Land North of Oundle Road
Weldon, Corby, Northamptonshire

Post-excavation Assessment

Planning Ref: NC/21/00124/DPA
Ref: 240991.03
February 2022

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Document Information

Document title	Land North of Oundle Road, Weldon, Corby, Northamptonshire
Document subtitle	Post-excavation Assessment
Document reference	240991.03
Commissioned by	Orion Heritage Ltd.
Address	County House St Mary's Street Worcester Worcestershire WR1 1HB
On behalf of	BAM Construction Ltd
Address	Midlands Regional Office Fore 2 2 Huskisson Way Shirley Solihull B90 4SS
Site location	Oundle Road, Weldon, Corby
County	Northamptonshire
National grid reference (NGR)	493922, 289193
Planning authority	North Northamptonshire Council
Planning reference	NC/21/00124/DPA
Museum name	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Museum accession code	ENN110558
OASIS Id	wessexar1-504641
WA project name	Land north of Oundle Road, Corby
WA project code	240991
Date of fieldwork	18–29 October 2021
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Quality Assurance

Issue	Date	Author	Approved by
1	23/02/2022	CJ	

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of BAM Construction UK to undertake archaeological mitigation works on two areas of excavation (areas 1 and 2), totalling 0.09 hectares (ha), on land north of Oundle Road, Weldon, Corby, Northamptonshire (NGR 493922, 289193). Both areas 1 and 2 were extended in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation to fully expose archaeological features. The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by North Northamptonshire County Council (NC/21/00124/DPA). Previous archaeological work carried out on the site included a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and a trial trench evaluation.

The majority of the archaeological remains were Romano-British in date, of a single phase of activity dating to the mid-1st to 2nd century, with some features possibly open into the 3rd century AD. The features comprised seven ditches, two pits and two undated postholes. Three of the ditches in area 1 formed a three-sided structure or drainage system, conforming to a north–south and east–west aligned grid, while two further ditches probably combined to form another north–south aligned drainage ditch to the south. Two refuse pits were also present in area 1, along with two undated postholes. In area 2, two ditches, a 'C'-shaped boundary ditch and a linear WNW/ESE-aligned boundary ditch formed a small sub-rectangular enclosure which likely butted onto the linear boundary.

The pottery assemblage was moderate and provided good dating for most features. The pottery and environmental remains provided evidence of rural domestic activity, with crop processing occurring in the vicinity. A small amount of imported ware was recovered along with the local wares, including Samian and a fragment of amphora, which is expected from a rural settlement site in the region. Comparisons with a nearby excavation south of Oundle Road places this site within a larger landscape of Romano-British rural settlement and agriculture.

Overall the archaeological remains are typical for the period and region. The pottery assemblage has regional potential in terms of adding to the regional type series, though it is a very typical typeset for a basic rural site. The findings have local archaeological significance, as they contribute to the existing picture of a Romano-British rural settlement and make a modest contribution to published research objectives.

The report will be uploaded via OASIS to the Archaeological Data Service and a short summary will be published in the annual roundup in Northamptonshire Archaeology.

Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre has agreed in principle to accept the project archive under accession code ENN110558. An OASIS form, wessexar1-504641, has been provisionally completed and will be finalised at the time of deposition.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Orion Heritage on behalf of BAM Construction UK for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works, in particular Cathy Patrick. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Liz Mordue, who monitored the project for North Northamptonshire Council and to A E Faulks Ltd for their cooperation and help on site. The samples were processed by Jenny Giddins. The flots were sorted and assessed by Megan Scantlebury (charred plant remains) and Ed Treasure (charcoal).

Land north of Oundle Road, Weldon, Corby, Northamptonshire

Post-excavation Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage, on behalf of BAM Construction UK ('the client'), to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising two areas of excavation centred on (area 1) NGR 493918, 289262 and (area 2) NGR 493922, 289193. In total the excavation area was 0.09 ha and was located off Oundle Street, Weldon, Corby, Northamptonshire (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by North Northamptonshire County Council (NC/21/00124/DPA) for the construction of a secondary school building, sports hall and recreation areas, along with associated parking, infrastructure and access, including a new roundabout on the A427 Oundle Road. The overall development area comprises around 6.6 ha. Previous geophysical survey (SUMO 2020) and trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020) identified Romano-British features along the north-eastern edge of the site, indicative of enclosure and possible sparse settlement activity in this area. As a result, Liz Mordue, Archaeological Advisor at North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) requested further mitigation of this area.

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 2021). Liz Mordue (NNC) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavation of the two excavation areas was undertaken between the 18 and 29 October 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The excavation areas were located near to the eastern boundary of the site and covered the southern ends of trenches 14 and 25 (**Fig. 2**). The site lies to the north of Oundle Road on the south-western edge of Weldon, a village that now forms the eastern suburbs of Corby.

1.3.2 The site lies on an area of high ground to the south of the A43 and north of Oundle Road at approximately 106 m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The land to the north slopes down to the lowest point on the site, towards the south-west corner, at 99 m OD with scrub land adjoining the Oundle Road at the south edge at 105 m OD.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Jurassic rocks of the Rutland Formation, and argillaceous sedimentary rock (predominately Mudstone) with subordinate beds of Sandstone and Limestone. This is overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of the Oadby Member (Diamicton), a detrital deposit formed by the actions of ice and meltwater within glacial and inter-glacial periods (BGS 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 (PCA 2019), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed mitigation areas. A summary of the results is presented below. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous works related to the development

Geophysical survey and evaluation (2020)

2.2.1 As part of the pre-application work, a geophysical survey (SUMO 2020) was conducted across much of the development area. The survey recorded no magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. However, short ditch-like anomalies were recorded in the southern part of the development area that corresponded with two former field boundaries that were shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map. Evidence of ploughing activity was also recorded across the development area.

2.2.2 Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020) targeting earlier geophysical survey (SUMO 2020) as part of the pre-application works. The trenching identified the mapped field boundaries and a small number of Romano-British cut features in the north-eastern edge of the site. It also established that the remainder of the site does not contain large concentrations of archaeological features, with 43 of the 48 trenches excavated revealing no archaeological remains.

2.2.3 The Romano-British features uncovered along the north-eastern edge of the site suggested enclosure and possible sparse settlement activity in this area. A pit or ditch terminus was found in trench 25 and contained a moderate quantity of 1st and 2nd century Romano-British ceramics, and the remains of a probable square/rectilinear enclosure or structure in trench 14. The size of the enclosed area identified within the two parallel east–west ditches and possible north–south return in trench 14 would suggest that these ditches were more likely to relate to a structure rather than an enclosure, although no internal features or postholes were identified. The recovered environmental evidence is consistent with Romano-British agricultural activity in the area.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (pre-800 BC)

2.3.1 Cropmarks of two ring ditches marking the location of possible Bronze Age barrows are approximately 1 km to the north-west of the proposed development area. In association with these monuments, a Bronze Age collared urn was found during work at Weldon School in the vicinity of the ring ditches.

2.3.2 During archaeological excavations on a site located 620 m to the north-west of the site a prehistoric pit was found that pre-dated a Romano-British ditch.

Iron Age and Romano-British (800 BC to AD 410)

2.3.3 The Little Weldon Roman Villa (scheduled monument NHLE 24724) is 1.2 km to the west of the site. It is a large complex including a 2nd-century bath house, 4th-century bakehouse, barn, workshop and other associated buildings, covering an area 313 x 367 m. The site had been excavated in 1738 and re-excavated in 1954–55.

2.3.4 Archaeological excavations around 650 m to the west of the site revealed ditches and gullies potentially representing a 2nd-century Roman farmstead, contemporary with the Little Weldon villa.

2.3.5 Two ditches containing late 1st and 1st–2nd-century pottery were uncovered during excavations around 700 m north-west of the current site.

Early medieval (AD 410 to 1066)

2.3.6 Excavations at Deene End (1 km north-west of the site) uncovered a possible 11th-century post-built building, while early to mid-Saxon pottery was recovered from the upper fill of a Roman ditch during archaeological excavations 660 m to the north-west of the site.

Medieval (AD 1066 to 1485)

2.3.7 The medieval village of Weldon, containing domestic buildings and industrial buildings relating to iron smelting, is 1 km to the west of the site, while the medieval deer park of Weldon Park was established during the early-14th century 1 km to the north. The remains of quarrying 1 km to the north-west may also be medieval.

Post-medieval and modern (AD 1485 to present)

2.3.8 The village of Weldon continued to develop and expand during the post-medieval and modern periods, with the most recent expansion being the residential construction site immediately west of the site. Evidence for ridge and furrow field systems was found in geophysical surveys 500 m to the west of the site, suggesting that the area was under cultivation during the medieval and/or post-medieval period. Cartographic sources show the site as open fields with some additional sub-divisions during the 19th and 20th centuries.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in compliance with the CIfA *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
- to seek a better understanding of the resource
- to compile a lasting record of the resource; and,
- to 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, the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) were:

- to determine the date, nature and extent of settlement activity, and its development in the Romano-British period;
- to determine the date, extent and character of landscape organisation in the Romano-British period; and,
- to assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

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 2021) 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 excavation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of two areas measuring 25 m x 20 m (area 1) and 20 m by 20 m (area 2). These were targeted on areas of identified Romano-British potential, as defined by the previous evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020). Both areas 1 and 2 were extended in accordance with the WSI to fully expose archaeological features.

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**). 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. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.

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 2021). 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* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Archaeological Advisor at North Northamptonshire Council monitored the works on behalf of the LPA.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 The archaeological features recorded during this excavation predominantly comprised ditches, with a small number of pits and postholes (**Fig. 2**). Most of the features dated to the Romano-British period, with a single phase of activity. The ditches and pits were shallow in nature, indicating heavy truncation, probably from later agricultural activity.

5.1.2 Most of the features were isolated, and therefore any phasing was done primarily through pottery dating. Ditches 1403, 1407 and 200025 were the only intercutting features, and these were probably contemporary.

5.1.3 The site appears to have been subject to heavy truncation, perhaps caused by ploughing, which has restricted interpretation.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.4 All handwritten 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.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The natural substrate (100003 and 200003) comprised mid-yellowish brown silty clay with flint nodule inclusions and was recorded at 0.54 m below ground level in area 1 and 0.55 m below ground level in area 2.

5.2.2 Above the natural substrate, and overlaying all archaeological features, was a layer of subsoil (100002 and 200002) comprising yellow brown slightly silty clay and measuring between 0.26 and 0.3 m thick. Romano-British and medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil.

5.2.3 The ground surface was formed from a mid- to dark brown silty clay ploughsoil measuring between 0.28 and 0.3 m thick.

5.3 Area 1

5.3.1 This area contained five ditches, two pits and two postholes. Three of the ditches formed the edges of a small open-sided potential structure. Two further ditches were likely truncated elements of a single boundary or drainage ditch.

5.3.2 Ditches 200025 (**Fig. 3**, **section 2**; **Pls 1 and 2**), 1403 and 1407 formed the outline of a small three-sided structure or drainage system, with a 3 m extension to the north. The internal space was small, measuring 4.5 m north–south by at least 2.45 m west–east. The eastern boundary of the feature was not present, though it is unclear whether this was through truncation or design. The feature was dated by pottery from the mid-1st to 3rd centuries AD. Environmental material recovered from the ditch including bread wheat and spelt wheat.

5.3.3 Ditch 100017=100022 (**Fig. 3**, **section 4**; **Pl. 3**; 3 x 0.7 x 0.22 m) was on a north–south alignment and had a rounded profile. The ditch contained two fills, with a primary fill comprising natural silting and the secondary fill containing a significant amount of pottery ranging in date from the late 1st–3rd century. South of this ditch, aligned directly in line and with very similar morphology, was ditch 100020, which was probably a continuation of ditch 100017=100022. Pottery recovered from the fill dated to the Romano-British period.

5.3.4 Pit 100005 (**Fig. 3**, **section 1**) extended from the eastern limit of the excavation and measured 0.33 m in depth. The single sandy clay fill contained charcoal, CBM and pottery dating to the Romano-British period. It is probable that the pit was used for refuse disposal.

5.3.5 Pit 100015 (**Fig. 3**, **section 3**; **Pl. 4**) was sub-oval, measured 2.2 m in length by 0.34m wide and 0.17 m deep, with a rounded profile. The single fill comprised a silty clay, which contained a large amount of mid- to late 2nd to 3rd century pottery, including fine wares. The amount of pottery suggests this was a refuse pit, or the base of a truncated midden.

5.4 Area 2

5.4.1 This area contained two ditches, one linear and one ‘C’-shaped. Pottery recovered from the fills provides a Romano-British date. The position and alignment of the two ditches suggest that they possibly formed a small enclosure against a boundary.

5.4.2 Ditch 200026 (**Fig. 3**, **section 6**; **Pl. 5**) was 15.6 m long on a WNW–ESE alignment. The clayey silt fills contained pottery ranging in date from the mid-1st century to late-2nd century or later, and CBM. An environmental sample taken from the ditch fill contained a single grain of naked wheat and a small quantity of charcoal, comprising mainly oak.

5.4.3 Ditch 200027 (**Fig. 3**, **section 5**; **Pls 6 and 7**) was a ‘C’-shaped ditch located to the south of ditch 200026, with the opening facing north. The ditch measured around 8.5 m in length, forming an enclosure measuring 10.7 m by at least 5.3 m. The clayey silt fills contained pottery dating to late 2nd century or later as well as a small amount of CBM. An environmental sample taken from the ditch fill contained a small number of wheat grains,

spelt wheat glume bases, dock seed and seeds of red bartsia/eye bright, and charcoal comprising mainly oak.

5.5 Uncertain date

5.5.1 Posthole 200014 was located almost inside the internal space of ditch 200025 in area 1, suggesting association, however no finds were recovered from the posthole. There were no other postholes recorded nearby, therefore its function is unclear. The posthole had a 'V'-shaped profile and measured up to 0.25 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep.

5.5.2 Posthole 200016 (**Pl. 8**) was located close to pit 100015, was sub-circular with a 'U'-shaped profile and measured 0.2 m diameter by 0.2 m deep. No archaeological finds were recovered from the single fill. The posthole was isolated, and its function is unclear.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The excavation has produced a small assemblage of finds, which consists almost exclusively of pottery; 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 2020). The assemblage is almost entirely of Romano-British date. With the exception of a few finds from subsoil, all finds came from feature fills (pits and ditches).

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 excavation assemblage by context.

Table 1 Finds totals by material type

Material Type	EVALUATION		MITIGATION	
	No. frags	Weight (g)	No. frags	Weight (g)
Pottery	231	3518	352	6138
Ceramic Building Material	3	288	2	209
Fired Clay	25	65	-	-
Burnt Flint	8	29	-	-
Stone	3	208	-	-
Animal Bone	17	127	47	168
Marine Shell	1	13	-	-

Table 2 Finds by context (excavation)

Description	Context	Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM	
		No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
Pit 100005	100005	11	33			1	148
Ditch 200025	100009	12	190				
	100012	1	8				
Pit 100015	100016	76	1118				
Ditch 100017/100022	100018	22	248				

Description	Context	Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM	
		No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
	100023	17	212				
Ditch 100020	100021	7	62				
Subsoil	200002	13	95				
Ditch 200025	200017	42	895	13	9		
	200018	1	20	34	159		
Ditch 200026	200011	28	347				
	200021	17	203				
	200022	33	228				
Ditch 200027	200005	9	333				
	200008	3	22				
	200009	11	309			1	61
	200023	16	1189				
Unstratified	-	2	60				
TOTALS		**352**	**6138**	**47**	**168**	**2**	**209**

6.2 Pottery

Introduction

6.2.1 Five hundred and eighty-three sherds (9.656 kg, 8.91 RE) were recovered from 25 contexts. This report includes the material pottery from the evaluation that have already been assessed (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The sherds can be attributed to a maximum of 209 vessels. The majority of the pottery from this project date from the mid-1st to 2nd century AD. There is little ceramic evidence that activity continued on the site into the late Romano-British period although a few of the features may have remained open into the 3rd century AD. The majority of the pottery was retrieved from ditches with little material retrieved from pit features. The inhabitants had a small quantity of samian table ware and a few fine grey ware and Nene Valley type grey ware beakers including one with barbotine decoration. A single mortarium was recorded that was probably a local product. A DR20 amphora sherd from southern Spain may suggest that the inhabitants had access to imported olive oil. The vast majority of the pottery used was produced locally with a range of the ubiquitous grog-gritted wares, sandy black fired wares and white wares and shell-gritted wares produced locally with a few sherds perhaps from the Harrold industry.

Methodology

6.2.2 The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery* (Darling 2004) using the fabric codes used by Timby (2009) for Higham Ferrers and the structure and form codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (CLAU) (Darling and Precious 2014). Rim equivalents (RE) have been recorded and an attempt at a 'maximum' vessel estimate has been made following Pollard (1990). The tabulated data includes fabric and form summaries (Tables 3 and 4), a quantified pottery dating table (Appendix 2; Table 5), and an archive of pottery studied (held in the project archive).

Dating and taphonomy

6.2.3 The range of material present suggests activity on the site from the mid-1st to 2nd century AD. The tabulated dating summary (Appendix 2) describes and dates the pottery on a

context by context basis. The largest group was from ditch 2503 (ditch 200026) and includes the base from a samian form Dr18/31 bowl, a sandy white ware mortarium with a hooked rim, grey ware lipped bowls, grog-gritted white wares, a shell and grog-gritted necked jar, a Bourne type shell-gritted jar and a significant proportion of a large necked storage jar with an undercut rim. The pottery from this group ranges in date from the later 1st to 2nd century with a deposition date for the assemblage sometime after AD120.

6.2.4 A number of the 'fumed grey ware' Nene Valley type grey wares (NVRE) forms found on this site continued to be produced into the 3rd century so some activity into the earlier 3rd century could not be ruled out (Perrin 1999). Key indicators of late Romano-British activity such as Nene Valley type colour-coated wares, Oxfordshire ware, late Romano-British shell-gritted or grey ware forms such as straight-sided bead and flanged bowls are rare or absent. Only ditch 100008 (ditch 200025) appears more likely to date to the 3rd century as the assemblage included a shell-gritted necked jar (Brown 1994, Fig. 26. 80) and a shell-gritted flanged bowl similar to an example from Phase 3 Harrold deposits dating to the late-2nd century, although derivatives of this form type became more common in the later 3rd to 4th century (Brown 1994, Fig. 27. 122). Although soil conditions may have removed the colour-coat from some of the sherds recorded as white ware in this report, the general absence of Nene Valley type colour-coated wares is notable. Colour-coated beakers appear to have been produced in the Lower Nene Valley from the later 2nd century and became common in the 3rd and 4th centuries (Perrin 1999). The absence of sherds of this type from the excavation would be expected if the site did not receive much new pottery into the 3rd and 4th centuries.

6.2.5 A small quantity of medieval glazed pottery was retrieved from layer 200002 and a modern glazed sherd from ditch 2000019 that was probably intrusive within a group otherwise containing fresh pottery dating to the mid to late 2nd century AD.

6.2.6 The mean sherd weight is 16.56 g and the majority of the pottery was retrieved from ditches. A small quantity of the pottery was recovered from features that may have been pits, layers or attributed to unstratified contexts. Much of the pottery is in good condition but abrasion was recorded on 217 sherds (some of this may be due to soil conditions). The condition of the pottery is broadly similar to other groups of Romano-British pottery from rural sites in Northamptonshire if somewhat fresher than a contemporary group from the West Corby Extension Project (eg. Lyons 2019; Johnson 2018).

6.2.7 Internal excoriation was noted on a large shell-gritted jar from ditch 2503. This internal surface damage has been noted on a number of similar jars from the East Midlands and may represent scouring or chemical attrition (Peňa 2007; Perry 2011). Examples of carbonised cooking residues are not common with only one example noted: a handmade shell-gritted channel-rimmed jar (ditch 1407). This may reflect how vessels were used on site or perhaps the soil conditions. A resin repair was also noted on a rim sherd from feature 2503 (Wessex Archaeology 2020).

The assemblage by ware type

Table 3 Fabric summary

Fabric code	Fabric group	Fabric details	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %
CGSAM	Samian	Central Gaulish samian	8	1.37%	168	1.74%	6
EGSAM	Samian	Eastern Gaulish samian	1	0.17%	20	0.21%	0
EGSAM?	Samian	Eastern Gaulish samian	1	0.17%	6	0.06%	7
BATAM	Amphora	Baetican amphorae	1	0.17%	56	0.58%	0
MORT	Mortaria	Unsourced mortarium fabrics	2	0.34%	183	1.90%	28
BWF	Fine	Black fine ware	3	0.51%	3	0.03%	0
BWFMIC	Fine	Black fine micaceous ware	3	0.51%	13	0.13%	0
GYF	Fine	Fine grey ware	5	0.86%	64	0.66%	8
OXID	Oxidised	Misc oxidised wares	10	1.72%	95	0.98%	42
WW	Oxidised	Misc white wares	13	2.23%	105	1.09%	14
BW	Reduced	Black sandy ware	32	5.49%	362	3.75%	70
GREY	Reduced	Grey ware	14	2.40%	164	1.70%	14
NVRE	Reduced	Nene Valley grey ware (see below)	135	23.16%	2169	22.46%	243
SHELL1	Calcareous	Handmade shelly ware	172	29.50%	2224	23.03%	157
SHELL2	Calcareous	Wheel made shelly ware	14	2.40%	192	1.99%	63
SHELL3	Calcareous	Sparse shelly ware	3	0.51%	26	0.27%	18
BOXGR	Grog	Burnt oxidised grog-tempered	25	4.29%	385	3.99%	43
BPNKGR	Grog	Burnt pink grog-tempered	8	1.37%	216	2.24%	0
BWHGR	Grog	Burnt white ware: grog-tempered	34	5.83%	543	5.62%	62
GRSH	Grog	Grog and shell-tempered	10	1.72%	104	1.08%	24
GYGR	Grog	Grey grog-tempered	30	5.15%	1319	13.66%	49
OXGR	Grog	Oxidised grog-tempered	19	3.26%	390	4.04%	14
PNKGT	Grog	Pink grog-tempered	1	0.17%	10	0.10%	0
WWGR	Grog	White grog-tempered	34	5.83%	817	8.46%	29
MED	Misc	Misc Medieval/Post Medieval	3	0.51%	17	0.18%	0
MOD	Misc	Modern	1	0.17%	2	0.02%	0
FCLAY?	Fired clay	Fired clay	1	0.17%	3	0.03%	0

Table 4 Forms summary

Form	Form Type	Form Description	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %
A	Amphora	Unclassified form	1	0.17%	56	0.58%	0
BK	Beaker	Unclassified form	1	0.17%	11	0.11%	0
BK?	Beaker	Unclassified form	3	0.51%	52	0.54%	0
BKEV	Beaker	Everted rim	1	0.17%	4	0.04%	8
BFBV	Bowl	Bead and Flange variant	1	0.17%	66	0.68%	11
BFL	Bowl	Flange rimmed (eg Gillam 1970 Types 218-220)	5	0.86%	201	2.08%	59
BRR	Bowl	Reeded-rimmed	2	0.34%	36	0.37%	8
BTR	Bowl	Triangular rimmed (eg. Gillam 1970 Types 222-3)	2	0.34%	19	0.20%	14
BL	Bowl-large	Large	12	2.06%	1157	11.98%	42
BD	Bowl/dish	-	1	0.17%	20	0.21%	0
CLSD	Closed	Form	154	26.42%	2329	24.12%	0
27	Cup	Samian form- see Webster 1996	1	0.17%	6	0.06%	7
33	Cup	Samian form- see Webster 1996	2	0.34%	7	0.07%	6
18/31	Dish	Samian form- see Webster 1996	5	0.86%	153	1.58%	0
DFL	Dish	Flange rimmed (eg Gillam 1970 Types 218-220)	5	0.86%	40	0.41%	7
CPN	Jar	Native tradition	17	2.92%	203	2.10%	60
J	Jar	Unclassified form	4	0.69%	14	0.14%	13
JBN3	Jar	Bourne type jar no. 3; Bolton 1968 Fig. 1.1	6	1.03%	63	0.65%	35
JCH	Jar	Channel rim- Iron Age type	10	1.72%	137	1.42%	64
JEV	Jar	Everted rim	4	0.69%	112	1.16%	38
JL	Jar	Large	7	1.20%	109	1.13%	7
JNK	Jar	Necked	61	10.46%	870	9.01%	264
JS52	Jar	Storage (form as Webster 1949 Fig 12.48)	124	21.27%	1778	18.41%	90
JWM	Jar	Wide-mouthed as RPNV 3-5	36	6.17%	885	9.17%	94
JBKEV	Jar/Beaker	Everted rim	1	0.17%	6	0.06%	10
JB	Jar/Bowl	Unclassified form	1	0.17%	15	0.16%	7
JBL	Jar/Bowl	Large	1	0.17%	44	0.46%	0
JBNK	Jar/Bowl	Necked	15	2.57%	313	3.24%	0
MHK	Mortaria	Hook-rimmed as Gillam 1970 Types 237-45	2	0.34%	183	1.90%	28
OPEN	Open	Form	1	0.17%	8	0.08%	0
PD	Plate/Dish	Form	1	0.17%	33	0.34%	19
-	Unknown	Form uncertain	96	16.47%	726	7.52%	0

Samian

6.2.8 A small quantity of Central Gaulish samian was retrieved including sherds from Dr18/31 bowls and a Dr33 cup. East Gaulish sherds include a body sherd from layer 200002 and a sherd from a Dr27 cup from fill 1000016. The samian present suggests that the inhabitants had access to small quantities of imported table ware as might be expected for a rural settlement site in this area (Johnson 2018, 86).

Amphora

6.2.9 A single fragment from a gritty DR20 amphora was retrieved from ditch 200004. This form was typically used for exporting olive oil from southern Spain. Although it suggests that the inhabitants of the site may have had access to imported products such as olive oil, such vessels were often recycled for transporting other goods or re-used for other functions (Peña 2007). The presence of a single body sherd may represent a fragment of a vessel

used for another purpose rather than confirming the use of olive oil on the site. Amphorae sherds are typically only present in small quantities or completely absent amongst small rural assemblages from the region (Lyons 2019; Johnson 2018; McSloy 2016; Hylton 2011).

Mortaria

6.2.10 Sherds from a single mortarium in a sandy white ware fabric (**Pls 9 and 11**) were retrieved from ditch 2503. This vessel is heavily abraded but a proportion of the rim and a simple spout are present (**Pl. 10**). Production of sandy white ware mortaria in the Upper Nene Valley has been proposed by Hartley, with some difficulty expressed in splitting these wares from the production of a number of the other similar industries such as the Verulamium region (Hartley in Lambrick 1980, fabric 2; Marney 1989, fabrics 4eg and 4ea; Rollo 1994, nos 15–6). The range of published forms attributed to these local sandy fabrics would suggest that the industry was active for much of the Roman period. With the exception of a large flint embedded in the fabric none of the trituration grits on this mortarium survive. The vessel from this site has a similar flange to some of the Upper Nene Valley vessels recorded from Piddington (Rollo 1994, nos 15–6) with a simple spout similar to an example published by Perrin from the Lower Nene Valley found in a context dating to the 3rd century (Perrin 1999, Fig. 77.M12). The presence of only a single mortarium is not surprising as often Romano-British basic rural sites have few vessels of this type (Lyons 2019; Johnson 2018; McSloy 2016; Hylton 2011).

Other fine wares

6.2.11 Although a few of the sherds recorded as white ware (WW) may have lost their colour-coat, no examples of colour-coated pottery were retrieved from the excavation phase of this scheme. Nene Valley colour-coated wares became more common in the later 2nd to 3rd century (eg. Lyons 2019) and the absence of such wares may relate to a chronological bias amongst this assemblage as Nene Valley colour-coated types only became more common in the later 3rd to 4th century at the West Corby Expansion Phase 2 site (Johnson 2018, 87). Fine wares appear to have been restricted to 11 sherds from a maximum of eight vessels. All these sherds are thin-walled reduced ware sherds, probably all from beakers in the black surfaced fine ware (BWF), the micaceous black surfaced fine ware (BWFMIC) and the fine grey ware (GYF) groups. These wares occurred in groups dating to the 2nd century at Higham Ferrers (Timby 2009) and the one recognisable form, a bag-shaped beaker with a triangular everted rim, can be dated to the early-mid-2nd century (form similar to Timby 2009, no. 15). Similar fine wares have been noted amongst early Roman groups from Pineham Quarry (Lyons 2019).

Oxidised wares

6.2.12 A restricted number of sand-gritted oxidised wares were recorded. Ten sherds of the orange sandy OXID group were recorded including a lipped bowl from ditch 2503 and a necked jar with cordoned decoration at the base of the neck from ditch 200020. It is likely that these vessels were locally produced at the same sites as the black-surfaced ware (BW) discussed below. The 13 sandy white ware sherds recorded are all from closed vessels, probably jars. The one recognisable is a necked jar with cordoned decoration at the base of the neck from ditch 200010.

Reduced wares

6.2.13 Black or reduced sandy wares are more numerous than the oxidised wares. Three main types were defined: black-surfaced wares (BW), sandy reduced grey wares (GREY) and fumed grey wares with a white core similar to Nene Valley Grey ware types (NVRE).

6.2.14 The black-surfaced wares mostly consist of sherds from jars, with the only recognisable example a necked type with cordoned decoration similar to the examples in the OXID and WW groups. Other forms recorded include lipped bowls, a bowl with a triangular rim and a platter or dish. The range of forms suggests production in the later 1st or 2nd century. The reduced sandy grey wares recorded are mostly from jars including necked and cordoned types and an example of a channel-rimmed type. These vessels appear to have been more consistently fired than the BW group but with a similar range of forms.

6.2.15 Fumed white wares (NVRE) make up almost a quarter of the assemblage by sherd count and this is the most common individual fabric group. This group comprises white 'light-fired' iron-poor fabrics with fumed grey ware surfaces. Examples of this style have been best characterised in the Lower Nene Valley by Perrin (1999) where they were produced from the early–mid-2nd century through until the end of the 3rd century. However, a growing number of industries have now been recognised in the Midlands that appear to have been making similar wares, including Great Casterton (closer in distance to Corby than Peterborough) and the Upper Nene Valley (see discussion in Rowlandson and Fiske 2021; Peachey 2005; Marney 1989, MK14 fabrics; McSloy 2016). Earlier occurrences of this firing technique have been recorded at Lincoln for the production of the Legionary grey ware fabric in the mid- to late 1st century, although the range of forms produced was quite different (Darling and Precious 2014, LEG). It appears likely that the Nene Valley grey ware repertoire or 'Meme' (Biddulph 2013) was transferred across parts of the eastern Midlands perhaps via the exchange of potters themselves or (perhaps less likely) through other potters mimicking their products in the 2nd and 3rd century. As iron-poor Jurassic deposits that were used to produce white wares could be found across a swathe of Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and the modern county of Cambridgeshire, the production source of these fumed white wares need not be the Lower Nene Valley.

6.2.16 When recording this assemblage, it was noticeable that a few of the NVRE type grey ware sherds contain occasional grog or clay-pellets similar to the grog-gritted wares that were commonly produced in the Upper Nene Valley (see below). The NVRE category also has far sandier fabrics than those typically produced in the Lower Nene Valley (see Tomber and Dore 1998, LNV RE) and it would appear likely that a significant proportion, if not all of the fumed grey wares from this site were produced more locally utilising the sandy light-firing clay that was utilised for the WW, WWGR and BWHGR fabric groups. As such the NVRE recorded here should be considered likely to be of the Upper Nene Valley fumed grey ware type where production appears to have begun in the later 1st century, although the authors of this report have not had access to material from the kilns themselves (Marney 1989, fabric MK14; Johnston 1969; McSloy 2016).

6.2.17 The range of forms present from this site are all typical of those published by Perrin from the Lower Nene Valley (1999) in a similar fashion to those described by McSloy (2016) from Crick. The vessel types present mostly consist of necked jars, a large proportion of a wide mouthed jar with burnished wavy line decoration (ditch 200019, as Perrin 1999, Fig. 56. 20), beakers with everted rims, a lipped bowl with wavy line decoration (ditch 200010, as Perrin 1999, Fig. 58.65), a lipped dish (ditch 100017) and a beaker with barbotine decoration (ditch 100016). The high proportion of these wares amongst the assemblage would be expected from a group dating to the 2nd to earlier 3rd century from this area (eg. Timby 2009; Johnson 2018). The range of forms present, mostly consisting of jars with a few small bowls, is typical of a rural assemblage.

Grog-gritted wares

6.2.18 Grog- and sand-gritted wares are present in a number of firing variants with a number of them showing signs of being fumed or burnt – a feature of the kiln firing technique used in

their manufacture (Timby 2009). The groupings established by Timby (2009, 155–6) include white-fired examples in 'iron-poor' clays WWGR and the fumed variant BWHGR. Both of these fabric groups are present (34 sherds each) and the forms recorded in this assemblage include a channel-rimmed jar (ditch 200010), a large necked storage jar (ditch 200012) and a distinctive large bowl (ditch 200020, as Timby 2009, no. 48) in the WWGR group. The fumed or burnt light-fired BWHGR ware group includes necked jars, a jar with an everted rim (ditch 100015) and a reeded rim bowl (ditch 100008, as Timby 2009, Fig. 5.5.24 with a reeded rim top). These forms can all be dated to the later 1st to earlier 2nd century.

6.2.19 Similar forms were recorded in the other variants including the orange oxidised fabric (OXGR) and burnt oxidised grog-gritted wares (BOXGR), including channel-rimmed jars, a distinctive large bowl (ditch 200024, as Timby 2009, Fig. 5.6.48) and a jar with an everted rim (ditch 100017) and a necked jar with cordon decoration (unstratified). A small number of body sherds were also attributed to the burnt pink fired grog-gritted group (BPNKGR).

6.2.20 Thirty sherds were attributed to the grey/black-fired sandy grog-gritted group GYGR including a necked jar, a channel-rimmed jar, a jar with a triangular rim and a further example of the distinctive large bowl seen in the other grog-gritted fabric variants (ditch 200024, as Timby 2009, Fig. 5.6.48). The grog-gritted fabrics were fairly evenly distributed amongst the different firing categories in a similar manner to that recognised by Timby from Higham Ferrers (2009, 155-6) and was probably indicative of clay resources, firing methodologies and styles favoured by individual potters working in the area rather than being a secure dating indicator. The range of forms in the sandy grog-gritted ware group would fit with examples dating to the later 1st and 2nd century at Higham Ferrers (Timby 2009).

6.2.21 A single sherd was attributed to the PNKGT Pink Grog-gritted fabric group that may have been a product of the Milton Keynes area.

6.2.22 Grog- and shell-gritted wares (GRSH) were present in small numbers with the majority of sherds appearing to be wheel made. Two necked jar rims were recorded from ditch 100022 and ditch 2503. It is likely that all of the sherds recorded were from jars. These wares were probably also locally produced.

Shell-gritted wares

6.2.23 One hundred and eighty-nine shell-gritted sherds were recorded but these could be attributed to a maximum of 18 vessels and the sherd count was inflated by the presence of large number of fragments from a storage jar retrieved from one ditch (2503). It was noticeable that when fossil shell had survived the soil conditions sufficiently well, Punctate Brachiopod or 'Bryzoa' type fossil shell was recognised, suggesting that the majority of the shell-gritted wares had been produced utilizing Jurassic clays of a type commonly available in the southern Midlands at sites such as Harrold in Bedfordshire and within 2 km of this site (Marney 1989). Handmade shell-gritted wares (SHELL1) were the most common with sherds from a maximum of ten vessels present. The forms recognised comprise a jar with a wedge-shaped rim (ditch 200020), a channel-rimmed jar (ditch 100022) and the large necked storage jar (ditch 2503). All of these types are typical of the transitional Late La Tène III shell-gritted wares produced in the mid- to late 1st century (Knight 2002; Friendship-Taylor 1999). Wheel made shell-gritted vessels (SHELL2) include a necked jar from two contexts within ditches 100008 and 100015 (as Brown 1994, Fig. 26. 80), a channel-rimmed jar with rilled surfaces (ditch 1407) and a necked jar probably of 2nd century date similar to examples made in the Bourne-Greetham kilns (ditch 2506). A flanged bowl from ditch 100008 of a type noted in the later 2nd-century kiln deposits at the Harrold production site

in Bedfordshire appears likely to be one of the latest types present – perhaps suggesting that the feature remained open into the 3rd century.

6.2.24 A further necked jar similar to Bourne-Greetham types in the sand- and shell-gritted fabric SHELL3 was also recorded from ditch 2503.

Post-Roman pottery

6.2.25 Three post-Roman sherds were recorded: a green-glazed oxidised sherd and high-fired sherd, both medieval, were recovered from subsoil 200002. A modern glazed sherd was recovered from ditch 200019 that was probably intrusive.

Summary

6.2.26 The range of material from this site would fit with a basic rural site that was mostly occupied in the later 1st to 2nd century. A few of the groups suggest some activity on the site into the 3rd century. The presence of Nene Valley type fumed grey wares may suggest that the site may have continued to be occupied into the 3rd century. The range of material present was broadly similar to other contemporary rural assemblages from the county (Lyons 2019; Johnson 2018; McSloy 2016; Hylton 2011).

6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

6.3.1 Two fragments of CBM were found, both Romano-British; one came from pit 100005 and one from ditch 200027 (fill 200009). Neither can be attributed to specific brick/tile type.

6.3.2 These can be added to three Romano-British fragments from the evaluation, including one *imbrex* roof tile.

6.4 Animal bone

6.4.1 Several poorly preserved fragments (47 pieces, 168 g) of animal bone were recovered from ditch 200025 and were found in association with a Romano-British pottery vessel. The identified fragments include part of a cattle mandible and two loose teeth from the maxilla (or upper jaw). The bones are potentially from a single animal and may have been deposited in articulation (ie. skull and mandibles).

6.4.2 The even smaller quantity from the evaluation included cattle teeth and mandible from one ditch fill.

6.5 Other finds

6.5.1 There were no other finds from the excavation, but from the evaluation were minimal quantities of stone (possibly roof tile fragments); fired clay (featureless and undiagnostic fragments, possibly hearth/pit lining); burnt flint (uncertain origin) and marine shell (oyster). None of these finds are datable, but are probably Romano-British, based on associated finds.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Four bulk sediment samples were taken from Romano-British linear features, one of which came from a vessel within the feature. All were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence. During an earlier phase of work, four bulk sediment samples taken from ditches of Romano-British chronology were also assessed and processed

(Wessex Archaeology 2020). Charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the samples have been assessed.

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 project aims. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

7.2.2 The three larger bulk sediment samples were on average 14 litres in volume and were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank. The sample from the vessel was two litres in volume, was pre-soaked in a solution of water and hydrogen peroxide to help break up the clayey sediment and was processed by manual flotation. For all samples the flot was retained on a 0.25 mm mesh and 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. A riffle box was used to split large fine residues into smaller flot subsamples when appropriate. 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 and modern cereal chaff remains, alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (eg, *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 aquatic molluscs, and animal bone and modern insects, 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 (eg, Cappers *et al.* 2006). Preliminary classifications were undertaken through examination of the transverse section of wood charcoal fragments: 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 both the evaluation and excavation stages are presented in Appendix 3, Table 6.

7.3.2 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were of variable volumes (Table 6). Potential indicators of bioturbation were very abundant, indicating high possibility of contamination from later intrusive material. This is demonstrated by the abundant modern roots, high volume of modern cereal chaff and modern uncharred seeds, modern insects, and earthworm eggs.

7.3.3 The environmental remains recovered comprised plant material preserved by charring and wood charcoal. The charred plant material was generally very poorly preserved. Wood charcoal was noted in generally small quantities. The remains of terrestrial molluscs and highly fragmented animal bones were also present in small numbers in some samples.

Area 1

7.3.4 Vessel fill from ditch 200025 (fill 200018) was sterile in charred plant remains and contained only highly fragmented <2 mm flecks of wood charcoal.

7.3.5 A further sample from ditch 200025 (fill 200017) produced a small quantity of charred plant remains, including an unidentifiable grain and grain fragments, a bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) rachis node, and a spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) glume base. No wild taxa were noted in the sample and the charcoal present were highly fragmented <2 mm flecks.

Area 2

7.3.6 The sample taken from ditch 200026 (fill 200009) produced a single grain identifiable as a naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum*), and a possible oat (cf. *Avena* sp.), alongside a small quantity of charcoal identifiable as mostly oak (*Quercus* sp.), and some smaller fragments of non-oak species. Generally, the charred plant and charcoal remains were in very poor condition and were mineral stained.

7.3.7 A single sample was taken from ditch 200027 (fill 200005), which contained a small number of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, spelt wheat glume bases, and unidentifiable grains, as well as a dock (*Rumex* sp.) seed, and the seeds of red bartsia/eyebright (*Odontities vernus/Euphrasia* sp.). The small quantity of charcoal retrieved from the flot was identifiable as mostly comprising oak with a mix of non-oak species. It was in moderate condition. The plant remains and charcoal were mineral stained.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 Overall, the samples produced very small quantities of terrestrial molluscs as well as charcoal and charred plant remains that were generally in a very poor state of preservation, perhaps due to intermittent waterlogging, as suggested by the heavy mineral staining noted.

7.4.2 The charred plant remains and charcoal are consistent with the ‘background noise’ of likely domestic, fuel use and crop-processing activities taking place on the site or nearby.

7.4.3 The environmental samples produced charred plant remains that are generally consistent with the main crops cultivated in the Romano-British period in Britain; namely, spelt wheat and barley (Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019). However, the samples also produced plant remains more characteristic of medieval/post-medieval crop choices, such as bread wheat (Moffett 2006). The bread wheat rachis node recovered from ditch 200025 and grain from ditch 200026 are likely intrusive within the features, although radiocarbon dating would be required to confirm this (Pelling *et al.* 2015).

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 Discussion

8.1.1 The strip, map and sample excavation exposed seven ditches, two refuse pits and two postholes across two areas of excavation. The northern area (area 1) contained a potential structure or small drainage system, along with the two pits and two undated postholes. The southern area (area 2) contained two boundary ditches that seemed to form a sub-rectangular enclosure on a WNW–ESE alignment.

8.1.2 The pottery assemblage was typical of a rural domestic settlement and indicated that the settlement was in use between the late 1st–2nd century, with suggestion that some features continued to be open into the 3rd century AD, though not beyond. The pottery was in good condition, indicating primary deposition and therefore a good indicator of date of features,

as well as being close to their place of use. The recovery of a small amount of CBM and fired clay could also support the presence of structures in the vicinity, though there is not enough of this material for this interpretation to be definitive.

8.1.3 There was little ecofact evidence recovered from the site, though that which was recovered was consistent with the 'background noise' of domestic, fuel use and crop-processing activity taking place nearby and was typical of main crops cultivated in the Romano-British period in Britain.

8.1.4 The results of this excavation are comparable with a site located on the southern side of Oundle Road, around 650 m west of the current site (ULAS 2017). The 2017 ULAS works uncovered narrow and shallow ditches or gullies forming enclosures and sub-enclosures, along with a possible structure. Similar to the current site, the 2017 excavations recovered pottery consistent with a rural domestic settlement dating to the 2nd century (Cooper 2017, 14–16) comprising mainly local wares with a small amount of imported fine ware. Also like the current site, the 2017 pottery assemblage had an absence of Nene Valley colour coated ware, indicating the site did not continue in occupation beyond the 3rd century. The conclusion of the 2017 post-excavation report was that the site was potentially part of a larger ladder enclosure system associated with a farmstead/s, and potentially part of the economy of the nearby Little Weldon Roman villa. The similarity of features, site chronology, pottery assemblage and proximity between the two sites suggests that the archaeological remains uncovered north of Oundle Road could be part of this same enclosure system.

8.2 Conclusion

8.2.1 The strip, map and sample excavation has largely succeeded in meeting its aims and objectives (section 3). The location, character, condition, chronology, significance and quality of archaeological remains of the site are now better understood. The site was in use during the Romano-British period, starting in the late 1st/early 2nd century, with a peak of activity in the 2nd century, and a possible continuation into the 3rd century AD, but not beyond. The stratigraphic sequence and phasing of the site was simple, with only one phase of activity apparent. The pottery assemblage and environmental evidence is consistent with a rural domestic settlement, and comparisons with a nearby site indicates that this site was part of a larger enclosure and farmstead system, potentially extending on either side of the modern Oundle Road.

8.2.2 Though there were only a small number of features uncovered, they indicate that the landscape during the Romano-British period around Oundle Road was organised through small or subdivided sub-rectangular enclosures with possible structures in the vicinity.

8.2.3 The site appears to have undergone heavy truncation, with features eroded in part and shallow in depth. Agricultural activity was likely the cause of this truncation and therefore may have had a similar impact on any other potential archaeological remains in the area.

8.2.4 The pottery assemblage is of a moderate size and there is good potential of adding to the regional pottery type series.

8.2.5 This site is regionally typical, however, it has local significance when grouped with other sites in the vicinity, including the site to the south of Oundle Road, by contributing to evidence of Romano-British rural settlement and the farming landscape south of Weldon, Corby.

9 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

9.1 Stratigraphic potential

9.1.1 The archaeological sequence exposed in excavation areas 1 and 2 was simple with isolated features cut into the natural substrate. The only intersecting features were three contemporary ditches. The chronological sequence of the site has therefore been established as far as possible. The overall stratigraphic sequence of the results is well understood.

9.2 Finds potential

9.2.1 The pottery comprises an assemblage of moderate size which is a useful addition to the regional dataset; the range of types represented, however, are as expected for a basic rural site. The assemblage has been recorded to a level commensurate with its significance and there is no potential for further work.

9.2.2 Other finds, given the very small quantities recovered, have negligible potential. Quantities of CBM and possible building stone (roof tiles) are too small to draw any conclusions as to on-site Romano-British activity. Other finds (burnt flint, fired clay, marine shell) are undated, and as such have no further potential.

9.3 Environmental potential

9.3.1 No further work is required for the samples since this would not significantly add to the information outlined in this assessment report.

9.4 Summary of potential

9.4.1 The results are of local importance, contributing to the existing picture of local Romano-British rural settlement in a farming landscape south of Weldon and Corby. The contribution of these results is limited due to the size of the site and low number of features. The pottery assemblage has regional potential in terms of adding to the regional type series, though it is a very typical typeset for a basic rural site and has already been recorded to an satisfactory level.

9.4.2 The excavated remains do not merit formal publication and offer little potential to usefully contribute to any published research objectives (East Midlands Research Framework). Therefore, no analysis is recommended. This report will be uploaded via the OASIS portal to the Archaeology Data Service and to the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record. The results will be summarised as a note in the annual ‘Archaeology in Northamptonshire’ round-up section of a forthcoming edition of Northamptonshire Archaeology.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield under project code 240991. The Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **ENN110558**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, and artefacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code **ENN110558**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard box or airtight plastic box of artefacts, ordered by material type
- 1 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg, site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).

10.3 Selection strategy

10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie, 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) 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 5). They cover the combined archive from evaluation and mitigation phases of work, and the proposals are summarised below.

10.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

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

- *Pottery (583 sherds):* assemblage of moderate size, comprises useful dataset for the region; further research potential beyond the immediate remit of the current project. Retain all.

- *CBM (5 fragments):* negligible quantity, datable but undiagnostic. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.

- *Fired Clay (25 fragments):* negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.

- *Animal bone (64 fragments*): negligible quantity, poor condition, not all identifiable to species. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.

- *Other finds (8 burnt flint, 3 stone, 1 shell):* negligible quantity of undated (although presumed Romano-British) items. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.

Palaeoenvironmental material

10.3.6 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 as stated in the relevant WSIs. 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.

10.3.7 Assessed flots with extracted materials from the evaluation (1401, 1402, 2501, 2502) and mitigation (100001, 100002, 100003, 100004) all have no further research potential and should be discarded. The residues were discarded after sorting.

Documentary records

10.3.8 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

10.3.9 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 (eg, 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) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 4). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at NCC 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 (eg, 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	Cut Number	Group Number	Description
100001	-	-	Ploughsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty clay with sparse flint gravels
100002	-	-	Subsoil. Yellow brown slightly silty clay with flint gravel
100003	-	-	Natural. Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with rare flint nodules
100004	100005	100005	Secondary fill. Mid-greyish brown sandy clay with 3% sparse, sub-angular, poorly sorted, gravels and flints
100005	100005	100005	Cut of pit. Subcircular with rounded profile, measuring 0.88 x 0.48 x 0.33 m
100006	100006	1403	Cut of gully. Linear east/west aligned with concave sides, flat base measuring 0.38 x 0.15 m
100007	100006	1403	Secondary fill. Mid-to dark brown clay with small flint pebbles
100008	100008	200025	Cut of ditch. Linear with concave sides, flat base measuring 0.41 x 0.18 m
100009	100008	200025	Secondary fill. Dark grey brown silty clay with small flint pebbles and fragments of larger stone pebbles
100010	100005	100005	Secondary fill. Mid-orange brown silty clay with 3% sparse, sub-angular, poorly sorted gravels and flints
100011	100011	200025	Cut of ditch terminal. Linear with concave sides, undulating base, measuring 0.25 x 0.1 m
100012	100011	200025	Secondary fill. Mid- to dark brown silty clay with small flint nodules and charcoal in upper part of fill
100013	100013	200025	Cut of ditch terminal. Linear with rounded profile, measuring 0.54 x 0.15 m
100014	100013	200025	Secondary fill. Mid- to dark grey brown silty clay with small flint pebbles and fragments of chalk
100015	100015	100015	Cut of pit. Sub-oval with rounded profile, measuring 2.2 x 0.7 x 0.17 m
100016	100015	100015	Backfill. Mid- grey brown silty clay with large and small fragmented flint, charcoal flecks and fragments.
100017	100017	100017/ 100022	Cut of ditch terminal. Linear north/south aligned with rounded profile, measuring 0.32 x 0.22 m
100018	100017	100017/ 100022	Secondary fill. Mid-brownish grey silty clay with small flint nodules, fragmented limestone and charcoal flecks
100019	100017	100017/ 100022	Primary fill. Greyish yellow silty clay with fragmented flint and limestone fragments
100020	100020	100020	Cut of ditch. Linear north/south aligned with rounded profile, measuring 0.43 x 0.22 m
100021	100020	100020	Secondary fill. Light to mid-brown silty clay with medium to small sandstone pebbles, broken flint and small flint nodules
100022	100022	100017/ 100022	Cut of ditch. Linear north/south aligned with rounded profile, measuring 0.38 x 0.22 m
100023	100022	100017/ 100022	Secondary fill. Mid-brown grey silty clay with rare <5% gravels, medium-10–15 mm, subrounded to angular, moderately sorted
200001			Topsoil. Mid-to dark brown silty clay with sparse flint gravels and occasional fragmented limestone
200002			Subsoil. Yellow brown slightly silty clay with flint gravel and some fragmented limestone

Context Number	Cut Number	Group Number	Description
200003			Natural. Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with rare flint nodules
200004	200004	200027	Ditch cut. Curvilinear with rounded profile, measuring 0.43 x 0.07 m
200005	200004	200027	Secondary fill. Mid-brown grey clayey silt with rare <3% gravels, fine to medium 5–40 mm, subrounded to angular, moderately sorted
200006	200006	200027	Ditch cut. Curvilinear with rounded profile, measuring 0.73 x 0.25 m
200007	200006	200027	Secondary fill. Mid-brown yellow silty clay with rare <1% manganese flecks, very fine, well sorted
200008	200006	200027	Secondary fill. Mid-brown grey clayey silt with rare 3-5% gravels, medium 10–50 mm, subrounded to angular, moderately sorted and rare <1% iron panning, moderately sorted
200009	200010	200026	Secondary fil. Mid-greyish black silty sand with 25% unsorted flint
200010	200010	200026	Ditch cut. Linear with V-shaped profile, measuring 0.7 x 0.25 m
200011	200012	200026	Secondary fill. Mid greyish black silty sand with 25% unsorted flint
200012	200012	200026	Ditch cut. Linear with moderate sloped sides and flat base, measuring 0.68 x 0.13 m
200013	200014	200014	Secondary fill. Mid-greyish brown silty clay
200014	200014	200014	Posthole cut. Circular with V-shaped profile, measuring 0.25 x 0.2 x 0.1 m
200015	200016	200016	Secondary fill. Mid-greyish brown silty clay with 1% unsorted flint
200016	200016	200016	Posthole cut. Circular with U-shaped profile, measuring 0.25 x 0.2 x 0.2 m
200017	200019	200025	Secondary fill. Mid-greyish brown silty clay with 10% unsorted flint
200018	200019	200025	Secondary fill. Dark greyish brown silty clay
200019	200019	200025	Cut of gully. Linear with straight, shallow sides and flat base, measuring 0.5 x 0.1 m
200020	200020	200026	Ditch cut. Linear with rounded profile, measuring 1.06 x 0.22 m
200021	200020	200026	Secondary fill. Mid-brown yellow silty clay with rare <5% gravels, medium 10–50 mm, subrounded to angular, moderately sorted
200022	200020	200026	Secondary fill. Mid-brown grey clayey silt with rare <3% manganese flecks, moderately sorted and rare <3% gravels, medium 10–50 mm, subrounded to angular, moderately sorted
200023	200024	200027	Secondary fill. Mid-greyish brown silty sand with 10% flint, unsorted
200024	200024	200027	Ditch cut. Curvilinear with straight, shallow sides and flat base, measuring 0.6 x 0.1 m
200025	100008 100011 100013 200019	200025	Group number for gully. Linear north/south aligned, measuring 6.7 x 0.25–0.54 x 0.1–0.18 m.
200026	200010 200012 200020 2503	200026	Group number for ditch. Linear WNW/ESE aligned, measuring 15.6 x 0.7–1.06 x 0.13–0.25 m
200027	200004 200006 200024	200027	Group number for ditch. Curvilinear measuring 8.5 x 0.43–0.73 x 0.07–0.25
1403	1403	1403	Ditch cut. Linear ditch with steep, irregular sides and a V-shaped base. Length: 2.33 m. Width: 0.84 m. Depth: 0.27 m

Context Number	Cut Number	Group Number	Description
1404	1403	1403	Secondary fill. Mid-red yellow silty clay with rare 5% fine <5 mm chalk flecks inclusions
1405	1403	1403	Primary fill. Light brown yellow silty clay with rare 1% manganese fine <5 mm moderately sorted rare 1% chalk flecks fine <5 mm moderately sorted inclusions
1406	1403	1403	Secondary fill. Mid-black grey clay silt with rare flint gravels 5% fine-medium 5-40 mm moderately sorted inclusions
1407	1407	1407	Ditch cut. Linear ditch with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: 2.19 m. Depth: 0.23 m.
1408	1407	1407	Secondary fill. Mid-bluish grey silty clay with 3% sparse subrounded flints well sorted <+=20 x 15 mm, occasional charcoal flecking inclusions
1409	1409	200025	Ditch cut. Linear with moderate, straight sides. Length: >4.00 m. Width: >0.14 m. Depth: 0.11 m
1410	1409	200025	Mid-bluish grey silty clay with 3% rare small rounded flints <+=15 x 10 mm well sorted, 1% rare small chalk pieces, occasional charcoal flecking inclusions
2503	2503	200026	Ditch terminal. Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Width: 1.90 m. Depth: 0.40 m
2504	2503	200026	Primary fill. Light yellow red silty clay with common 15% fine <5 mm chalk flecks inclusions
2505	2503	200026	Secondary fill. Mid-white grey silty clay with 5-10% flint gravels fine-med 5-20 mm subangular moderately sorted inclusions
2506	2503	200026	Deliberate dump. Mid-black grey silty cay with 5-10% fine-coarse flint gravels 5-50 mm inclusions
2507	2503	200026	Primary fill. Light white yellow silty clay with rare 5% flint gravels and cobbles 5-80 mm subangular moderately sorted inclusions
2508	2503	200026	Tertiary fill. Mid-grey brown silt

Appendix 2 Pottery Data

Table 5 Pottery dating summary

Site code	Feature No	Feature Type	Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
240990	-	Unstratified	U/S	M1-2	A sherd from a grog-gritted wheel made jar with cordoned decoration.	2	60	7
240990	001403	Ditch	001406	M1-2?	A small group including grog-gritted, grey ware and shell-gritted sherds. A small sherd from a fine grey ware beaker was also noted.	15	173	8
240990	001407	Ditch	001408	EM2-?3	A small group including sherds from a light-fired grog-gritted jar, sandy grey ware and fumed grey ware. If the fumed grey ware can be considered of Nene Valley grey ware type a date sometime from the early-mid 2nd century AD or later. Also present was the rim from a shell-gritted channel-rimmed jar from sample 1402.	27	252	33
240990	001409	Ditch	001410	M1-E2	A single abraded light-fired grog-gritted sherd.	1	1	0
240990	002503	Ditch	002505	M1-2	A medium sized group including a grog-gritted sherd and sherds from a shell-gritted storage jar with an under-cut rim (eg. Perrin 1999, Fig. 70.440). Sherds from this storage jar were also present in context 2506. This form was a common type that may have been produced in the 1st century AD.	58	1018	67
240990	002503	Ditch	002506	AD120+	A fresh medium sized group including the base from a samian form Dr18/31 bowl, a sandy white ware mortarium with a hooked rim, grey ware lipped bowls, grog-gritted white wares, a shell and grog-gritted necked jar, a Bourne type shell-gritted jar and a significant proportion of a large necked storage jar with an undercut rim. The pottery from this group ranges in date from the later 1st to 2nd century AD with a deposition date for the assemblage as a whole of sometime after AD120. A small proportion of the pottery from this context was retrieved from sample 2502.	129	2063	158
240990	002503	Ditch	002507	M1-2	A single grog-gritted sherd.	1	11	0
240991	100004	Pit	100005	AD120+?	A small group of grey ware body sherds and a fragment of grog-gritted ceramic building material.	11	33	0
240991	100008	Ditch	100008	ML2-3	Sherds from two grey ware jars. One jar has rim sherds suggesting a necked profile with an undercut rim	31	566	50
240991	100008	Ditch	100009	3-4C	A small group including sherds from a shell-gritted necked jar (Brown 1994, Fig.26. 80), a grog-gritted bowl with a reeded rim, a grey ware necked jar or bowl and a shell-gritted flanged bowl	12	190	44

Site code	Feature No	Feature Type	Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
					similar to examples from Harrold (Brown 1994, Fig.27. 122). The date of the group rests on the shell-gritted bowl upon the bowl a type similar to examples from Phase 3 at the Harrold kilns although derivatives of this form type became more common in the later 3rd to 4th century AD.			
240991	100011	Ditch	100012	Roman	A single grog-gritted sherd.	1	8	0
240991	100015	Ditch	100016	ML2-?3	A medium sized group including sherds from grog-gritted jars, a shell-gritted jar a grey ware channel-rimmed jar and samian including a fragment from a form Dr27 cup. Nene Valley type fumed grey ware jars and a fragment from a barbotine decorated beaker suggested deposition in the later 2nd century AD or later.	76	1118	144
240991	100017	Ditch	100018	ML2-?3	A small group including a fragment from a large grog-gritted jar rim and a smaller rim from an everted rimmed jar. Nene Valley type fumed grey wares present included sherds from a grey ware lipped bowl. An optimal date would appear likely to be later 2nd to mid-3rd century AD.	22	248	41
240991	100020	Ditch	100021	Roman	A small group including sherds from a dark surfaced grey ware base and a grog-gritted sherd. This material may conceivably be of early Roman date.	7	62	0
240991	100022	Ditch	100023	L1-?E2	A small group including sherds from a handmade shell-gritted jar with a faint channeled rim and a necked jar. A basal fragment from a fine grey ware jar or beaker and sherds from a 'burnt' light-fired white ware vessel. The material in this group may be of 1st century AD date.	17	212	14
240991	200002	Layer	200002	Medieval/ 2C	A small group including samian ware, fine grey ware and a fragment from a grog-gritted reeded rimmed bowl. The group is dated by the presence of a green glazed oxidised sherd and high-fired sherds that date to the medieval period.	13	95	16
240991	200004	Ditch	200005	AD120+	A small group including a very abraded samian sherd, a Dressel 20 amphora sherd and grog-gritted sherds.	9	333	0
240991	200006	Ditch	200008	Roman	A small group of light-fired grog-gritted sherds.	3	22	0
240991	200010	Ditch	200009	L2-?3	A small group including grog-gritted channel-rimmed jars, a grey ware lipped bowl and a sherd of Nene Valley type fumed grey ware. A small number of sherds were retrieved from sample 100003	11	309	64

Site code	Feature No	Feature Type	Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
240991	200012	Ditch	200011	M1-2	A small group including the rim from a large light-fired grog-gritted necked jar and shell-gritted sherds.	28	347	14
240991	200019	Ditch	200017	ML2/Modern?	A large proportion of a Nene Valley type grey ware wide-mouthed jar with burnised wavy line decoration on the neck (Perrin 1999, Fig. 56. 20). A small quantity of fine grey ware and grog-gritted sherds were also present. Additional pottery was retrieved from sample 100002 including a modern glazed sherd.	42	895	94
240991	200019	Ditch	200018	ML2	A single sherd from sample 100001: a Nene Valley grey ware wide-mouthed jar with burnised wavy line decoration similar to the vessel occuring in context 200017.	1	20	0
240991	200020	Ditch	200021	M1-M2	Sherds from a shell-gritted jar with a wedge-shaped jar (eg. Timby 2009, Fig. 5.4.10).	17	203	60
240991	200020	Ditch	200022	EM2+	A medium sized group including a sherd from a light-fired grog-gritted bowl (Timby 2009, Fig. 5.6.45), a necked jar or flask in an oxidised fabric and sherds from a fumed Nene Valley type grey ware jar. The date of this group rests upon the Nene Valley type grey ware vessel.	33	228	41
240991	200024	Ditch	200023	L1?-2	A small group mostly consisting of a large grog-gritted bowl (as Timby 2009, Fig. 5.6.48) with a grey fired fabric and a grey ware sherd.	16	1189	36

Appendix 3 Environmental Data

Table 6 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	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
Tr 14	RB	Ditch	1403	1406	240990_1401	36	50	90%, A, E	C	-	*Triticum spelta*, Triticeae	-	-	4	*Quercus* sp. and a mix of non-*Quercus* sp. Poor condition.	Moll-t (C)	Poor
Tr 14	RB	Ditch	1407	1408	240990_1402	36	100	60%, A (incl. modern cereal chaff), A, E, F	A	-	*Triticum* sp. (incl. *T. spelta*), *Hordeum* sp., Triticeae	C	*Corylus avellana* nutshell fragment	13	*Quercus* sp. and a mix of non-*Quercus* sp. Poor condition.	Moll-t (C)	Poor
Tr 25	RB	Ditch	2503	2505	240990_2501	12	20	90%, C, E, I	C	-	Triticeae	C	*Corylus avellana* nutshell fragment	1	*Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Very poor condition. Some mineral coating.	-	Very poor. Mineral coating.
Tr 25	RB	Ditch	2503	2506	240990_2502	39	60	70%, A (incl. modern cereal chaff), E, I, F	A	C	*Triticum* sp. (incl. *spelta*) grains and a glume base (very poorly preserved), *Hordeum* sp., Triticeae	A	*Corylus avellana* nutshell fragments (A), *Poa/Phleum* sp., *Odontities vernus/Euphrasia* sp., Trifolieae, Vicieae (small-seeded)	55	Mostly *Quercus* sp. (incl. roundwood) with a smaller quantity of non-*Quercus* species. Very poor condition. Some mineral coating.	-	Poor. Mineral coating.

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	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
1	RB	Gully (Vessel)	200019	200018	240991_100001	2	1	60%, A (incl. modern cereal chaff)	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Highly fragmented <2mm	Unburnt bone, highly fragmented (B)	-
1	RB	Gully	200019	200017	240991_100002	14	8	70%, A** (incl. modern cereal chaff), I, F	C	C	*Triticum aestivum* rachis node, *Triticum spelta* glume base, Triticeae grain and fragments	-	-	<1	Highly fragmented <2mm	Moll-t (C)	Very poor
2	RB	Ditch	200010	200009	240991_100003	15	15	50%, C	C	-	*Triticum aestivum/durum* grain	C	cf. Avena sp.	12	Mostly *Quercus* sp. with small fragments of non-*Quercus* species. Very poor condition. Heavy mineral coated.	-	Poor. Mineral coating.
2	RB	Ditch	200004	200005	240991_100004	14	33	40%, A**	A	A	*Triticum* sp. grains, *Triticum spelta* glume bases, Triticeae grains and fragments	B	*Rumex* sp., *Odontities vernus/Euphrasia* sp., Indet thorn	21	Mostly *Quercus* sp. with a mix of non-*Quercus* species, including. Moderate condition. Some mineral coating.	-	Poor. Mineral coating.

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A* = 30–100, A** = 100–500, A*** = >500; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs

Appendix 4 OASIS record

OASIS ID (UID): wessexar1-504641
Project Name: Post Excavation Assessment, Excavation at Land north of Oundle Road, Weldon, Corby, Northamptonshire
Activity type: Excavation
Project Identifier(s): 240991
Planning Id: NC/21/00124/DPA
Reason for Investigation: Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work: Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates: 18-Oct-2021 - 29-Oct-2021
HER: Northamptonshire SMR

Project Methodology: Excavation, investigation and recording of two areas measuring 25 x 20 m and 20 x 20 m (Area 1 and Area 2). Both areas were extended in accordance with the WSI to fully expose archaeological features.
Project Results: The majority of the archaeological remains were Romano-British in date, of a single phase of activity dating to the 2nd century, and possibly extending into the 3rd century AD. The features comprised seven ditches, two pits and two undated postholes. The finds assemblage was modest but provided good dating for most features. The pottery and environmental remains provided evidence of rural domestic activity, with crop processing occurring in the vicinity. Comparisons with a nearby excavation south of Oundle Road places this site within a larger landscape of Romano-British rural settlement and agriculture. The features are of similar morphology and date and the pottery assemblage is very similar in type.
Keywords:
Subject/Period: Ditch: ROMAN
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Subject/Period: Rubbish Pit: ROMAN
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Archive:
Physical Archive - to be deposited with Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive
Reports in OASIS:
Jackson-Slater, C., (2022). Land north of Oundle Road, Weldon, Corby, Northamptonshire, Post Excavation Assessment. Sheffield: Wessex Archaeology. 240991.03.

Appendix 5 Selection Strategy

240990-1
Oundle Road, Corby
version 1, February 2022

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management		
Project Manager	Ashley Tuck	
Archaeological Archive Manager	Lorraine Mepham	
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Stakeholders		**Date Contacted**
Collecting Institution(s)	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC) Archaeology Data Service	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Andy Swann Assurance: Ashley Tuck	N/A
Landowner / Developer	BAM Construction UK	
Other (external)	Archaeological Advisor, North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) Orion Heritage	
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 all archaeological project work (evaluation and excavation) undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs.

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)
- *Archaeological Archives Standards*, Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (latest version April 2021)

Relevant research agendas

- East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the historic environment of the East Midlands, https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/ResearchFramework

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 are to:

- Determine the date, nature and extent of settlement activity, and its development in the Romano-British period
- Determine the date, extent and character of landscape organisation in the Romano-British period
- Assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

REVIEW POINTS

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

1. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
2. Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; NNC Archaeological Advisor; Orion Heritage; 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; NARC; NNC Archaeological Advisor; Orion Heritage

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	1, 2

	more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	
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; external specialist; NARC; NNC Archaeological Advisor; Orion Heritage; 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 (64 frags)	Negligible quantity, poor condition, not all identifiable to species. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2

Burnt (unworked) flint (8 pieces)	Minimal quantity; undatable material of uncertain origin. No archaeological significance; no further archaeological potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Ceramic building material (5 frags)	Minimal quantity, Romano-British; almost certainly redeposited; no items of intrinsic interest. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Fired clay (25 frags)	Minimal quantity, undiagnostic material of uncertain origin, presumed Romano-British. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Marine shell (1 shell)	Single piece; no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Do not retain.	1, 2
Pottery (583 sherds)	assemblage of moderate size, comprises useful dataset for the region; further research potential beyond the immediate remit of the current project. Retain all.	1, 2
Stone (3 pieces)	Minimal quantity, possible roof tiles, probably Romano-British. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	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; NARC; NNC Archaeological Advisor; Orion Heritage

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. 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.

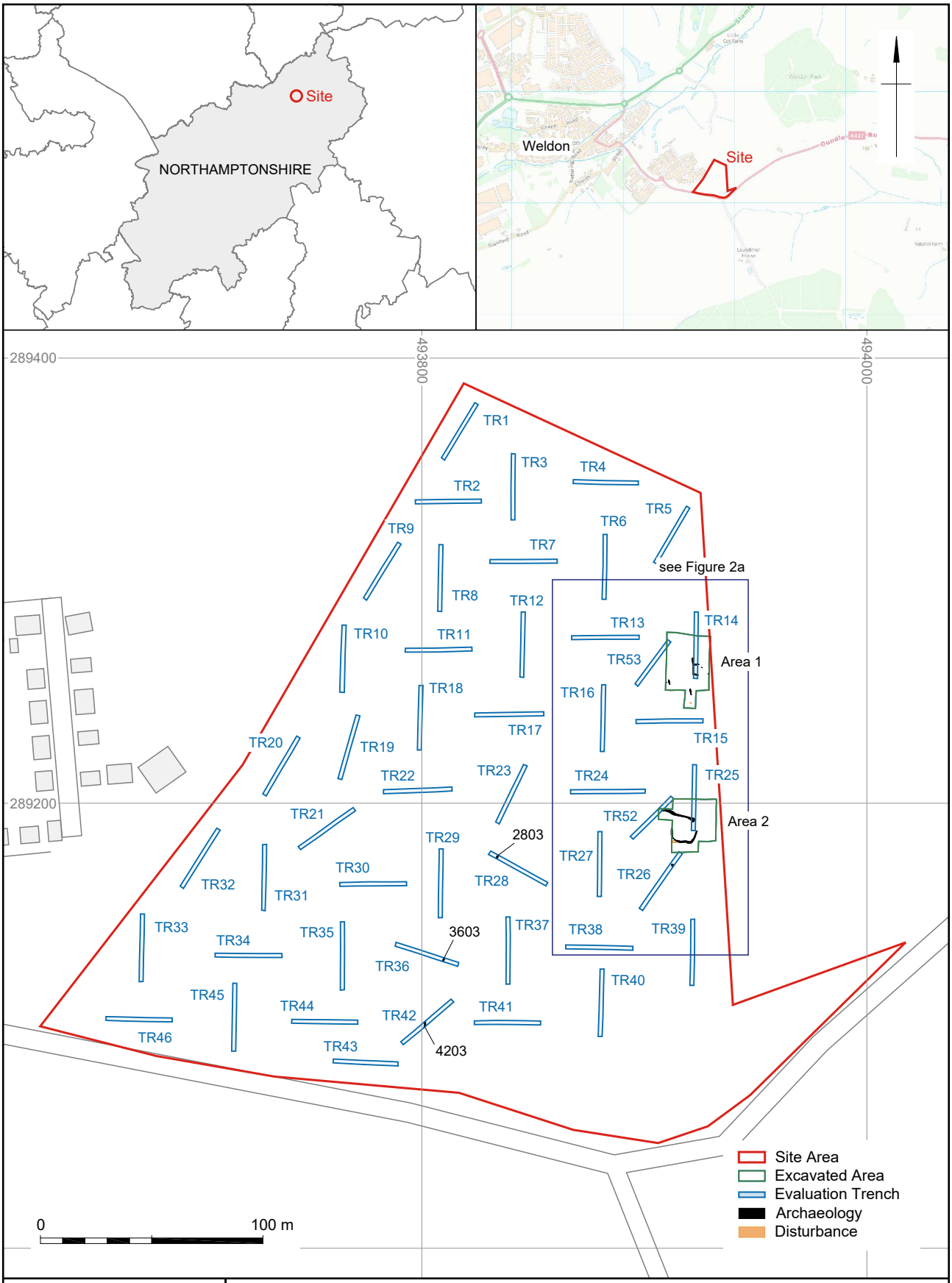
Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Unprocessed samples	All samples taken have been processed	-
Unsorted residues	All residues have been sorted	-
Assessed flots with extracted materials	Assessed flots with extracted materials from the evaluation (1401, 1402, 2501, 2502) and mitigation (100001, 100002, 100003, 100004) all have no further research potential and should be discarded.	1, 2

De-Selected Material

De-selected material and finds from samples will be responsibly disposed of after processing and post-ex recording.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders



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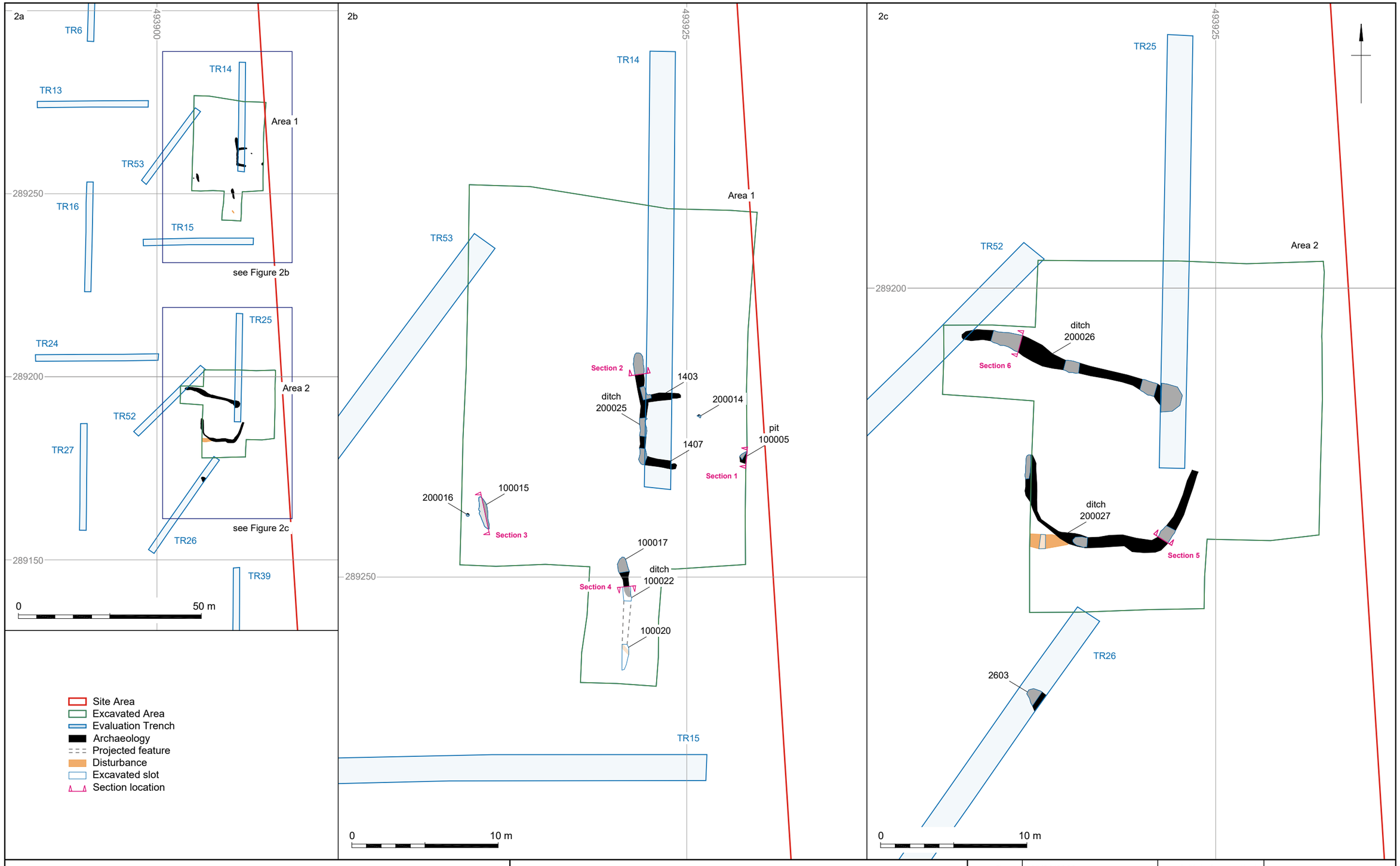
Site location

Figure 1



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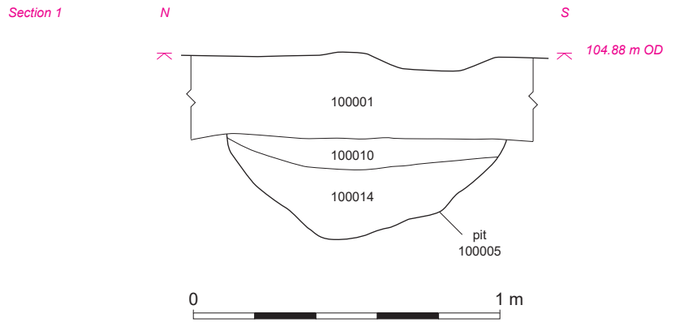
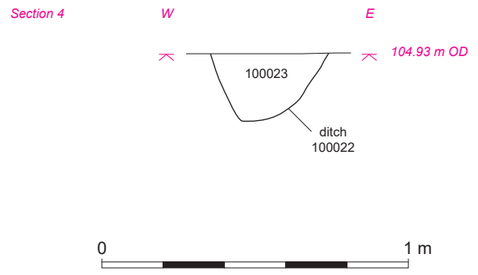
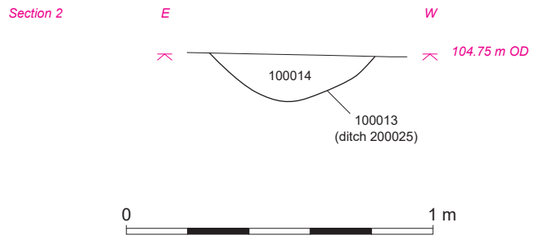
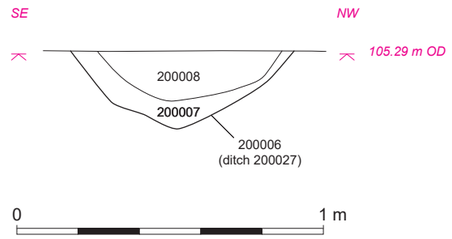
Areas 1 and 2

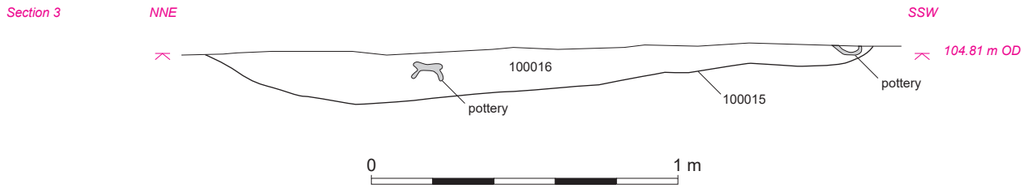
Figure 2

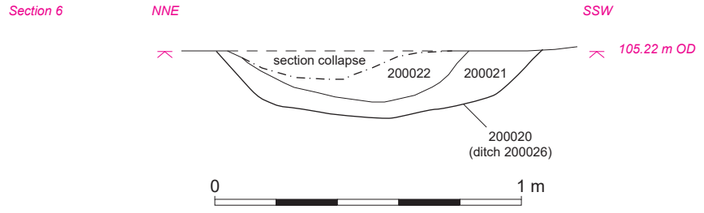












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Sections

Figure 3

Plate 1: Ditch 200025, slot 100013, view from the north

Plate 2: Ditch 200025, slot 200019 with pottery in fill, view from the south

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Plate 3: Ditch 100022, view from the south

Plate 4: Pit 100015, view from the west

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Plate 5: Ditch 200026, slot 200010, view from the east

Plate 6: Ditch 200027, slot 200004, view from the west

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Plate 7: Ditch 200027, slot 200006, view from the north-east

Plate 8: Posthole 200016, view from the south

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Plate 9: Top view of the white ware mortarium

Plate 10: Side view of mortarium spout

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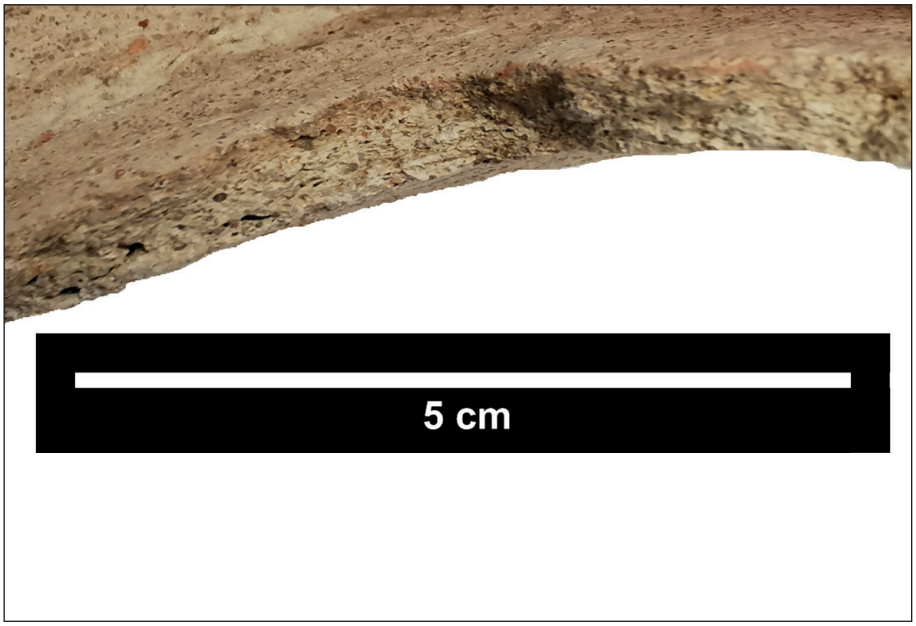

Plate 11: Fabric detail of the mortarium

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