data for future syntheses
Phase 2 Romano-British	Layer	-	1014	247881_1003	Fragment of a short-lived charcoal species	Improve site phasing and securely date the charcoal assemblage

retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive (combining evaluation and excavation), comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 3). The proposals are summarised below.

Finds

10.3.4 The finds assemblage is relatively small but includes some elements of intrinsic interest and/or further research potential.

- *Animal bone (190 frags):* most fragments came from securely stratified and dated Romano-British contexts but offer limited potential for further analysis, although there is some potential for radiocarbon dating. Retain all identified fragments from secure contexts and discard those from undated features.
- *Ceramic building material (7 frags):* negligible quantity (all frags from one tile); very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
- *Clay tobacco pipes (6 frags):* negligible quantity; no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
- *Fired clay (1 frag):* negligible quantity; no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
- *Glass (1 object and 2 frags):* negligible quantity; modern vessel glass has no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none. Romano-British bead is item of intrinsic interest; retain.
- *Marine shell (3 frags):* negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
- *Metalwork (8 objects):* minimal quantity but includes objects of intrinsic interest (2 Roman coins, one toilet implement). Lead (waste fragment) and iron (nails and hobnails) are of lesser significance and the iron is vulnerable to continued deterioration (X-ray will act as basic record). Retain only coins and toilet implement.
- *Metalworking residues (240 g):* negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
- *Pottery (464 sherds):* small assemblage, mostly from single features; includes elements of intrinsic interest (eg stamped samian, graffito) as well as diagnostic vessel forms from a number of features. Archaeological significance through provision of dating evidence and information on sources of supply; some research potential beyond the immediate remit of the current project. Retain all.
- *Stone (1 frag):* negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.

- *Worked bone (2 objects):* negligible quantity, but these are items of intrinsic interest (spindlewhorl and whistle). Retain both.

Palaeoenvironmental material

10.3.5 All of the material retrieved from environmental samples merit retention with the site archive for future access. This is a summary of proposals for a site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 3).

10.3.6 All samples have extracted materials, such as charred plant remains and charcoal. Accordingly, these samples will be retained within the site archive.

10.3.7 The residues were discarded after sorting.

10.3.8 Some of the material retrieved from environmental samples merit retention with the site archive for future access.

10.3.9 Any samples not selected for processing due to a lack of archaeological significance will not be retained.

10.3.10 Unsorted residues from assessed samples not proposed for further analysis will not be retained, with the possible exception of any taken for the recovery of human remains.

10.3.11 Assessed flots with no extracted materials are generally considered to be devoid of any significant environmental evidence and may be discarded, unless proposals for analysis have not yet been undertaken (this is stablished on a case by case in Appendix 2 if appropriate).

10.3.12 All analysed samples will be retained; assessed flots with extracted materials with no further research potential (this is stablished on a case by case in Appendix 2) may be discarded.

10.3.13 All analysed materials (charred and waterlogged plant remains, mollusca, etc) will be retained.

Documentary records

10.3.14 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

10.3.15 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk; wessexar1-502991) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 4). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the SPA on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

11.2 Third party data copyright

11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of *the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context index

Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
104	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**105**
Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east. with irregular, irregular sides and a flat base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: 1.15 m. Depth: 0.45 m.			
105	**Fill**	**Ditch**	**104**
Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones no larger than 0.04 m			
106	**Fill**	**Fill**	**107**
Mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones no larger than 0.04 m			
107	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**106**
Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth: 0.40 m.			
108	**Cut**	**Gully**	**109**
Linear gully aligned north-west to south-east with steep, stepped sides and a flat base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth: 0.47 m.			
109	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**108**
Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones no larger than 0.04 m			
204	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**205**
Linear ditch with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 1.20 m. Depth: 0.07 m.			
205	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**204**
Dark yellowish brown silty sand with 25% common subangular stones <120 mm charcoal flecking			
1001	**Layer**	**Topsoil**	**n/a**
Dark brown with a grey hue silty clay with frequent small rooting from overlying grass. occasional small sub-angular stone <6cm			
1002	**Layer**	**Subsoil**	**n/a**
Mid-brown with a yellow hue silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <10 cm			
1003	**Layer**	**Natural**	**n/a**
Mid-orange brown with yellow hue silty sandy clay with frequent small-medium limestone <20 cm			
1004	**Cut**	**Pit**	**1005, 1006, 1007**
Oval pit with irregular, irregular sides and a concave base. Diameter: 1.29 m. Depth: 0.38 m.			
1005	**Fill**	**Fill**	**1004**
Mid-grey silt with chalk/sandstone pieces - varying sizes, <=0.16(l)			
1006	**Fill**	**In-situ burnt deposit**	**1004**
Dark greyish brown silty clay with 30% common charcoal pieces and flecks. 5% sparse sandstone and chalk fragments, <=4/3 cm			
1007	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**1004**
Mid-greyish brown silty clay with 20% sandstone pieces, some large <=0.21/0.16. 15% charcoal flecks			
1008	**Cut**	**Pit**	**1009**
Sub-circular pit with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Diameter: 1.22 m. Depth: 0.38 m.			
1009	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1008**
Mid-greyish brown silty clay with 5% sparse chalk and sandstone fragments, <=3/2 cm. 5% sparse charcoal			
1010	**Cut**	**Gully terminal**	**1011**
Linear gully terminal aligned north-west to south-east with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.40 m. Width: 0.43 m. Depth: 0.10 m.			
1011	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1010**
Mid-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stone <18 cm			
1012	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1013, 1016**
Linear ditch aligned ESE to WNW with steep, irregular sides and a concave base. Length: >8.00 m. Width: 1.18 m. Depth: 0.43 m.			
1013	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**1012**

Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
Mid-orangish brown silty clay with smaller components include fine & medium sand, common (20%) and sub-angular; coarse sand, moderate (10%) and angular. larger components include fine, medium & coarse gravel, moderate (15%) and angular. poorly sorted			
1014	**Layer**	**In-situ burnt deposit**	**n/a**
Dark grey/black silty clay with charcoal rich deposit 80%			
1015	**Layer**	**In-situ burnt deposit**	**n/a**
Dark grey/black silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones <9 cm			
1016	**Fill**	**Primary fill**	**1012**
Mid-greenish brown silty clay with smaller components includes common (20%) fine & medium sand. very well sorted			
1017	**Cut**	**Ditch terminal**	**1018**
Linear ditch terminal aligned east to west with moderate, irregular sides and a sloping base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 0.77 m. Depth: 0.10 m.			
1018	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1017**
Mid-brown with very slight orange hue silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <6 cm			
1019	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1020**
Linear ditch aligned east to west with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >5.00 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth: 0.25 m.			
1020	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1019**
Mid-brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <15 cm			
1021	**Cut**	**Gully**	**1022**
Linear gully aligned north-west to south-east with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Width: 0.36 m. Depth: 0.25 m.			
1022	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1021**
Mid-brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <2 cm			
1023	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1024**
Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >20.00 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth: 0.19 m.			
1024	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1023**
Mid-brown with a slight orange hue fairly compact silty clay with occasional small sub-angular sandstone <3 cm			
1025	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1026, 1027**
Linear ditch aligned east to west with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >15.00 m. Width: >1.16 m. Depth: 0.19 m.			
1026	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1025**
Mid-brown with a slight orange hue silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <5 cm			
1027	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**1025**
Light blue grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stone <2 cm			
1028	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1029, 1030**
Linear ditch aligned east to west with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >15.00 m. Width: >0.53 m. Depth: 0.94 m.			
1029	**Fill**	**Primary fill**	**1028**
Light yellow brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <4 cm			
1030	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1028**
Mid- orange brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stone <1 cm			
1031	**Cut**	**Gully**	**1032**
Linear gully aligned north-west to south-east with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >0.78 m. Width: >0.72 m. Depth: 0.94 m.			
1032	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1031**
Mid-brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <4 cm			
1033	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**1031**
Dark brown with a purple hue silty clay			
1034	**Cut**	**Pit**	**1035, 1036, 1037, 1038**
Sub-circular pit with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.22 m. Width: 0.79 m. Depth: 0.94 m.			
1035	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**1034**
Dark orange brown silty clay with rare small sub-angular stone <18 cm			

Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
1036	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**1034**
Mid-grey brown silty clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stone <30 cm			
1037	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1034**
Light/mid-yellow brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <6 cm			
1038	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**1034**
Mid-grey brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <11 cm			
1039	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1040**
Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east with shallow, concave sides and a sloping base. Length: >0.70 m. Width: >0.46 m. Depth: 0.25 m.			
1040	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1039**
Light orange brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stone <4 cm			
1041	**Cut**	**Gully**	**1042**
Linear gully aligned north-west to south-east with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >0.68 m. Width: >0.32 m. Depth: 0.25 m.			
1042	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1041**
Mid-orange brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <4 cm			
1043	**Cut**	**Pit**	**1044, 1045, 1057**
Sub-circular pit with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >6.10 m. Width: >5.16 m. Depth: 0.50 m.			
1044	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**1043**
Dark grey silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <6 c m			
1045	**Fill**	**Redeposited natural**	**1043**
Mid-orange brown silty clay with frequent small sub-angular stone <6 cm			
1046	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1047**
Linear ditch aligned east to west with shallow, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: >1.15 m. Depth: 0.09 m.			
1047	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1046**
Mid-grey brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone 15 cm			
1048	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1049**
Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: 0.78 m. Depth: 0.13 m.			
1049	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1048**
Mid-brown with a slight yellow hue silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <5 cm			
1050	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1051**
Linear ditch aligned WNW to ESE with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: 1.42 m. Depth: 0.12 m.			
1051	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1050**
Mid-grey brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <5 cm			
1052	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**1053**
Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east with shallow, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >20.00 m. Width: 2.30 m. Depth: 0.27 m.			
1053	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1052**
Mid-grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stone <2 cm			
1054	**Fill**	**Redeposited natural**	**1058**
Mid-orange brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <2 cm			
1055	**Cut**	**Gully**	**1056**
Curvilinear gully aligned north-west to south-east with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >7.50 m. Width: 0.60 m. Depth: 0.50 m.			
1056	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**1055**
Mid brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <2cm			
1057	**Fill**	**Primary fill**	**1043**
Mid-reddish brown silty clay with regular small sub-angular stone <4 cm			
1058	**Cut**	**Pit**	**1054**
Sub-circular pit with shallow, concave sides and a sloping base. Length: >5.00 m. Width: >0.30 m. Depth: 0.27 m.			
1059	**Group**	**Ditch**	**n/a**

Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
Ditch that runs NW-SE across site. Group components: 1023, 1039, 104, 1048, 1052			
1060	**Group**	**Gully**	**n/a**
Gully that runs SE-NW, curving round and cutting pit 1043 in the NW and terminates next to ditch 1059 in the SE. Group components: 1041, 1055, 107, 108			
1061	**Group**	**Ditch**	**n/a**
A shallow ditch that runs east to west across the southern edge of site. Is cut by pit 1034 and gully 1031 in the west and in the east cut by ditch 1059 and merges to form one ditch for the approximate last 10m of site before running into the eastern bulk. Group components: 1025, 1028, 1050			
1062	**Group**	**Ditch**	**n/a**
Ditch that runs from eastern bulk of site, cut by gully 1021 to form an extension, terminates in west at 1017. Group components: 1012, 1017, 1019			

Appendix 2 Environmental evidence table

Table 9 Assessment of the environmental evidence from the evaluation and mitigation

Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation	Analysis recommendations
Phase 2 Late Romano-British	Ditch	104	105	1059	101	40	112	80%, C, E, *Cecilioides acicula*	A	C	*Triticum spelta* grain and glume base, Triticeae grain fragment and culm node	C	*Avena* sp. grain	16	-	Burnt bone, fragmented (C), Moll-t (A**), Coal, fragmented (B)	H	C2
Phase 2 Late Romano-British	Gully	108	109	1060	102	36	74	40%, B, I, *Cecilioides acicula*	B	C	*Triticum* sp. and *Hordeum vulgare* grains, Triticeae culm base	-	-	17.5	-	Moll-t (A**), bone, fragmented (C), coal (B)	H	C2
Phase 1 Romano-British	Pit	1004	1006	1004	1001	38	130	20%, C, F, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**)	A**	B	*Triticum spelta* (grains and glume bases), *Triticum spelta/dicoccum* (grains and glume bases), *Triticum* sp., Triticeae. Many grains germinated. Coleoptiles.	A*	Poaceae (incl. *Bromus* sp., *Lolium/Festuca* sp. (some germinated)), *Rumex* sp., Trifolieae, *Stellaria* sp., Cyperaceae (incl. *Carex* sp.), Chenopoideace, *Odontities vernus/Euphrasia* sp., *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp., *Linum* sp., Lamiaceae, Indet seeds	70	Mainly non-*Quercus* sp. roundwood.one piece with a cut mark. Good condition.	Moll-t (A*), Coal, fragmented (A)	H	P, C2, C14

Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation	Analysis recommendations
Phase 1 Romano-British	Ditch	1012	1013	1062	1002	31	175	80%, C, I	B	C	*Hordeum vulgare, Triticum* sp., *Triticum spelta* glume base, Triticeae	-	-	<1	Fragmented	Moll-t (A***), Coal, fragmented (A), Clinker/cinder (B)	H	-
Phase 2 Romano-British	Layer	-	1014	-	1003	5	300	<5%, *Cecilioides acicula* (A***)	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare,* Triticeae	-	-	230	Dominated by mature *Quercus* sp. with some non-*Quercus* species. Heavy radial cracking. Moderate condition.	Moll-t (A***), Coal, fragmented (A)	H	C2, C14
Phase 2 Romano-British	Layer	-	1015	-	1004	3	30	5%, C, *Cecilioides acicula* (A*)	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	15	Predominantly mature *Quercus* sp. with a smaller fraction on non-*Quercus* species. Radial cracking. Knots and twigs. Moderate preservation.	Moll-t (A)	H	-

Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation	Analysis recommendations
Phase 2 Romano-British	Pit	1034	1036	1034	1005	32	40	25%, B, I, F, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**)	A	B	*Triticum spelta* (grains and glume bases), *Triticum* sp., Triticeae	B	*Fumaria* sp., Trifolieae, *Hyoschamus niger,* Poaceae, *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp., Indet bud	13	Mature and roundwood. *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* species. Small *Calluna*-type stem. Bark present. Moderate condition.	Moll-t (A), Coal, fragmented (A), Clinker/cinder (B)	H	P, C2, C14
Phase 1 Romano-British	Ditch	1046	1047	1046	1006	34	100	70%, A*, I, F, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**)	C	C	*Hordeum vulgare, Triticum* sp., *Triticum spelta* glume bases, Triticeae	C	*Corylus avellana* nutshell fragment, *Rumex* sp.	2	Mostly small, mature fragments of *Quercus* sp. and some non-*Quercus* species. Twigs. Fragmented but moderate condition.	Moll-t (A), Coal, fragmented (A**), Clinker/cinder (A), SAB (C), bone, fragmented (B)	H	-
Phase 1 Romano-British	Ditch	1050	1051	1061	1008	34	23	30%, A, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**)	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	C	Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum* sp.-type), Monocot stems	1	Mostly small, mature fragments of *Quercus* sp. and some non-*Quercus* species. Fragmented	Moll-t (A), Coal, fragmented (A**), Clinker/cinder (A)	H	-

Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation	Analysis recommendations
															but moderate condition.			
Phase 1 Early Romano-British	Pit	1043	1044	1043	1009	67	170	30%, A, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**)	B	-	*Hordeum vulgare, Triticum spelta, Triticum spelta/dicoccum, Triticum* sp., Triticeae	B	*Avena* sp. grain, Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum* sp.-type), *Corylus avellana* nutshell frags, Chenopodiaceae, *Rumex* sp., *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp., Cyperaceae, Trifolieae, Indet thorn	50	Mostly small, mature fragments of *Quercus* sp. and some non-*Quercus* species. Heavy radial cracking. Moderate condition.	Moll-t (A), Coal, fragmented (A**), Clinker/cinder (A)	H	P, C2

Appendix 3 Selection strategy

247880-1
Main Street, Great Casterton
version 1, January 2022
Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management		
Project Manager	John Winfer	
Archaeological Archive Manager	Lorraine Mepham	
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Stakeholders		**Date Contacted**
Collecting Institution(s)	Rutland Museum, Oakham (curator contact Lorraine Cornwell) Archaeology Data Service	09/04/2021
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Clare Jackson-Slater Assurance: John Winfer	N/A
Landowner / Developer	Mr James Tusting Burghley Estate Preservation Trust, Burghley Estate Office, Stamford	
Other (external)	Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council (LCC)	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breeden) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process
Resources		
Resources required	WA Finds and Environmental specialists; WA archives team	
Context		

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the CIfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs. It covers all stages of fieldwork on the site (evaluation and mitigation); an abbreviated selection strategy was provided at evaluation reporting stage, but this is now superseded.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:
General
Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
Rutland County Museum Archaeological Archives Standard (December 2017)

Relevant research agendas
Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen, C 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*. The University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust

Finds
Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials (CIFA, 2014)
A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental
Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage 2011)
Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record (Historic England 2015)
Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains (English Heritage 2008)

Research objectives of the project
Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework, the research objectives of the excavation were to:

Determine what processes drove the growth of secondary urban centres;

Determine if we can chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems.

REVIEW POINTS
Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of two project review points:

End of data gathering (assessment stage)

Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; LCC Senior

Planning Archaeologist; ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, CIfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	2
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	1, 2
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	1, 2
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	1, 2
Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	2

Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	1, 2
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	1, 2
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	2

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Rutland Museum; LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist

Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of CIfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points

Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	2
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (SSWSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	1, 2
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	1, 2
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	2
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	2
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	2
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	2

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	**Section 3.**	3.1

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; Rutland Museum; LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist; landowner
Selection
Proposals have been made by WA internal specialists based on observations made during assessment; they may be modified (although probably not significantly) following analysis.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Animal bone (190 frags)	Most fragments came from securely stratified and dated Romano-British contexts but offer limited potential for further analysis, although there is some potential for radiocarbon dating. Retain all identified fragments from secure contexts and discard those from undated features	1, 2
Ceramic building material (7 frags)	Negligible quantity (all frags from one tile); very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Clay tobacco pipes (6 frags)	Negligible quantity; no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Fired clay (1 frag)	Negligible quantity; no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Glass (1 object and 2 frags)	Negligible quantity; modern vessel glass has no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none. Romano-British bead is item of intrinsic interest; retain.	1, 2
Marine shell (3 frags)	Negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Metalwork (17 objects)	Minimal quantity but includes objects of intrinsic interest (2 Roman coins, one toilet implement). Lead (waste fragment) and iron (nails and hobnails) are of lesser significance and the iron is vulnerable to continued deterioration (X-ray will act as basic record). Retain only coins and toilet implement	1, 2
Metalworking residues (240 g)	Negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Pottery (521 sherds)	Relatively small assemblage, mostly from single features; includes elements of intrinsic interest (eg	1, 2

	stamped samian, graffito) as well as diagnostic vessel forms from a number of features. Archaeological significance through provision of dating evidence and information on sources of supply; some research potential beyond the immediate remit of the current project. Retain all	
Stone (1 frag)	Negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Worked bone (2 objects)	Negligible quantity, but these are items of intrinsic interest (spindlewhorl and whistle). Retain both.	1, 2

De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	Section 3.	3.2

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Officer; WA internal specialists; Rutland Museum; LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist

Selection

All environmental sampling has been undertaken following a site-specific sampling strategy or Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in the relevant WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). All environmental samples collected and suitable to address project aims and research objectives, as deemed by Wessex Archaeology's Environmental team, have been processed and assessed.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Assessed and	All flots will be retained. The residues were	1, 2

analysed flots with extracted materials	discarded after sorting.	
Charred & waterlogged plant remains	All extracted plant remains will be selected	2
Mollusca	All extracted mollusca will be selected	2

De-Selected Material

De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

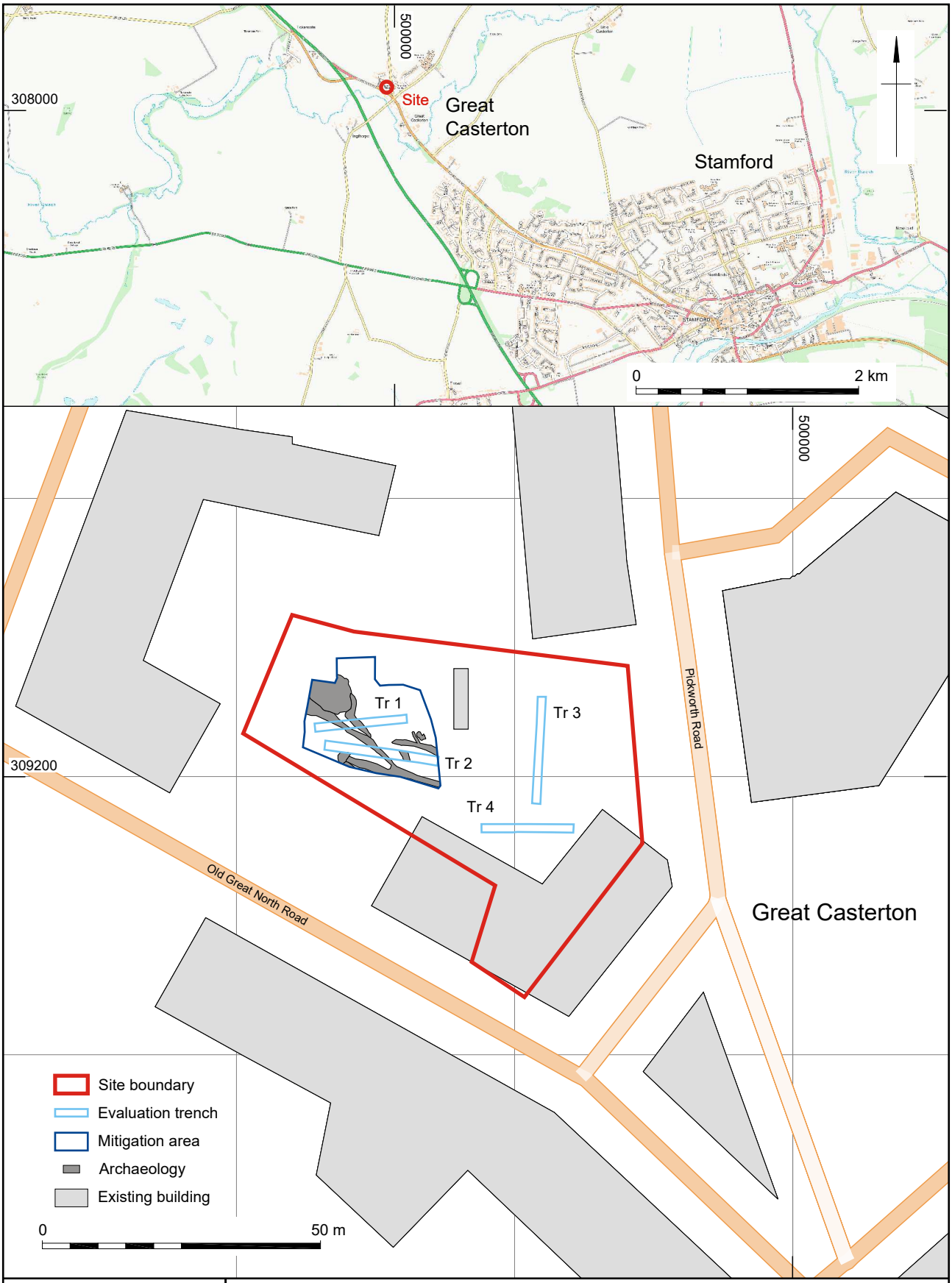
Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Appendix 4 OASIS record

OASIS ID (UID): wessexar1-502991
Project Name: Main Street, Great Casterton
Activity type: Open Area Excavation
Project Identifier(s): 247881
Planning Id: 2020/0706/FUL
Reason for Investigation: Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work: Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates: 04-Nov-2021 - 17-Nov-2021
HER: Leicestershire HER

Project Methodology: Archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and sample excavation on a parcel of land measuring approximately covering 600m² located on Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland, PE9 4AU
Project Results: The majority of the archaeological remains was Romano-British in date and comprised ditches and pits. The period was divided into two phases of activity, through pottery dating and stratigraphic relationships. The first phase of activity comprised two parallel ditches, probably boundary ditches, with a small drainage offshoot from the northern ditch. A large pit was also present in this phase, along with a smaller fire pit. Finds from these features date the phase to the early Roman period, up to the 2nd century AD. The second phase of activity comprised a further two ditches, on a different alignment, a rubbish pit and two deposits of burnt material, all cutting into or across the earlier features. Finds from these features provide a late Romano-British date, up to the 4th century AD. Other remains include two ditches dating to the post-medieval/modern period. The finds assemblage is modest but provides good dating for most features. The pottery and animal bone assemblages provide evidence of domestic activity, whilst the environmental remains provide evidence of local industry, particularly crop processing. Interesting artefacts recovered from the Roman features include two coins, a copper toilet implement and a glass bead. The finds and archaeological remains provide a picture of a site on the periphery of activity, with little occurring on the Site itself.
Keywords:
Subject/Period: Coin: ROMAN
FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Subject/Period: Toilet Article: ROMAN
FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Subject/Period: Bead: ROMAN
FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Archive:
Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Rutland County Museum
Reports in OASIS:
Jackson-Slater, C., (2022). *Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland*. Sheffield: Wessex Archaeology. 247881.3.



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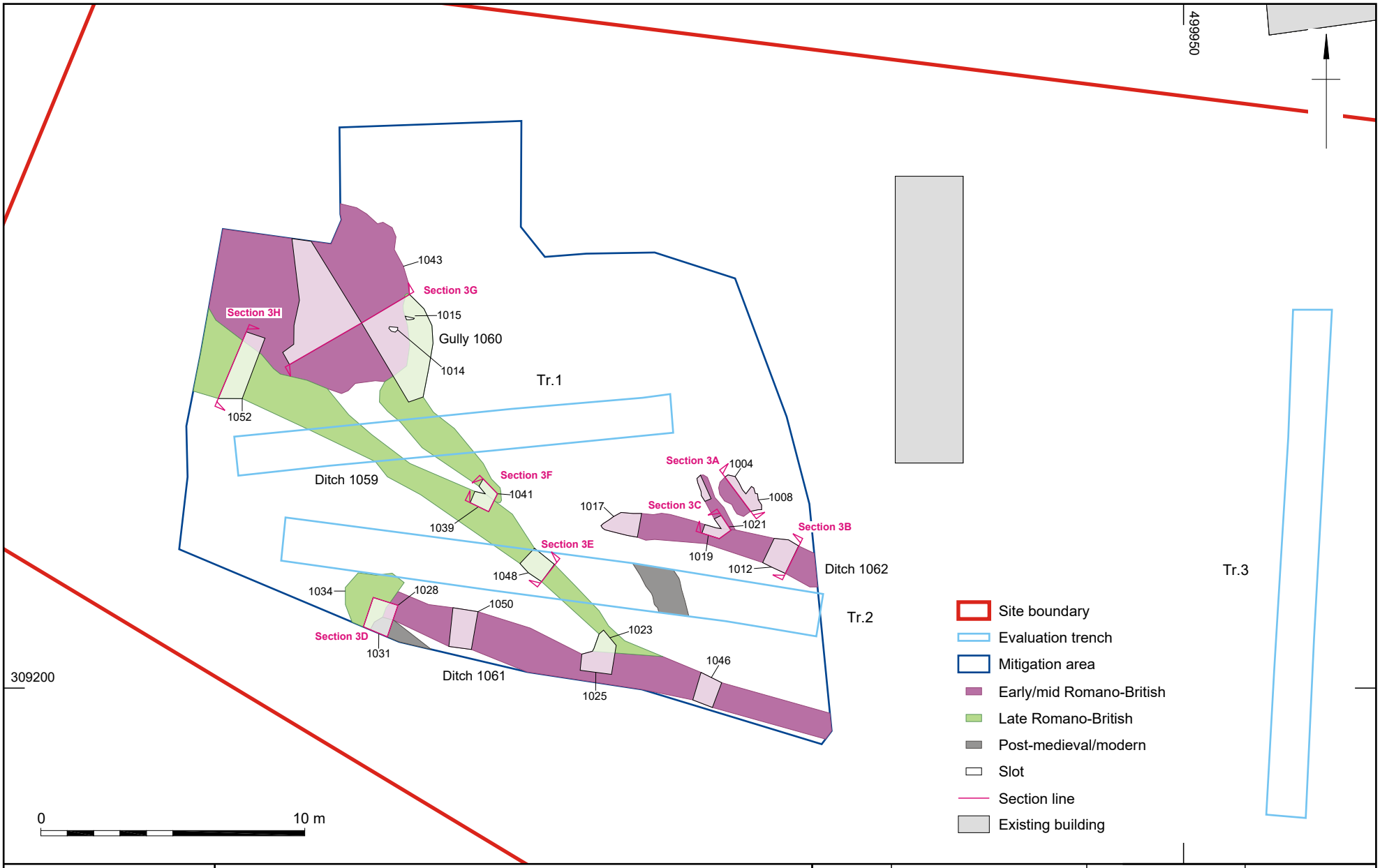
Site location, evaluation trenches and mitigation area

Figure 1



Coordinate system: OSGB36

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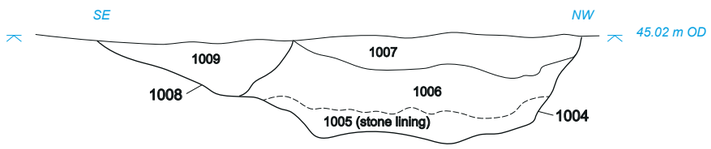
Phased site plan

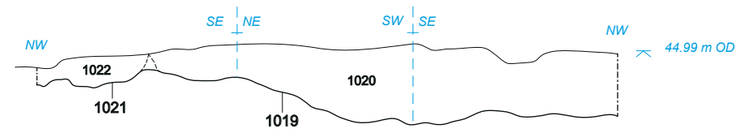
Figure 2

A. North-east facing section of pits 1004 and 1008

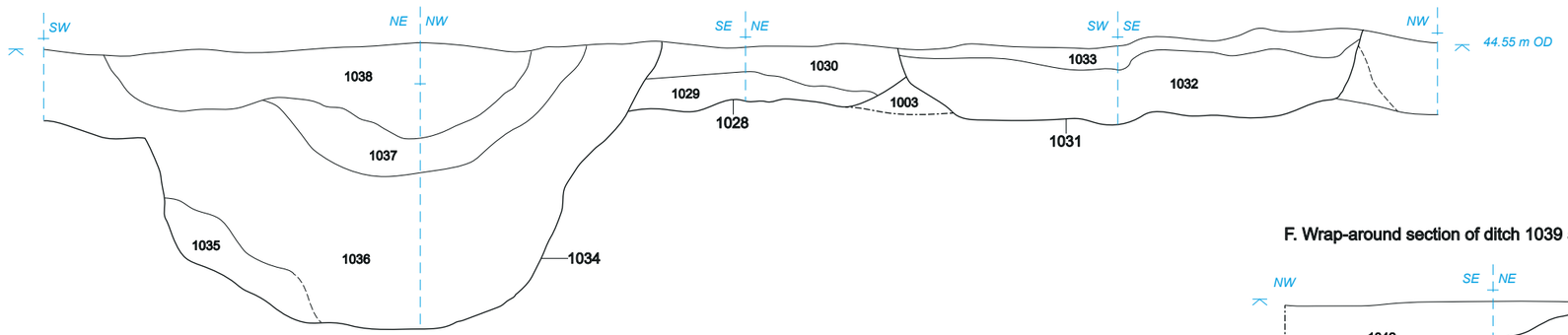


B. North-west facing section of ditch 1012

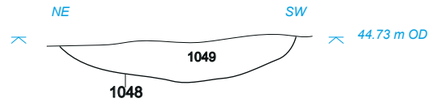
C. Wrap-around section of ditch 1019 and gully 1021



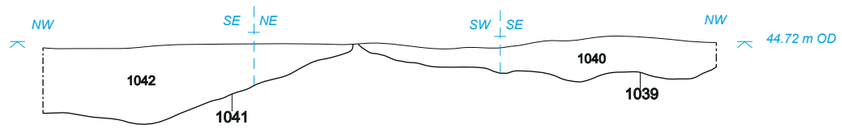
D. Wrap-around section of ditch 1028, gully 1031, and pit 1034



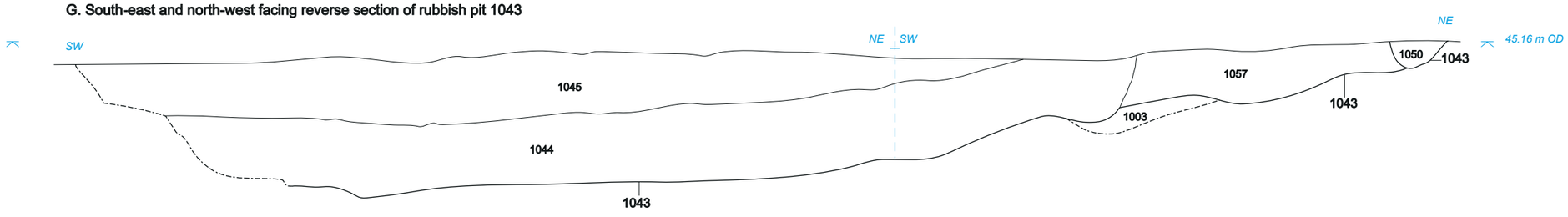
E. North-west facing section of ditch 1048



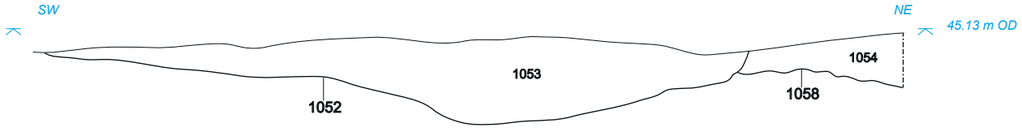
F. Wrap-around section of ditch 1039 and gully 1041



G. South-east and north-west facing reverse section of rubbish pit 1043



H. South-east facing section of ditch 1052 and pit 1058



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Sections

Figure 3

Plate 1: Fire Pit 1004, view from north-east

Plate 2: Ditch 1012, view from north-west

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Plate 3: Relationship slot in ditch 1019 and gully 1021, view from north-west

Plate 4: Relationship slot in ditches 1023 and 1025, view from west

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Plate 5: Overview of ditch 1028, gully 1031 and 1034

Plate 6: Overview of quadrants within pit 1043, view from west

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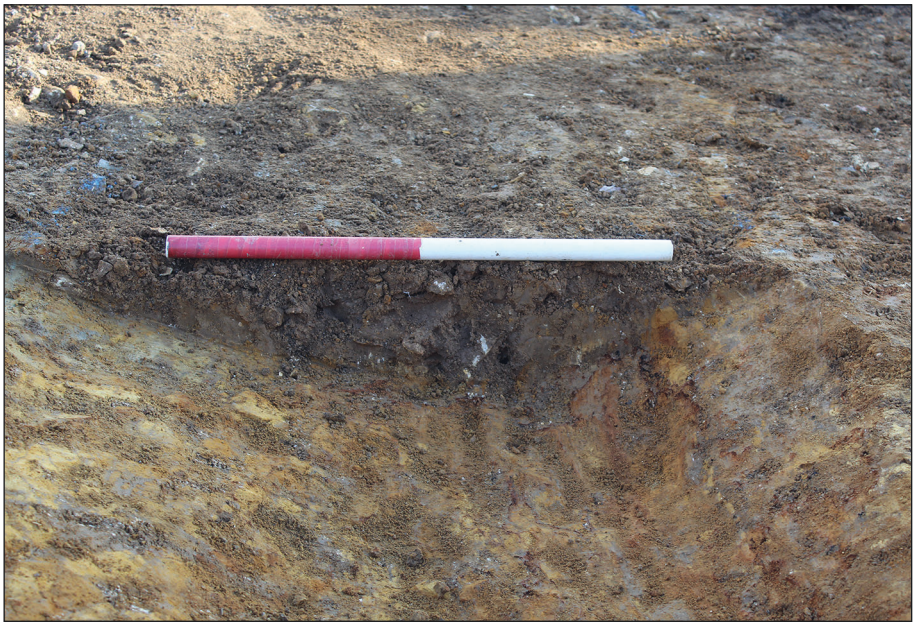

Plate 7: Ditch 1048, view from north-west

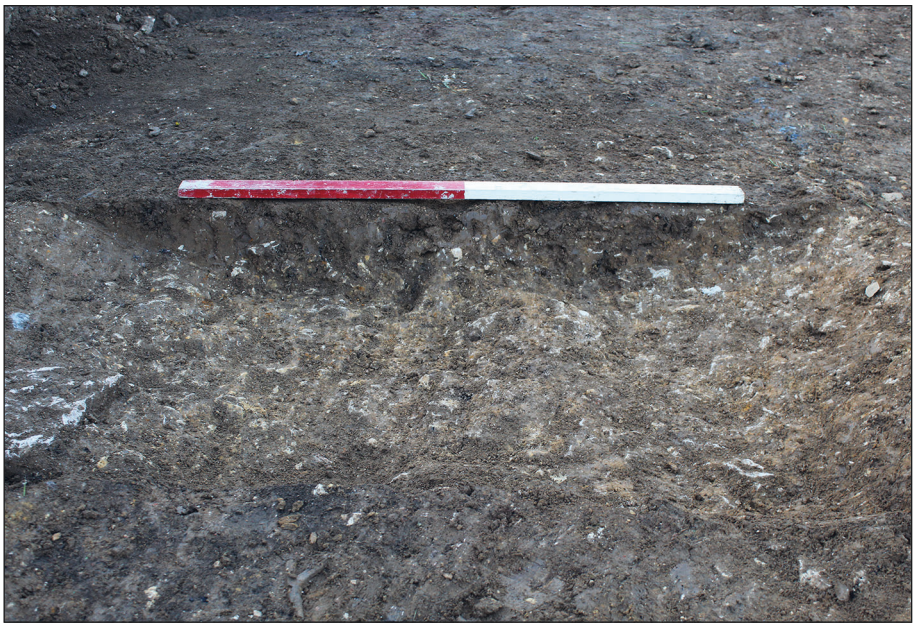

Plate 8: Ditch 1050, view from south-east

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