A Community Archaeology Excavation at Fane Road Allotment Site, Fane Road Peterborough



Excavation Report



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A Community Archaeology Excavation at Fane Road Allotment Site, Fane Road, Peterborough

Archaeological Excavation

By James Fairbairn

With contributions by

Chris Faine MA MSc AClfA, Rachel Fosberry AClfA, Alex Fryer, Alice Lyons BA MA MClfA, Anthony Haskins BSc MSc PClfA, Sarah Percival BA MA MClfA, Ruth Shaffrey BA (hons), PhD , Zoë Uí Choileáin BA MA BABAO, Christine Howard-Davis BAMClfA and Stephen Wadeson

Editor: Rachel Clarke BA MCIfA

Illustrator: Charlotte Walton MPhil



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Oxford Archaeology East,

15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500 f: 01223 850599 e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

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Table of Contents

Summary	6
1 Introduction	8
1.1 Location and scope of work	8
1.2 Geology and topography	8
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	9
1.4 Acknowledgements	10
2 Aims and Methodology	11
2.1 Aims	11
2.2 Methodology	11
3 Results	13
3.1 Introduction	13
3.2 Phase 1: Later Iron Age (late 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD) (Fig. 3)	13
3.3 Phase 2: Roman (Figs 3 and 4)	14
3.4 Phase 3: Late Roman/Saxon	19
3.5 Phase 4: Post-Roman	20
3.6 Finds Summary	20
3.7 Environmental Summary	20
4 Discussion and Conclusions	21
4.1 Introduction	21
4.2 Iron Age settlement	21
4.3 Roman villa buildings	21
4.4 The abandonment of the villa	23
4.5 Conclusion	23
4.6 Significance	23
4.7 Future work	24
Appendix A. Geophysical Survey Report	25
Appendix B. Context Inventory	26
Appendix C. Finds Reports	30
C.1 Flint	30
C.2 Coins	31
C.3 Metalwork	31
C.4 Stonework	34
C.5 Glass	34



C.6 Loomweights	35
C.7 Tesserae	
C.8 Painted Wall Plaster	
C.9 Iron Age Pottery	42
C.10 Roman Pottery	44
C.11 The Samian	45
Appendix D. Environmental Reports	
D.1 Human Skeletal Remains	49
D.2 Faunal Remains	51
D.3 Environmental Samples	53
D.4 Shell	54
Appendix E. Bibliography	57
Appendix F. OASIS Report Form	62



List of Figures

- Figure 1 Location of the Community Excavation (red) in relation to the 2011 OA East Itter Crescent excavation (grey)
- Figure 2 Excavation Areas 1, 2 and 3
- Figure 3 Area 1
- Figure 4 Area 2
- Figure 5 Selected sections
- Figure 6 Reconstruction of the Itter Crescent Iron Age settlement (Jon Cane)
- Figure 7 Reconstruction of the Romano-British villa in the early 4th century (Jon Cane)

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Overview of excavation Area 1, from west
- Plate 2 Excavation working shot (Area 1) in week 2, from west
- Plate 3 Iron Age gully **197**, from west
- Plate 4 Iron Age pit **199**, from north
- Plate 5 Wall foundations and internal features, from north-east
- Plate 6 Structural remains in the northern part of Area 1
- Plate 7 Wall **167**, from north
- Plate 8 Pilae stacks viewed from the north
- Plate 9 Curvilinear foundation **170**, from north
- Plate 10 Robber trench **207**, from south

Plate 11 Internal layer 105

- Plate 12 Plinth base **102**, from south
- Plate 13 Roman external surface 204/121
- Plate 14 Area 2, from north-west
- Plate 15 Area 2, Test Pit 1 showing stone surface 147/191/141, from north
- Plate 16 Area 2, Test Pit 2 showing stone surface 147/191/141, from south
- Plate 17 Area 2, wall **139**, from east
- Plate 18 Area 3, showing wall north
- Plate 19 Area 1, Saxon skeleton 110, from south
- Plate 20 Detail of skeleton 110
- Plate 21 Detail shot showing re-rendering of plasterwork found in Area 1



Summary

Between 12th May and 13th June 2014 a community excavation, co-ordinated by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East), was carried out on land at the Fane Road Allotments, Peterborough (TL 518 301) as part of a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Three small excavation areas were opened, cleaned and planned and although only minimal excavation was undertaken, further evidence of the Iron Age settlement was found along with a continuation of the villa complex first excavated in 2011 by OA East. The finds range from a small Roman glass bead and several copper alloy brooches to many kilogrammes of Roman mortar and ceramic building material (CBM), as well as fragments of painted wall plaster; deriving from the various phases of villa building (including a bath house) extending to the north.

The Community Excavation included a range of different opportunities for both visitors and participants alike. In addition to learning excavation and recording skills, participants also took part in finds processing and attended a number of lunch-time talks covering a range of topics. The site was also open to visitors and there were a number of organised tours, open days and exhibitions. Details of all the associated events can be found in the OA East HLF Evaluation report (David-Crawford-White 2015).





1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological Community Excavation was co-ordinated by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) at the Fane Road allotment site, Fane Road, Peterborough (TF18230 01822; Fig. 1) during May and early June 2014. This excavation formed part of a multifaceted heritage project funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, awarded to the Fane Road Allotment Association and the Friends of Itter Park in 2013.
- 1.1.2 The project was born out of the unexpected discovery of a previously-unknown Iron Age settlement and Roman villa during an evaluation and subsequent excavation by OA East in 2011-2012 (Henley *et al.* 2011). This fieldwork, which was located at Itter Crescent adjacent to the Fane Road allotments, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes (East Midlands) and undertaken in advance of a residential development. Further details of the Romans of Fane Road heritage project are provided in an Evaluation Report (Crawford-White 2015), while the Itter Crescent excavations, with the results of the Community Excavation incorporated, will be published as an Oxford Archaeology monograph in the near future (Lyons *et al.* Forthcoming).
- 1.1.3 One of the main project aims was to engage the people of Peterborough in their heritage by delivering a programme of wide-ranging and inclusive events and learning opportunities (built around the Community Excavation) to suit individuals of all ages and abilities. The Community Excavation took place from Monday 18th May until Sunday 8th June: a total of 20 days over a 21 day period. Additional preparation and recording time for OA East staff was allowed for at the beginning and end of the community element of the project.
- 1.1.4 The Community Excavation was designed to provide a very 'hands on' archaeological learning experience for the members of the Fane Road Allotment Association and the general public living in Peterborough and the surrounding areas. The excavation targeted areas to the south of the villa discovered by OA East in 2011-2012, with the aim of identifying if the remains of the villa, particularly a possible south wing, continued into this area.
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Peterborough City Museum in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies at approximately 11m OD with the underlying geology recorded as predominately Limestone of the Cornbrash Formation with River Terrace deposits on the far east of the site (British Geological Society (BGS) Sheet 158). Within the excavation areas, the soils were typically disturbed through cultivation and consisted of dark silty clay to an average depth of 0.30m.
- 1.2.2 All of the excavation areas were located within various allotment plots, some of which were under cultivation whilst others lay dormant. A new housing development extends to the immediate north of the site, on the main site of the Itter Crescent Roman villa excavated in 2011-2012. The nearest watercourse lies approximately 600m to the north-east.



1.2.3 The southern extent of the villa appeared to have survived as a slight mound in excavation Area 1; and was clearly evident after the stripping of the overburden in this area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following background is largely based on that included in the Post-Excavation Assessment (Henley *et al.* 2012) and a desk based assessment (DBA) for the Itter Crescent excavation (Flitcroft 2011). The latter was produced prior to the 2011 OA East evaluation and was based on a search of the Peterborough City Historic Environment Record (HER) covering an area extending over a 1km radius from the centre of the site (Flitcroft 2011, fig. 1).

General

1.3.1 Before the evaluation took place, Peterborough City HER contained no records relating to archaeological sites or finds from the Itter Crescent/Fane Road area itself. The majority of the records relate to finds of artefacts, including Roman pottery and coins, made prior to the extensive development of the area in the 1960s and 1970s, all located at some distance to the west of the study area.

Early Prehistoric: Palaeolithic-Bronze Age

1.3.2 There are five records relating to prehistoric finds within the search area. They include a Palaeolithic hand axe (HER 2211/50129), a Neolithic worked flint arrowhead (HER 2205), a Bronze Age arrowhead (HER 2218) and a small group of early prehistoric worked flints (HER 51932).

Iron Age

1.3.3 Iron Age findspots include an Iron Age coin (HER 2220) and a spearhead (HER 2206). Excavations at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe (HER 51461, 51933), 800m south-east of the study site, revealed three phases of settlement spanning the Middle to Late Iron Age.

Roman

- 1.3.4 Extending along the Nene Valley, approximately 7km to the south-west of Itter Crescent/Fane Road, are the best known Roman archaeological remains of the area (Henley *et al.* 2012, fig. 2). These were serviced by a network of Roman roads, including Ermine Street and the Fen Causeway, with river crossings identified at *Durobrivae*, Gunwade Ferry, Longthorpe and Botolph Bridge.
- 1.3.5 The Roman town of *Durobrivae* (SAM 130) lay to the south of the River Nene on the line of Ermine Street. Extensive Roman remains found nearby at Castor include the 'palace' or *praetorium* (SAM PE93). The military forts at Longthorpe (SAM PE135), Water Newton (SAM 130) and Sutton Cross (SAM PE138) all lay relatively close to the subject site. Strung out along River Nene and Ermine Street to the south-west of Itter Crescent/Fane Road were various villas, including those at Mill Hill, Castor (SAM PE128), Sibson Hollow (SAM PE126) and Sutton Field (SAM PE125). Limited investigation has also been conducted on another villa to the north of Oxey Wood, Upton (SAM PE132).
- 1.3.6 Within Peterborough itself, the remains of possible high status buildings (including destruction debris and a mosaic floor) have been found relatively close to the site (see Lyons *et al.* forthcoming and Henley *et al.* 2012, fig. 2).



1.3.7 Roman findspots recorded in the HER include two Roman coins (HER 50424, 52107) to the west and north-west of the Itter Crescent/Fane Road site. A single piece of Roman tile or *tessera* was found approximately 400m to the north (HER 50599), while a small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from medieval features during archaeological investigations at Paston Rectory (HER 50502). A larger group of coins and Roman pottery is reported to have been found 100m west of the study site in 1912 (HER 2203).

Late Saxon

1.3.8 Paston is thought to have developed as a village settlement in the Late Saxon period; 11th-century carved stones (HER 2244b) are incorporated into the medieval parish church of All Saints (HER 2244). A small quantity of Late Saxon pottery was recovered during excavations at Paston Rectory (HER 50502/51299).

Geophysical survey (Masters 2015; Appendix A)

1.3.9 An earth resistance survey was undertaken on April 20th 2014 as part of the Romans of Fane Road Heritage Lottery funded project. The survey highlighted some significant anomalies indicating possible wall foundations relating to the Roman villa complex on this site. Other anomalies recorded probably indicate the presence of ditches and pits.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to acknowledge the numerous people who took part in the excavation, David Crawford-White for facilitating the event and the members of the Fane Road Allotment association who had so much enthusiasm for what lies under their feet. Full lists of those involved in the organisation of the Romans of Fane Road heritage project are provided in the project evaluation report (Crawford-White 2015). Thanks are also extended to Alex Fryer for helping to compile the reports on the shell, plaster and tesserae found during the excavation. Rebecca Casa-Hatton visited the site and monitored the work. Louise Bush and Pat Moan carried out the survey work and Stephen Macaulay managed the project.



2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 One of the main objectives of this excavation was to provide instruction in the processes of archaeological excavation to members of the Fane Road Allotment Association and the general public who had signed up for the Community Excavation.
- 2.1.2 Learning opportunities included site set up; geophysical survey; pre-excavation planning; excavation and recording. These skills were learnt whilst investigating the remains of the known Iron Age settlement and Romano-British villa site initially identified on the adjacent Itter Crescent site. A detailed account of the community involvement can be found in the Project Evaluation report by Oxford Archaeology East (Crawford-White 2015).
- 2.1.3 The main research objective of the Community Excavation was to reveal more of the Iron Age and Roman remains related to the discoveries at Itter Crescent and to further understand the origins, layout, extent and development of this important site.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 It was decided through consultation with Dr Rebecca Casa-Hatton, the Peterborough City Archaeologist, Stephen Macaulay and James Drummond-Murray (Senior Project Managers at OA East) that due to the emphasis being placed on the community element, and that those participating would have little or no experience in archaeological practise, that it would be advisable not to undertake too many interventions across the excavation site.
- 2.2.2 With this in mind it was decided to open three small areas:
 - Area 1 (Fig. 2) was sited directly south of the villa discovered in 2011-12 and measured approximately 10m x15m;
 - Area 2 (Fig. 2) was situated south of Area 1. The presence of a medium pressure gas main meant that an exclusion zone had to be imposed between Areas 1 and 2;
 - Area 3 (Fig. 2) was located on an existing allotment located to the south-west of the main excavation area (Area 1).
- 2.2.3 On-site excavation strategy consisted mostly of cleaning and exposing existing surfaces and walls without removing too much of the villa's *in-situ* remains. For example, in the main excavation trench (Area 1), the area was divided into transects and starting at the northern end of each, a team of volunteers removed overburden and cleaned around the exposed archaeological features. In other areas (2 and 3) where there was significant truncation, test pits were excavated within the Areas to target stone rubble seen during machining.
- 2.2.4 Where archaeological interventions were undertaken it was in areas of the site that were considered to be of a less complex nature, *i.e.* external surfaces, or areas located away from the complex internal structure of the building(s). The presence of a medium pressure gas pipeline that crossed the allotment site on an east-west orientation dictated the location of some of the trenches and meant that some trenches (notably Area 2) could not be fully investigated.
- 2.2.5 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled 360°-type excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.



- 2.2.6 The site survey was carried out by using a Leica GS 08. During the monitoring of the excavation it was decided that where possible the GPS could also be used to plan the exposed features. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.7 The work took place in dry to very wet conditions. Environmental samples were taken from relevant features and metal-detecting was undertaken throughout the excavation.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Two main phases of occupation were identified during the Community Excavation and these have been broadly dated to the Iron Age and Romano-British to Early Saxon periods (Figs 3 4). Some post-Roman activity was also identified. Features assigned to the Roman period probably represent a number of sub-phases dating to the Mid Roman (*c*. 2nd century), Mid to Late Roman (*c*. mid 2nd century to mid 4th century) and Late Roman/Early Saxon (*c*. mid 4th-5th century), based on the analysis of the main Itter Crescent excavation to the north. However, in accordance with the Community Excavation methodology, few features were fully-exposed or excavated and as such most features and deposits have not been fully characterised in terms of their extents, dimensions, stratigraphic relationships or date. Full interpretation and discussion of the features and sub-phases and how they relate to the overall Iron Age settlement and development of the villa complex will be included in the forthcoming publication (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming).
- 3.1.2 Iron Age evidence was only revealed in the trench in Area 1. This was in the form of curvilinear gullies and pits. Evidence for Roman occupation was exposed in Areas 1, 2 and 3, where features and artefacts were discovered that link these areas of excavation to the that of the Romano-British villa and Iron Age settlement found at Itter Crescent to the immediate north (Henley *et al.* 2012; Lyons *et al.* forthcoming). Further details of contexts, artefacts and ecofacts from the current excavation can be found in Appendices B-C.

3.2 Phase 1: Later Iron Age (late 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD) (Fig. 3)

Area 1

Possible roundhouse gullies

- 3.2.1 A small gully **116/175/197** was recorded in the very north-eastern corner of the site and may be the remains of a drip gully of a roundhouse. This steep-sided feature was 0.25m deep and had a truncated width of 0.32m (Fig. 5, s.11 and Plate 1). It was filled with a dark brown silty clay (196) that contained pottery dated to the later Iron Age.
- 3.2.2 A probable continuation of this feature could be seen just to the south (Fig. 3), where a small curvilinear feature **212** was recorded but not excavated. Both were sealed by an external surface (121/204), that is probably of Roman origin (see below).
- 3.2.3 Located a few metres to the south-west of **212** was another curvilinear feature or possible gully (**203**), that measured 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep. To the west it was sealed beneath Roman occupation layers (see below). It was filled with a dark brown sandy clay silt (202) that contained loose stones and a small amount of ceramic building material that was probably intrusive from the overlying layers.
- 3.2.4 To the immediate north of gully **203** was another smaller curvilinear feature (**206**). This would have been of a much smaller circumference than the others uncovered in this area. It measured 0.30m wide and had a depth of 0.18m. The single mid to light brown sandy silt contained no finds.



Pits

- 3.2.5 Pit **199**, located to the south of gully **197**, measured 0.32m deep with a steep side to the north (Fig. 5, s.13 and Plate 1). The western side of the feature was unexcavated. The pit was filled with a dark brown clay silt (198) that contained large fragments of Iron Age loomweights (Appendix C).
- 3.2.6 Feature **201** truncated pit **199** on its northern side (Fig. 5, s.13 and Plate 1). This feature had steep sides and measured 0.55m deep and had a width of 0.90m. Its single dark silty fill (200) contained loose stones and a small amount of Iron Age pottery. It is possible that **201** was another gully or pit associated with the Iron Age settlement but too little was exposed to determine this. The small area investigated indicated that feature **201** was truncated by a shallow ditch or gully **203** (see above).
- 3.2.7 Part of small, shallow pit (**119**) was revealed to the north of **203** and between gullies **212** and **206**: although undated, it was also sealed beneath the stoney layer (121/204) associated with the later villa (see below). The pit was only partially excavated but it could be seen that it measured 0.8m wide and had a depth of 0.20m. It was steep sided and filled with a dark grey brown silty material (118) that contained a few small stones in addition to fragments of loomweight.
- 3.2.8 Although only a small area was investigated on this side of Area 1, it is clear that Iron Age features were sealed beneath the Roman occupation layers, the density of which suggests that further features of this date are likely to survive beneath the later layers across the area.
- 3.2.9 Pit (**195**) relating to the Iron Age phase of occupation was found in the western part of Area 1. This feature, revealed in the north-west corner of the area, was sub-circular in plan and had gradually-sloping, irregular sides. It had a diameter of 1.50m and a depth of 0.80m. The fill (194) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay that contained a few fragments of animal bone and a small amount of Late Iron Age pottery (Appendix C). The presence of this feature provides further evidence that Iron Age remains may extend beneath the Roman levels across the excavation area and beyond. This was again seen further to the west where further fragments of Iron age loomweights were recorded in pit **128**. This feature had steep sides a fairly flat base and contained a single brown silty fill (129) an as the other Iron Age features in the area was sealed by the remains of an exterior surface.
- 3.2.10 Evidence of another possible small steep sided gully **122** was noted at the along the northern edge of the excavation area (S3). It had a width of 0.30m and a depth of 0.35m. The Brown silty clay fill (123) contained a small amount of pottery and bone. Due to the feature being at the northern edge of excavation it is not possible to be certain of any orientation

3.3 Phase 2: Roman (Figs 3 and 4)

Area 1 (Fig. 3 and Plate 1)

3.3.1 A fairly complex sequence of Roman features and deposits was revealed in this area, sealing the Iron Age features described above. Many of these feature can be related to the various phases of Roman villa revealed during the Itter Crescent excavations, although as most of these elements were only partly exposed, definition of stratigraphic relationships and recovery of associated dating evidence was often not possible.



Features include wall foundations and remnants of a hypocaust system, in addition to interior and exterior surfaces and a possible base of a garden feature.

Wall foundations of a room and possible corridor (Phase 2.1)

- 3.3.2 Perhaps the earliest elements of the Roman villa revealed within Area 1 were the remnants of two L-shaped wall foundations (167/168 and 165/166) that were aligned parallel to each other in the northern part of the area (Fig. 3; Plates 9 and 12).
- 3.3.3 The more westerly of these is interpreted as being the southern extension of a room forming the end of the west range of the masonry villa phase identified in the 2011 excavation and dated to the 2nd century AD (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming). Measuring 0.50m wide, the north-south segment of the wall (**167**) was exposed for 2.5m before turning west for 4.2m (**168**) and terminating with some large stones close to a (later) pilae stack (**218**; see below). There is some indication that the larger stones at the terminal of wall **167** may have been part of a door or entrance into the room, although again this might relate to the later use of the room. Here, the small stones within the neat 'herringbone' pattern of limestone surviving in wall **167** were compressed and worn when compared to the rest of the wall. Interestingly, 2m to the north of this compressed area was another worn area (173), characterised by smaller stone and gravel pieces, again compressed and possibly indicating an opposing entrance or passageway. To the east of this was a possible internal feature or surface (170, see below).
- 3.3.4 Located approximately 1.8m to the east of wall **167** was the foundation of a similarlyconstructed stone wall (**165**), which also had a westwards extension (**166**). This had also been robbed, but it was possible to discern that the remaining stonework had been laid in a herringbone pattern. This is likely to have been the continuation of the wall defining the corridor/verandah associated with the first masonry phase of the villa. Uncovered in the Itter Crescent site to the north, the corridor ran the length of the eastern side of the main western range of villa buildings.
- 3.3.5 Remnants of a limestone surface laid in a herringbone design (221) may have been contemporary with this phase; it was subsequently built on with pilae stacks (see below).

Later use and remodelling of the room and associated features (Phase 2.2)

3.3.6 A change in use for this room in the later Roman period (late 2nd to 4th century) was suggested by what appears to have been the cutting away of the south-west corner wall and the insertion of a series of pilae. Possibly contemporary with this was a triangular piece of *in situ* masonry which measured 2m long and 2m wide (**170**). Combined, these may have formed part of a hypocaust system of a different design to that seen in the main bath house suite to the north and may indicate that this room was redesigned to be a Tepidarium or warm room. Too little of the room was excavated to be certain of this interpretation or the sequence of building phases.

Pilae stacks

3.3.7 Six separate pilae stacks (**215-220**; Fig 3 and Plate 8) were found within the internal area of the room. The pilae were groups of tile columns or stacks that would have supported the floor and allowed heat from the hypocaust system to circulate beneath the floor and up through the walls. The alignment and spacing of these stacks suggest that there were at least two and possibly three phases of pilae construction which in



turn hints at a major remodelling of the villa rooms in this area. The rubble backfill (221) which surrounded the pilae consisted of a notable amounts of ceramic building material which included a large curvilinear piece of internal decorative plaster work probably belonging to an arch that had a painted surface (Plate 21). This original surface had at some point had been re-rendered and repainted. The second coat of plaster or render was thick enough to further suggest that significant decoration or re-modelling of the rooms had taken place.

- 3.3.8 Pilae stack group **215** was the largest and best preserved of the six groups/stacks. It consisted of eight separate tile stacks bonded with mortar and which extended over an area measuring 1m x 0.40m.
- 3.3.9 Three separate stacks (**217**, **219** and **220**) were located 0.40m to the east of **215** and consisted of individual stacks of single tiles bonded with mortar; the tallest stack survived to a height of 0.15m.
- 3.3.10 The southernmost group (**218**) was slightly different from the others in that it had a superior finish which could be seen on its west facing side. The stack survived to a height of 0.28m and consisted of five separate layers of pilae tiles bonded by mortar. Originally there would have been four stacks of tiles to a pilae but only three remained here.
- 3.3.11 Another large tile (216) was located 0.40m to the west. This would have been the base of the stack onto which the four towers of tiles would have been placed, mirroring pilae 218. These pilae probably relate to a later phase of the villa as they encroached on the footprint of the south-west corner of the room/building.

Internal features (Fig. 3 and Plate 9)

3.3.12 A curvilinear-shaped feature **169/170/171** was noted being contained within the room formed by wall **167**. This feature measured 2m x 2m and contained limestone pieces laid in a similar pattern to the wall. However, larger pieces of stone had been faced by the smaller pieces along the north arm of the feature. The function of this feature is uncertain but given its close proximity to an area that was known to be heated it is possible that it could be the remnants of an alcoved seating area. This feature is superficially similar to features uncovered in the area of the main bath house in the 2011 excavations (see Lyons *et al* forthcoming).

Possible remodelling of the eastern corridor (Fig 3 and Plate 6) (Phase 2.2)

3.3.13 Wall **164**, measuring 3m in length and 0.50m wide, was located to the immediate east of wall **165** and probably represents the widening of the corridor. It had also been robbed but the stonework was clearly laid in a similar herringbone pattern to that surviving in **165**.

Large building/room

3.3.14 Evidence of a large rectangular room or building was found in the southern part of Area 1, mostly represented by robber trenches that had removed walls, a remnant of wall, and an internal surface. The foundations probably date to the latest phase of Roman villa remodelling during the mid 2nd to mid 4th century AD, while the robber trenches date to the final phase of abandonment and collapse in the mid 4th to 5th century (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming). Only small parts of this building were exposed, making interpretation of the plan and function of this area difficult.

West wall: robber trenches 152 and 207 (Fig. 3; Fig. 5, s.7 and Plate 8)



- 3.3.15 A possible early robber cut (**152**) was partially exposed in the western wall line and was found to have a depth of 0.9m and a truncated width of 0.9m (Fig. 5, s.7). It contained a single fill (151) comprising an orangey yellow silty sand material that contained rubble stone and ceramic building material. This may have been an initial cut designed to rob stone from the underlying masonry wall or surface 149.
- 3.3.16 This was truncated by a much larger robber trench (**207**) which ran north to south for possibly 9m before turning at 90° towards the east, from where it appeared to continue for a further 5m. The steep-sided cut measured 1.5m wide and had a maximum excavated depth of 1m. This was not the base of the robber trench but due to health and safety reasons it was not excavated any deeper. Its size indicates that the wall had been substantial. The fill of the trench consisted of a mixture of a dark grey silty sand (153) that contained large stones and rubble mixed with a moderate amount of ceramic building material. A small amount of Roman pottery was found within the upper parts of the cut; any structural stone work had presumably been salvaged for use elsewhere. A thin deposit of greeny grey cess like material (136) with a thickness of 0.05m had slumped into the eastern side of the trench.

South wall: robber trench **143** (Fig. 3 and Fig. 5, s. 17)

- 3.3.17 Evidence for the location of the south wall of this building may be represented by another possible robber trench (**143**). This feature was slightly wider at 2.2m than the western arm, but had a very similar profile, with an excavated depth of 0.75m. Again it was not possible to excavate to the very base of the trench for health and safety reasons.
- 3.3.18 Although more discernible fills were noted in the backfill of this southern arm, all were thought to be related to the robbing of the wall and backfill of the trench. The lowest of these fills (145) consisted of a dark brown sandy silty clay with a maximum thickness of 0.30m from which no finds were recovered. Above this was a thinner deposit of reddish dark grey ash and sand. This burnt material would most probably have originated from the heat-affected layers associated with the heated room to the north. A small amount of ceramic building material and bone was recorded within this fill.
- 3.3.19 The main, uppermost backfill deposit (137) had a maximum thickness 0.60m and was very similar in character to the fill of the intervention in the western arm of the robber trench (153, see above). A large amount of stone rubble containing ceramic building material and small amounts of pottery and shell were present within the fill. No large structural pieces of stone remained, although it is possible that these survive in the lower unexcavated parts of the robber trench.

East wall: masonry **163** (Fig. 3)

3.3.20 A *c*.3.5m-long north to south section of limestone wall foundation (**163**) probably formed the eastern wall of the building, although too little was exposed to be certain. Combined, these form a large room measuring approximately 12m by 7m. Very little was exposed of this wall but it appeared to have been of similar size and construction to other walls in the vicinity.

Internal deposits

3.3.21 Internal deposits relating to this villa building/room were also revealed in plan. The most notable of these was a thin dark brown to dark grey layer (105; Fig 3 and Plate 8) that was thought at first to be residue from the hypocaust system. After cleaning and



sampling, however, it was re-interpreted as a probable foundation layer relating to a floor surface that would have been laid here.

- 3.3.22 The layer had a maximum thickness of 0.10m and contained occasional fragments of charcoal along with moderate amounts of ceramic building material and occasional pieces of opus signinum and painted plaster. Other finds include structural fittings associated with the villa buildings, ranging from nails, a hinge and a side bolt to shards of window glass; an iron whittle-tanged from this context is of 17th century date and was presumably intrusive. In addition to these finds, partial sheep/goat and pig skeletons were found alongside other small animal bones, while environmental analysis revealed the presence of charred grains of wheat and barley which suggest this material was more likely to have originated from the malting process rather than a furnace heating the hypocaust system (Appendix C). The western extent of this material fused into a compressed white grey ash layer (112) which again had been used as a foundation or base layer. This layer had a maximum thickness of 0.12m and contained a small glass bead (sf 82). Other patches of heat-affected material (e.g. 114) may be part of this layer or may have been associated with debris from the hypocaust system to the north.
- 3.3.23 Remnants of stoney or rubble deposits were also partly exposed in the southern part of the room, probably equivalent to 149, and may relate to former surfaces.

Possible apsidal room and external features to the west (Fig 3)

- 3.3.24 Located *c*.2.5m to the west of this building, in an unexcavated area of the site, was a curvilinear spread of stoney material (unnumbered) that may represent a robber trench relating to a possible apsidal building or room. Too little was exposed to allow further interpretation, although it is not dissimilar to a building attached to the bath house of the main villa range to the north (see Lyons *et al.* forthcoming).
- 3.3.25 A shallow, roughly square-shaped cut (**102**; Fig. 3 and Plate 7) measuring 1.2m x 1m was located to the south-west of the possible apsidal structure. It had a maximum depth of 0.20m and was filled with a weakly-cemented light yellow sandy clay (103). The eastern side of the feature was covered in a mid greyish brown silty clay (104). that contained small stones and traces of gravel. This feature may have formed the base or hard standing for a garden feature or statue.

External features to the east (Fig. 3 and Plate 9)

3.3.26 Extending to the east of the villa building were the remnants of an external surface (204/121) comprising small, irregular and poorly-sorted limestone fragments pressed into the underlying soil, and sealing the Iron Age features described above. The stones, which spread over an area of approximately 4sqm and up to 0.2m thick, were on average between 0.01m and 0.02m in size. This may have been a bedding layer for a surface or pavement forming a courtyard area, although no traces of any surface material survived (apart from areas of peagrit): presumably this would have robbed away and reused elsewhere.

Area 2 (Fig. 4 and Plates 14-17)

3.3.27 Area 2 was located to the south-west of Area 1 in an area that was until recently used for dumping rubbish collected from the allotments. The trench measured 13.5m x 14.5m. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m. Two test pits (1 and 2) were excavated in this area which revealed Roman and later deposits.

Stone surface 147/191/141 (Fig. 4 and Plates 15 and 16)



- 3.3.28 A stone layer was revealed in the base of the two test pits and is probably the same as that uncovered adjacent to wall **139** (141, see below). Within Test Pit 1 it measured 2m x1m and consisted of pieces of compacted angular and sub-angular shaped stones (147). As with the external surface recorded in Area 1 (204) there was no surviving top dressing or surface. In Test Pit 2 the layer (191), which was identified 0.9m below the ground surface, was made up of more fragmentary stone than was found in Test Pit 1, but it is likely that they formed part of the same surface, the full extent of which is unknown. A further spread of limestone (141) was revealed in the north-west corner of the area, to the south of wall **139**, suggesting that the surface was quite extensive.
- 3.3.29 If this layer of compacted stone was a garden path or an exterior surface than its relative depth (at 1.2m lower in ground level) below the villa remains to the north-west suggests some form of garden terracing, perhaps steps or a graduated path leading away from the south wing of the villa.

Wall **139** (Fig. 4 and Plate 17)

- 3.3.30 The far western corner of this area had been heavily truncated by the laying of the gas pipeline, but despite this the remnants of a wall were revealed below subsoil layer 146. A 2.6m section of the wall was cleaned and the backfill (130) on the northern side of the wall removed.
- 3.3.31 The wall had a roughly east to west orientation, with a thickness of 0.75m and a height of 0.45m. It was constructed from roughly laid pieces of limestone. The orientation and position of the wall and its proximity to the gas main made any further exploration impossible. Any future work carried out in the vicinity, for example by a gas contractor, might reveal further evidence of this wall/structure in this area.
- 3.3.32 The backfill (130/111) on the northern side of the wall consisted of a compacted brownish yellow silty clay that contained limestone pieces, most probably collapse from the wall, along with pottery, ceramic building material and oyster shell.
- 3.3.33 A spread of poorly sorted stones abutted the wall on its southern side. This layer (141) had a thickness of 0.10m and had no discernible edges. Overlying these stones (140) was a compacted dark grey brown silty material (140) this had a thickness of 0.11m and contained a few tiny fragments of bone and a small amount of crushed ceramic building material. A possibility existed that the stone (141) layer may have been the remains of a path abutting the wall **139** but a mall intervention 142 showed that the spread of stones were to thin a layer to be associated with a pathway.

Area 3 (Fig. 2; Fig. 5, s.9 and Plate 18)

3.3.34 Area 3 was located 40m to the south-west of the main excavation areas, in a location that in the previous year had been subject to a small test pit measuring 1m x 2m. The frequency of finds recovered from the test pit suggested that it might have been located on the edge of a midden or rubbish dump. The subsequently enlarged test pit measured 1.5m x 3.2m and was stepped and dug to a maximum depth of 0.90m. This revealed evidence of a possible Roman wall (158) and cobbled surface at the base of the trench(159).

Cobbled surface **159** and wall **158**

3.3.35 A linear group of well sorted cobbles and pieces of limestone (159) was exposed, extending along the southern edge of the test pit. This was between 1.25 and 1.40m



wide and 0.10m thick. The cobbles were sub-circular and rounded with an average size of 0.9 to 0.12m.

3.3.36 Adjacent to and possibly abutted by the surface were the remnants of a possible wall (**158**) that were recorded in the north facing section of the test pit. This was fragmentary and indeterminately bonded, but was solid enough to suggest that it was the foundation of a wall. The stones were irregularly shaped and of a moderately large size, between 0.15 and 0.24m. Although undated the wall and associated surface are likely to have been part of the outer Roman villa complex extending southwards.

3.4 Phase 3: Late Roman/Saxon

3.4.1 Although described above, as they define the plan of the villa buildings, most of the robber trenches and later rubble layers (including the backfill (221) around the pilae) date to the period following the abandonment of the villa. They presumably relate to its collapse/demolition and the salvaging of stone and other building materials for use elsewhere – similar and more extensive evidence was found during the main Itter Crescent excavations to the north.

Inhumation (Fig. 3 and Plates 7 and 8)

3.4.2 Probably also dating to this phase was a partial skeleton (110) and a collection of semiarticulated remains that were found within a feature (**108**) located within the former building/room in Area 1. Disarticulated remains were also recovered from backfill layers or as unstratified finds (see App. D). The partial skeleton was that of an adult male of between 35 and 39 years of age; it showed signs of trauma relating to a life of hard physical activity.

3.5 Phase 4: Post-Roman

- 3.5.1 Overlying the Roman and later levels was a series of layers mostly representing subsoil (*e.g* 102; 146) and topsoil or cultivation layers (*e.g* 101; 155) that were overlain by dumped deposits and intrusions associated with the use of the allotments. In Area 1 this typically comprised a 0.22m-thick sandy silty clay subsoil layer (102) overlain by a dark clay silt topsoil (101) that was 0.20m thick.
- 3.5.2 In the test pits within Area 2, however, the stone surface and wall were overlain by a layer of grey silty loam (134) that was 1m thick. This layer was unusual when compared to other soils in any of the excavation areas. It was a fine "garden soil" that looks to have been collected and sorted to produce such a material. The character of this deposit raises the possibility that this may have been a cultivation soil relating to a possible garden area to the south of (and possibly contemporary with a later phase of use) the villa. Alternatively it is possible that this build up of material might be a headland relating to medieval or post-medieval ploughing. Within this layer of soil, Roman pottery, tesserae and ceramic building material were recovered from just above the stone layer (147). Similarly in Area 3, a *c*. 0.2m-thick deposit of dark brown clay silt (156) containing a thin lens of charcoal overlay the structural remains. Noted within this layer were small pieces of bone and ceramic building material. This was overlain by a disturbed subsoil layer (155) above which was the allotment cultivation soil (154).

3.6 Finds Summary

3.6.1 A small amount of unstratified flint was discovered on the site, broadly dated to the Neolithic to Bronze Age period (Appendix C), but the vast majority of finds retrieved during the Community Excavation were related to the every day occupation of the site



in the Roman period. In addition, pottery and loomweights were recovered from the sealed Iron Age deposits and features in Area 1.

3.6.2 Most of the Roman finds derive from cleaning layers and are therefore not from secure contexts. The largest component of the assemblage is ceramic building material and this was found spread across all the excavated areas. A moderate amount of Roman pottery was also found, some within the layers of demolition material. Other finds include glass, metal items, painted wall plaster and tesserae (Appendices C1-C9).

3.7 Environmental Summary

3.7.1 Human skeletal remains were recovered along with small quantities of animal bone and shell. Environmental samples were taken from layers and feature fills but produced fairly sparse remains (Appendices D1-4).



4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The discovery in 2011 of the Iron Age settlement and Roman villa complex at Itter Crescent provided an excellent opportunity for further work to be undertaken by a community group on allotment land to the south of this excavation. The background and description of the Iron Age and Roman occupation of the site is described and discussed in the full publication text (Lyons *et al.* Forthcoming), within which the results of the Community Excavation will be incorporated.
- 4.1.2 This was clearly a long-lived and large villa complex that was presumably owned by wealthy individuals who could invest in significant remodelling and extension projects over its lifetime. The relationship between the Iron Age settlement and the first proto timber villa, the location of this villa in terms of the road network and proximity to Durobrivae and the fens, its subsequent development and implications for who might have lived here are just some of the questions that will be explored in the forthcoming publication.
- 4.1.3 Due to the complexity of the archaeology found during the Itter Crescent excavation it was decided that the Community Excavation would concentrate on cleaning and characterisation rather than full excavation. The main aims were to reveal more of the villa's plan and possibly more of the Iron Age settlement that pre-dated the villa: both of these aims were met.

4.2 Iron Age settlement

4.2.1 Further evidence of the extent of the Iron Age settlement was identified beneath the Roman levels in Area 1 located to the immediate south of the 2011 excavation. This was in the form of possible roundhouse gullies and a number of pits, several of which contained later Iron Age pottery and fragments of loomweight. Only small areas was exposed and the density of Iron Age features revealed indicates that these remains may be quite extensive in this part of the site.

4.3 Roman villa buildings

- 4.3.1 Various phases relating to the southwards continuation of the villa complex were also evident, with structural remains being revealed just below the cultivated soils of the allotments. A limestone paved area revealed beneath the pilae of a later phase of the villa (see below) in Area 1 may suggest that this had been an external courtyard associated with the first phase of timber villa identified to the north. No Early Roman pottery was recovered from this area (or anywhere within the Community Excavation), but this is perhaps a reflection of the limited excavation that was undertaken here.
- 4.3.2 In terms of structural evidence, the earliest Roman remains appear to have been fragmentary L-shaped limestone wall foundations (167) revealed in the northern part of Area 1. These appear to have been associated with the first phase of masonry villa that replaced or extended the timber villa at some point in the 2nd century AD (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming). This evidence is significant as previously it had been thought that this phase of the villa had four rooms, but the Community Excavation has demonstrated that there was another room to the south. Although only partially excavated, the structural remains indicate that this room was of a similar size to the other square rooms in the villa, measuring *c*. 5.5m wide by 5.6m long. All the evidence for use of this suite. A robbed out wall foundation (166), of similar construction, found to the east of



the room represents the continuation of a corridor or verandah that ran the length of the villa. The area to the east and south appears to have been an external courtyard with a stone surface that had presumably been removed during subsequent episodes of robbing.

- 4.3.3 Evidence of major remodelling was found, represented by at least two phases/groups of pilae stacks that had been inserted into the south-western part of the room (removing the south-west corner wall), along with other masonry elements that may have been related to a hypocaust system. The presence of pilae and recovery of pieces of internal decorative plaster indicate that this room had been converted into a hot room, perhaps part of a bath suite similar to that found in the main villa complex to the north, which in turn suggests that there must have been another furnace located nearby. As was found in the main excavation, the corridor or verandah to the east was probably widened at the same time, represented by a new wall foundation positioned to the immediate east of wall **165**.
- 4.3.4 A final phase of major remodelling was indicated by the creation of a new large room or building directly to the south of the possible bath suite. The plan of this building was largely represented by a substantial robber trench, the size of which suggests that this structure may have been of more than one storey. Its footprint measured 12m by 7.5m and was defined by robber trenches on the west and south, with upstanding footings the east side. Within the building was a large spread of material that is thought to have been the foundation for a floor (105), although it may be a later deposit. It was burnt in appearance and contained a wide variety of finds (many of them originating from the structure of the villa) spanning the Roman to post-medieval periods (see Appendix C). Combined, this evidence suggests that this layer may represent demolition debris possibly laid as a foundation or bedding layer for a floor, although it is also possible that it was a destruction layer that post-dated the use of villa.
- 4.3.5 The orientation and size of this building is similar to the northern pavilion building revealed in the main excavation to the north. Its position adjacent to the bath suite indicates that it would have been used by the villa-owner's family or their honoured guests.
- 4.3.6 Located 2.5m to the west of this building a curvilinear masonry feature was recorded and although not excavated, it is suggested that this may have formed the foundation of an apsidal room that may have joined to the new building. Beyond this was the foundation for a garden feature or statue, which provides further tangible evidence in terms of reconstructing the layout of the formal and informal spaces within the villa complex.

Southern/external areas

4.3.7 Smaller excavations undertaken in Areas 2 and 3 to the south of Area 1 also revealed wall foundations and stone surfaces that were probably related to the villa. Too little of these was exposed to enable a fuller interpretation, although the distance from the main villa (up to 40m) indicates that this may have been an area of workshops or auxiliary agricultural buildings – perhaps even terraces for gardens or cultivation. A possible interpretation is that the walls in Area 2 may represent the continuation of the villa's perimeter wall that was found in the main Itter Crescent excavation (see Lyons et. al forthcoming for further discussion).



4.4 The abandonment of the villa

Robbing and re-use as a cemetery

4.4.1 Evidence related to the demise of the villa was found in the form of demolition rubble and robber trenches – the latter targeting the stone and other building materials for use elsewhere. In addition, the discovery of another inhumation and various disarticulated skeletal elements adds to similar remains found during the main excavation to the north. Here a small inhumation cemetery was found with several of the burials being placed within the robbed-out villa wall foundations. Although the skeleton from the Community Excavation has not been dated, radiocarbon dates for those from the main villa excavation span the late 4th/5th century to the 9th century AD and it is likely that the Fane Road skeleton was broadly contemporary with these..

Medieval to modern use

4.4.2 Following the abandonment of the cemetery in the Mid Saxon period it seems that the site of the villa became agricultural land – possibly used for pasture given the general lack of medieval and later finds. The presence of large amounts of rubble would have made this land unsuitable for ploughing. In Area 2 the presence of a thick fine soil layer is as yet unexplained: it may represent a cultivation deposit or possibly a headland associated with ploughing to the south. In more recent times the site has been given over to allotments which effectively preserved the remains of the villa and Iron Age settlement *in situ* until they were revealed by OA East in 2011.

4.5 Conclusion

4.5.1 The Community Excavation not only revealed further important remains of the Itter Crescent Iron Age settlement and Roman villa, but also provided a rare opportunity for the local community to gain hands-on archaeological experience of both theoretical and practical techniques of excavation, spanning all stages of the project. The full range of learning opportunities and types of training are described in the Project Evaluation report, which also provides feedback on the numerous different elements of this heritage project (Crawford-White 2015). The feedback for the Community Excavation was overwhelmingly positive and shows that the local community are committed to their heritage and would welcome any similar projects in the future.

4.6 Significance

4.6.1 In terms of archaeological significance, this project has clearly demonstrated the good survival of both Iron Age and Roman remains beneath the Fane Road allotments. Much of this can be directly related to the remains within the main excavation to the north and as such have significantly contributed to the understanding of the extent and layout of the various phases of occupation. The Iron Age settlement was clearly almost as extensive as the Roman one, and the main range of villa buildings has been shown to continue further south than previously suspected – although no evidence of a south wing was found. Also of note is the discovery of the additional structural remains and surfaces some 40m to the south of the main complex, indicating that other ancillary structures (possibly including a continuation of the perimeter wall) may be located beneath the Fane Road allotments. It is also possible that further Saxon burials are present, given the presence of a grave and several disarticulated remains found during the Community Excavation.



4.7 Future work

4.7.1 There is scope for much more research-led fieldwork to be carried out on the Iron Age and Roman villa site at Fane Road. This could be accomplished with more community involvement, perhaps as part of a local archaeology group, under the guidance of professional archaeologists. Further work could focus on a re-examination of the excavation area (Area 1) to try to answer specific research questions. These might include further investigation to expose more of the Iron Age settlement and to determine whether the Early Roman proto-villa extended this far south. It would also be useful to further define the sequence, date and plan of the room/additional buildings in this area and the phases of remodelling to create the bath-suite. In terms of the wider context, it might be possible to try and ascertain the outer limits of the villa complex by digging a further series of test pits within the allotment site.



APPENDIX A. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF LAND AT FANE ROAD ALLOTMENTS, PETERBOROUGH

Cranfield Forensic Institute Report No. 96

Peter Masters

June 2014 Amended January 2015

CONTENTS

ABSTRA	BSTRACT	
1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
2.0	LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
3.0	BACKGROUND INFORMATION	2
4.0	Methodology	2
5.0	ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS	3
6.0	Conclusions	3
7.0	Acknowledgements	4
8.0	BIBLIOGRAPHY	4

ILLUSTRATIONS

- FIG. 1: Location plan, scale 1:1500
- FIG. 2: Plan showing Itter Road excavation and the proposed area of community excavation with geophysics area superimposed (blue outline)
- FIG. 3: Resistance Survey results, scale 1:500
- FIG. 4: Interpretation of results, scale 1:500

ABSTRACT

An earth resistance survey was carried out at Fane Road Allotments, Peterborough in April 2014. The survey was a heritage lottery funded project for the Peterborough residents to learn about geophysical survey techniques and to assist with the survey of the proposed area for a community excavation.

The results revealed some significant archaeological anomalies. In the north-west quadrant of the survey area indications of wall foundations were highlighted in the resultant images. These may relate to the Roman villa that appears to extend in this direction.

Linear low resistance anomalies were also detected indicating either robber wall trenches or ditches. To the east of the north-south linear anomaly, three individual low resistant anomalies were recorded denoting the presence of probable pits.

In the western half of the survey area, high resistance anomalies were detected possibly indicating wall foundations/rubble spreads or more likely to reflect modern debris.

The whole area is sub-divided by a linear low resistance anomaly denoting a service pipe trench.

No further anomalies were detected that appear to relate to the Roman archaeology on this site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An earth resistance survey was undertaken on behalf of Oxford Archaeology East as part of a Heritage Lottery Funded project called Romans of Fane Road (Fig 1). The survey was carried out at Fane Road Allotments, Peterborough in April 2014.

The aim of this survey was to provide a unique opportunity for a group of Peterborough residents to learn about geophysical survey techniques and to assist with the survey of the proposed community excavation site at Fane Road allotments.

The survey methodology described in this report was based upon guidelines set out in the English Heritage document '*Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (David, 2008).

2.0 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located to the north of the city centre of Peterborough (Fig 1: NGR TF 1823 0181). The site is located on the south-east side of Ramsey and 10 miles south-east of Peterborough.

The site is currently under grass and is divided by a concrete track. The area of investigation is bounded on the north side by new housing development whilst to the east, west and south the ground is divided into individual plots within the allotments.

The underlying geology is comprised of limestone (Geological Map data © NERC 2014).

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Previous archaeological excavations at Itter Road Crescent in 2011 (OAE 2013) revealed the remains of a Roman villa and associated ditched enclosures adjacent to the allotments (Fig 2).

Test pits carried out by the Peterborough residents to the south of the proposed area for the community excavation revealed further remains relating to the findings at Itter Road.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Resistance survey

Resistivity survey measures the electrical resistance of the earth's soil moisture content. A twin probe configuration is normally used, which involves the pairing of electrodes (one current and one potential), with one pair remaining in a fixed position (remote probes), whilst the mobile probes measure resistivity variations across the survey grids. Resistance is measured in ohms, and this method is generally effective to a depth of approximately 1m.

Features such as wall foundations are usually identified as high resistance anomalies, as well as rubble spreads, made surfaces (i.e. yards and paths) and metalled roads and track ways. In contrast, low resistance values are normally associated with water-retentive features such as large pits, graves, ditches, drains and gulleys.

The resistivity survey was carried out using a Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter with a twin probe array configuration in mobile probe spacing of 0.5m. The zigzag traverse method of survey was used, with 1m wide traverses across a 20m x 20m grid.

The data was processed using *Archeosurveyor v.2*. It was despiked to remove extremely high readings caused by poor contact with the ground surface. The enhanced data was high and low passed filtered in order to remove near surface geology and other trends as well as give it a smoother graphical appearance. The results are plotted as greyscale and trace plot images (Figs 2-3).

5.0 INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS (Figs. 2-4)

The resistance survey covered an area of approximately 0.16ha. A number of significant anomalies were recorded and these are discussed below.

A linear low resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, blue line) dissects the area of survey denoting the presence of a known gas main running through the site.

A short rectilinear high resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, 1) was detected in the northwest corner of the survey area, possibly indicating the outline remains of wall foundations. Immediately to north, excavations revealed the outline remains of a corridor Roman villa. This anomaly may relate to the southern end of this complex.

To the east of anomaly 1, a high resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, 2) was recorded in the resultant image probably indicating further wall foundations associated with the Roman villa. However, the anomaly was detected in close proximity to the chain linked fence forming the boundary between the new residential area and the allotments suggesting that this may be of modern origin.

A sub-circular shaped high resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, 3) was detected indicating the presence of building rubble or near surface geology comprised of limestone deposits.

Two low resistant linear anomalies (Figs 2 & 3, 4) possibly denote ditches although they appear to not correlate with the excavated evidence to the north. The north- south aligned linear anomaly could indicate a robber wall trench.

To the east of anomaly 4, three individual low resistant anomalies (Figs 2 & 3, 5) may denote the presence of pits.

Immediately to the south of the service trench, a series of short linear and rectilinear high resistance anomalies (Figs 2 & 3, 6) possibly denote wall foundations. Close to the south-west corner of the survey area, a large sub-oval shaped low resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, 7) was detected probably denoting the presence of a large pit or is more likely to be of more recent origin relating to allotment activities.

In the north-east corner of the survey area, a rectilinear high resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, 8) was recorded probably denoting the presence of a wall foundation.

Three further high resistance anomalies (Figs 2 & 3, pink outlines) denote modern disturbances or zones of compact ground.

6.0 **CONCLUSIONS**

The survey has highlighted some significant anomalies indicating possible wall foundations relating to the Roman villa complex on this site. Other anomalies recorded probably indicate the presence of ditches and pits.

Based on the survey results, it can be concluded that the areas of investigation proved to indicate the locations of the possible buildings associated with the known Roman villa adjacent to this site. Without further investigations the interpretations of the detected anomalies remain inconclusive.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cranfield University, Centre for Archaeological and Forensic Analysis would like to thank David Crawford-White for this commission and the local community volunteers for their assistance during the surveying of this site.

8.0 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Fig. 1 - Location map, scale - 1:2,500



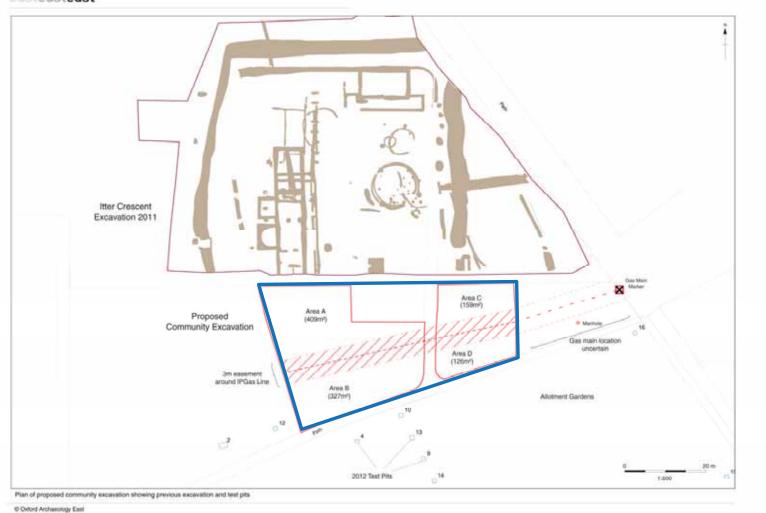
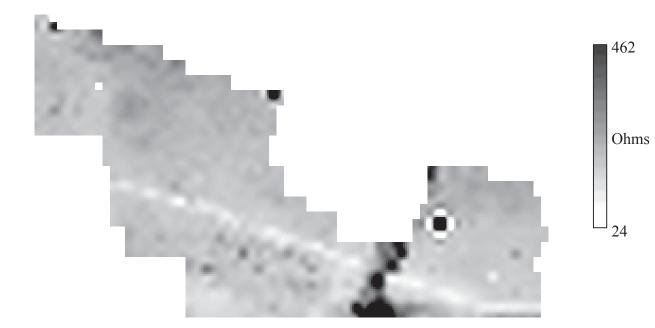
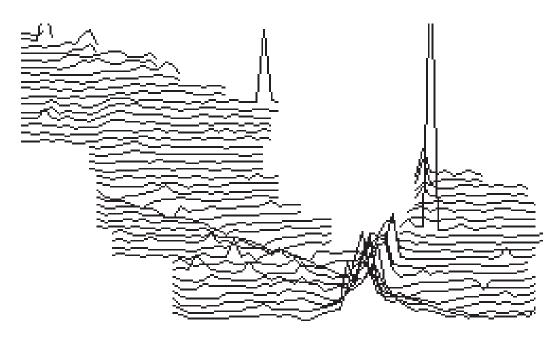


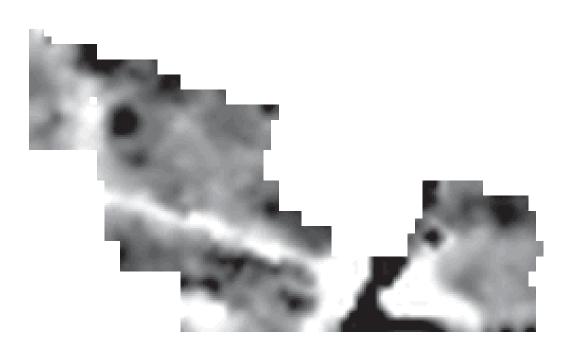
Fig 2 – Plan showing Itter Road excavation and the proposed area of community excavation with geophysics area superimposed (blue outline)

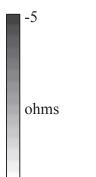
TRACE PLOT





ENHANCED DATA





L 5

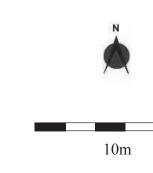


Fig. 3– Resistance Survey: Greyscale and trace plots of raw and enhanced data, scale – 1:500

60 ohms/cm

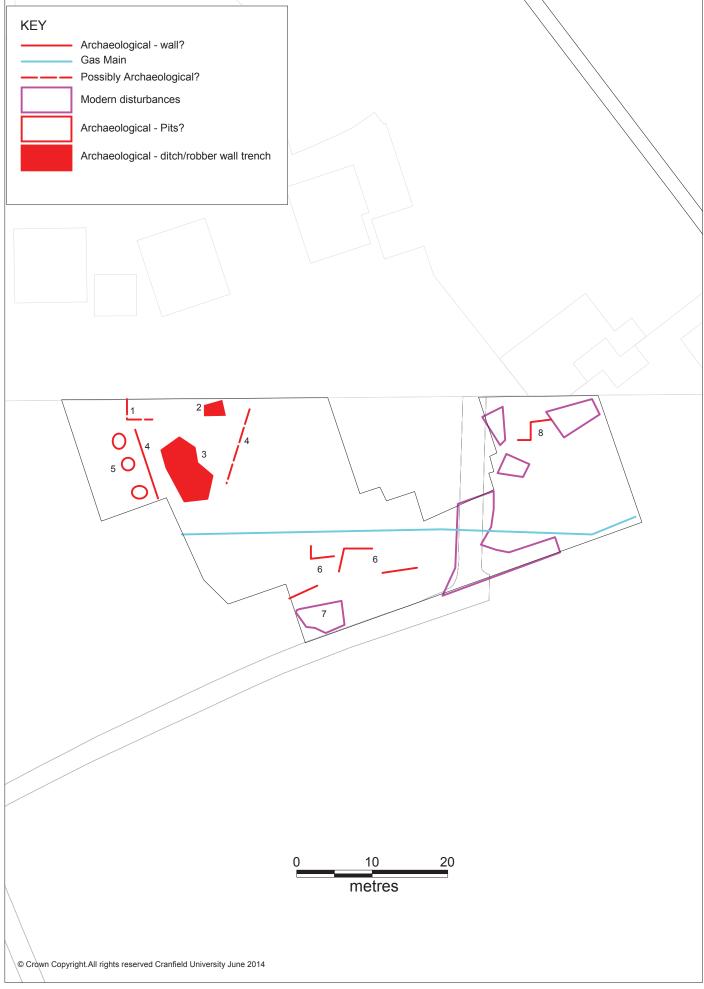


Fig 4: Intepretation of results, scale - 1:500



APPENDIX B. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Area	Context	Cut	Category	Same as	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Finds	Date
1	101		layer			1.53	subsoil		
1	102		cut		1.2	0.2	structure		
1	103		layer		1.2	0.2	Statue base		Roman
1	104	102	fill		1.2	0.2			
1	105		layer			0.15	surface (internal)		
1	106		fill		1.25	0.35	pit fill	Pottery, stone, CBM	
1	107	107	cut		0.62	0.35	pit		
1	108		cut		1.35	0.3	pit		
1	109	108	fill		1.2	1.35	pit	Bone, flint, stone	
	110		Grave		0.8	0.18	grave	Bone	
1	111	130	layer		2.85	0.26		Pottery, CBM	Roman
1	112		layer			0.15	surface (internal)		
1	113		layer		2.8	0.2	surface (external)		
1	114		layer		1	0.05	Hypocaust layer		
1	115		layer		0.16		Rubble	CBM	
1	116			175/197					
1	117		layer			0.18	floor layer		
1	118	119	fill		0.9	0.2	pit	Bone, CBM, pottery	Iron Age
1	119		cut		0.9	0.2	pit		Iron Age
1	120		layer		3.9	0.1	surface (external)		Roman
1	121		layer	204	3.9	0.2	surface (internal)		Roman
1	122		cut		0.35	0.3	gully		Iron Age
	123	123	fill		0.35	0.2	gully	CBM, pottery	
1	124		layer		0.95	0.1	surface		Roman
1	125		layer		0.95	0.2	subsoil		
1	126		cut		0.4	0.31	gully		Iron age
1		126			0.4	0.31	gully	CBM, Stone, Pottery	Iron Age
1	128		cut		2	0.28	pit		Iron Age
1		128			2	0.28	pit	Pottery	Iron age
2	130		fill		0.47	0.25	Back fill	Bone, CBM, Pottery, Shell, Stone	Roman
2	131	111	layer			1.53	topsoil	Bone, CBM, pottery, stone	
2	132		layer			1.53	topsoil	Stone, CBM	
	133		-						
2	134		layer		2	1.53	soil	Stone, CBM, pottery, bone	



Area	Context	Cut	Category	Same as	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Finds	Date
1	135		layer		1.5	0.02	gravel		Roman
1	136		layer		1.1	0.05	cess	Pottery, CBM	Roman
1	137	143	fill			0.6	robber trench	Pottery, shell, stone, CBM	Post Roman
2	138		layer		1	0.16	topsoil	CBM, pottery,	Modern
2	139		masonry		0.58		wall	Stone	Roman
2	140		layer		1	0.11	compacted surface	CBM, bone	Roman
2	141		layer		1	0.1	cobbles		Roman
2	142		cut		0.5	0.1			
1	143		cut		2.2	0.8	robber trench		Post Roman
1	144	143	fill		0.1	0.6	robber trench		Post Roman
1	145	143	fill		0.3	0.3	robber trench		Post Roman
2	146		layer			1.53	Subsoil		Post Roman
1	147		layer		1	0.3	surface (external)		Roman
1	148	150	fill		0.85	0.38	robber trench		Post Roman
1	149	150	masonry		0.21	0.15	wall		Roman
1	150		cut		0.85	0.38	robber trench		Post Roman
1	151	152	fill		1	0.9	robber trench		Post Roman
1	152		cut		1	0.7	robber trench		Post Roman
1	153		layer		1.7	0.9	robber trench		Post Roman
3	154		layer		1.5	0.5	subsoil		
3	155		layer		1.5	0.35	subsoil		
3	156		layer		1.5	0.08	subsoil		
3	157		layer		1.5	0.03	charcoal deposit		
3	158		masonry		0.2	2	robbed wall		Post Roman
3	159		layer		1.4	0.1	surface (external)		Roman
2	160		layer		0.3	1.25	subsoil		
1	161		cut		1.8	0.25	robbed trench		Post Roman
1	162	161	fill		1.8	0.25	robber trench		Post Roman
1	163		masonry		0.6		wall		Roman
1	164		masonry		0.5		wall		Roman
1	165		masonry	166	0.5		wall		Roman



Area	Context	Cut	Category	Same as	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Finds	Date
1	166		masonry	165			wall		Roman
1	167		masonry	168	0.6		wall		Roman
	168		masonry	167			wall		Roman
	169		masonry	170/171			wall		Roman
1	170		masonry	169/171			wall		Roman
1	171		masonry	169/170			surface (external)		Roman
	172		masonry				surface (external)		Roman
1	173		masonry		1		surface (internal)		Roman
1	174		layer			0.35	backfill		Roman
1	175		cut	116/197	0.7	0.3	robber trench		Post Roman
1	176	175	fill			0.1	backfill		Post Roman
1	177	179	fill		0.48	0.36	backfill	pottery, stone	Post Roman
1	178	175	fill			0.2		pottery, shell	Post Roman
1	179		cut		0.2	0.18	drainage?		Roman
1	180		cut		0.4	0.2	robber trench		Post Roman
1	181		layer		2.8	0.06	pit	СВМ	Roman
1	182		layer		2.8	0.1		CBM	
	183		layer		0.51	0.19		Bone	
	184		layer			0.10	soil		
	185		layer			0.25	subsoil		
1	186		layer			0.15	redeposited clay		
2	191		Cobbles				surface (external)	pottery, bone, CBM	Roman
	192		cut		1.5	0.8	pit		Iron Age
	193	192	fill		1.5	0.80	pit	pottery, bone	Iron age
	194		cut		1.50	0.80	pit		Iron age
	195	194	Fill		1.50	0.80	pit	pottery, bone	Iron age
	196	197	fill			0.22	gully	bone,pottery	Iron Age
	197		cut	116/175		0.22	gully		Iron age
	198	199			0.25	0.23	ditch	CBM, pottery	Iron Age
	199		cut		0.25	0.23	ditch		Iron Age
		201			0.9	0.55	pit	CBM, pottery	Ŭ
	201		cut		0.9	0.55	pit		Iron Age
		203			0.6	0.30	gully	CBM, pottery	Iron Age
1	203		cut		0.6	0.30	gully		Iron Age
1	204		layer	121		0.10	surface		Roman
1		206	-		0.30	0.18	gully		



Area	Context	Cut	Category	Same as	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Finds	Date
1	206		cut		0.30	0.18	gully		
1	207		cut		.7m	1.0	robber trench		Roman
1	208		layer			0.05	foundation		Roman
1	209		layer			0.05	foundation		Roman
1	210		layer			0.10	foundation		Roman
1	211	212	Fill		0.30	0.10	gully		Iron Age
1	212		Cut		0.30	0.10	gully		Iron age
1	213		Layer		2.75		surface		Roman
1	214		layer		30	30	clay layer		Roman
1	215		masonry				pilae		Roman
1	216		masonry				pilae		Roman
1	217		masonry				pilae		Roman
1	218		masonry				pilae		Roman
1	219		masonry				pilae		Roman
1	220		masonry				pilae		Roman
1	221		Layer				surface		Roman



APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction

C.1.1 A small assemblage of six unstratified flints was assessed from the Fane Road Community Excavation.

Methodology

C.1.2 For the purposes of this report individual artefacts were scanned and then assigned to a category within a simple lithic classification system (Table C1). Unmodified flakes were assigned to an arbitrary size scale in order to identify the range of debitage present within the assemblage. Edge retouched and utilised pieces were also characterised. Beyond this no detailed metrical or technological recording was undertaken during the preliminary analysis. The results of this report are therefore based on a rapid assessment of the assemblage and could change if further work is undertaken.

Quantificat	ion			
Context	Small find number	Blade	Flake	End scraper
99999	53		1	
99999	87			1
99999	105		1	
99999	129	1		
99999	145		1	
99999	154	1		

Table C1: Lithic quantification

Discussion

- C.1.3 The flints all come from unstratified deposits. The raw material is a mix of a light greyish-brown translucent flint and a dark blackish-brown translucent flint. Where surviving the cortex is rough and off white/yellowish-brown in colour.
- C.1.4 The range of debitage is a mix of soft and hard hammer produced flakes and blades.
- C.1.5 The only tool form is a small side and end scraper of probable Bronze Age date.

Conclusion

C.1.6 The small assemblage is a mix of residual material probably from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. It is similar to the residual material recovered from the Itter Crescent excavation (Haskins 2012).



C.2 Coins

Introduction and methodology

C.2.1 Ten Roman coins were recovered from the Community Excavation: the table below represents information taken from the full publication text (Booth forthcoming) where the coins are discussed in the wider site context. None of the coins were retrieved from a secure context. The coins were initially scanned fairly rapidly for the purposes of assessment, although a record, based broadly on English Heritage guidelines (Brickstock 2004) was made where possible. Some of the coins had been cleaned before the initial examination. Rudimentary manual cleaning was carried out in some cases during the assessment.

Small Find No	Context	Est Date	Denomination	Rev	Mint	Obv	Ref	Conditi on	Comment
3	99999	323-324	AE3 18mm	SARMATIA DEVICTA	Trier	CONSTAN TINUSAUG	RICVII Trier, 435	SW/SW	
14	99999	330-331	AE3 16mm	GLORIA EXERCITUS 2 standards	Lyons	FLIULCONSTAN[TIUS NOB C	RIC VII Lyons, 245	SW/SW	
11	99999	330-335	AE4 12mm	victory on prow		C]ONSTAN [TINOPOLIS		SW/SW	irregular
54	99999	335-341	AE3 16mm	GLORIA EXERCITUS 1 standard	?	CONSTAN[SW/SW	edge erosion
1	99999	341-348	AE3 15-17mm	VICTORIAE DD AUGG Q NN	Trier	CONSTAN SPFAUG	LRBC1, 148	SW/SW	
15	99999	341-348	AE3 15mm	Victoriae dd augg q nn	?	head r		VW/VW	
8	99999	350-364?	AE4 12-13mm	Fel Temp Reparatio fallen horseman??		?		EW/W	irregular, incomplete
6	99999	364-378	AE3 17mm	Gloria Romanorum		? DNVALEN SPFAUG		W/W	
93	99999	378-383	AE3 14mm	VOT XV MULT XX in wreath		head r		W/W	
13	99999	330+	AE3? fragment	?		head r		VW/VW	little more than half survives

Table C2.1: Roman coins

C.3 Metalwork

by Christine Howard-Davis

Copper alloy

C.3.1 There are 12 fragments of copper alloy, all of them unstratified. The earliest group comprises three bow brooches of Roman date, and were presumably associated with life in the villa complex. Brooch 1 (Sf 9) from Area/Tr 1 is of Colchester derivative type, with a sprung pin (now detached). It falls into Mackreth's 'Nene Valley' group, the distribution of which is coincident with the line of the river Nene (see Mackreth 2011, vol 2, plate 58, no 2397), and is dated to the late 1st to mid-2nd century. Brooch 2 (Sf 5) also from Tr 1, is an unusual but widely distributed Trumpet derivative type (Mackreth 2011, vol 1, 127), probably most common in East Anglia and the East Midlands (*ibid*), and again



dated to the late 1st and early 2nd century. Brooch 3 (Sf 2) is considerably later in date, being a small knee brooch, again from Area 1. This falls into the decorated element of Mackreth's British group (2011, vol 1, 189) dated from about AD 150/160 to the early 3rd century.

Catalogue (illustrated in Lyons et al forthcoming)

1 Bow brooch, distorted and with pin detached. Moulded foot knob, and the ends of the wings have a simple bead. There is a triangle with cross-beaded borders on the upper part of the bow. L: 50mm; W: 28mm; Ht: 17mm PETRFR14, 99999, Sf 9, late 1st to 2nd century.

2 Bow brooch, incomplete and deformed. Head intact but foot and pin missing. Hinged, with a robust headloop. The short wings have two ridges. There is a rectangular knop on the bow with four vertical enamelled cells, and a horizontal groove at top and bottom. The enamel colour is now lost. L: 33mm; W: 12mm; Ht: 10mm PETRFR14, 99999, Sf 5, late 1st to 2nd century.

3 Small knee brooch, almost complete (tip of pin missing). Bow decorated with ridges, and possibly eight spots of enamel, niello, or silver inlay. Spring has six turns. Small headloop. L: 28mm; W: 14mm; Ht: 15mm PETRFR14, 99999, Sf 2, 2nd century

- C.3.2 There are also two buckles amongst the small group of copper alloy artefacts. Buckle 4 (Sf 32), from Area 1, is a very small oval buckle frame with both tongue and buckle plate intact. Although a not particularly chronologically diagnostic type, it seems most likely to be of Anglo-Saxon date, probably around the 7th to 8th century (A Parsons pers comm), and parallels can be seen in a number of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, for instance Finglesham in Kent, and are thought to have been in use from the 6th to the early 8th centuries (Chadwick Hawkes and Grainger 2006, see for example Graves 67, 152, or 198) or Buckland, Dover (Evison 1987, for example Grave 158). Albeit of later date, this buckle adds to other material evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity (cf the burial from PET ITC 11). Buckle 5 (Sf 16; unstratified), is considerably later in date, being a form current from the mid-13th to the late 14th century (Whitehead 2003, 22, no 93).
- C.3.3 Fragment Sf 56 from Area 3 (not illus) serves to illustrate the wide date range of material from the site. Although now badly obscured by corrosion products, it is the stud chape from a shoe buckle of the period *c* 1660 1720 (Whitehead 2003, 96), used to fix a decorative buckle to the shoe latchet. Although now missing the rear loops, an embossed oval stud (Sf 159; Pl 1), is probably one of a pair of linked buttons or cufflinks (Coefield 2012), and is probably 18th to mid-19th century. A thin rectangular plate (Sf 12) with hooks at both ends seems most likely to be a clothes fastener or clip of some kind, and is probably of quite recent date.

Catalogue (illustrated in Lyons et al. forthcoming)

C.3.4 4 Small oval buckle with square, riveted buckle plate. Complete. Two dome-headed rivets remain in situ, giving a strap thickness of c 2mm. L: 17.5mm; W: 14mm; Th: 2.5mm. SF 32, Ctx 99999, unstratified, 7th to 8th century?

5 Small oval buckle frame with ornate outer edge, decorated with transverse grooves, and a narrowed and offset strap bar. L: 14mm; W: 14mm; Th: 2.5mm PETRFR14, 99999, Sf 16, mid-13th to late 14th century.

C.3.5 A thimble (Sf 10; not illus), found unstratified in Area 1, is a late 18th or 19th-century form (Beaudry 2006). Sf 25, also from Area 1, is a well-made hemispherical-headed stud. Whilst it could date as early as the Roman period, it could equally be much more recent. A ring or washer (Sf 4), some 32mm in diameter, cannot be dated.



C.3.6 Sf 112, a thick, heavily hammered bar, *c* 49mm long and 9mm wide, has been identified as a small ingot of uncertain age, suggesting small-scale metalworking on the site at some time.

Ironwork

- C.3.7 In all, 32 fragments of ironwork were recovered, 22 of which are fragments of hand-forged nails. It is most likely that the nails came from structures on the site. Seven were recovered unstratified, and several others came from layer 105 (Sf 61, Sf 69, Sf 70, Sf 78, Sf 80, Sf 107, Sf 131), with another from associated layer 112 (Sf 79), dump 136, thought to post-date the villa (Sf 142), compacted material 138 (Sf 158), and robbed-out wall **174** (Sf 149). They cannot be dated with any precision, but it is likely that those from 105 are largely of Roman date. A fragment of strip with one end rolled over, also from ashy layer 105, has been identified as a hinge (Sf 68), and a possible slide bolt (Sf 101) comes from the same context. Like the nails, these are most likely to come from structures on or near the site. It is also possible, in the context, that they are from recycled timbers used as fuel. Further structural items, found unstratified (including 'eyebolt' Sf 17, and looped spike Sf 55) are most likely to be modern, and require no further discussion.
- C.3.8 Household items are confined to a whittle-tanged blade (Sf 125), perhaps of 17thcentury date, from layer 105 (Tr 2), and there is a second blade fragment (Sf 106) from the same context. A small asymmetrical ring (Sf 100), also from 105 (Area 1) could be from a drape ring, intended to hold curtains or other wall-hangings (Egan 1998, 62) but could equally be a modern steel ring-pull tab.
- C.3.9 A fragment of horseshoe (Sf 139) came from robbed wall **163** in Area 1. It is too small to retain any chronologically sensitive features, but is probably late in date.

Lead

- C.3.10 Although 18 fragments of lead were recovered, most (15) are small solidified droplets, generated by the day-to-day use of lead in building and repair. Drips (Sf 146, Sf 151) came from robbed-out walls **153** and **174** respectively, and could reflect the scavenging and recycling of structural lead. A large, irregular fragment of thin sheet with well-defined nail holes (Sf 50) was found unstratified. Undoubtedly it was used structurally, either as roofing or flashings, or as lining for a tank or other liquid-holding structure. Numerous chisel-marks suggest it might have been lost in the process of demolition and reclamation. A large, angular gallet (Sf 157) from dump 136, had clearly been run-in to a corner, its shape suggesting that it had been used to secure a square or rectangular frame of some kind, although the use of molten lead might suggest that the frame was not made from wood.
- C.3.11 A single small weight or possibly a spindle whorl (Sf 7) was found unstratified in Area 1.



C.4 Stonework

By Ruth Shaffrey

C.4.1 Two pieces of oolitic limestone were recovered during excavations at Fane Road, close to Itter Crescent. One is a block of approximately 30 x 20 x 10cm (Sf 160) that retains one worked edge and one worked face. A second much larger ashlar block measuring approximately 70 x 30 x 14cm (Sf 161) has flat faces and one long edge retaining chisel marks. The stone appears to be a fine-grained oolitic limestone of non-Lincolnshire limestone type and is probably Portland limestone. Portland limestone was also used at Itter Crescent for more typically architectural pieces and the blocks from Fane Road show that it was also imported for use as more practical blocks.

C.5 Glass

by Christine Howard-Davis

Introduction

C.5.1 A total of 54 fragments of vessel and window glass were collected during the project. All are small, and many have some pitting, slight iridescence, or surface abrasion. Most of the vessel glass lacks distinctive features such as rims or bases, making precise dating difficult.

Results

C.5.2 There is a single bead from layer 112. Its colour and the hexagonal cross-section suggest that it is of Roman date. Whilst hexagonal beads were used throughout the Roman period (Guido 1978, 96), they were probably most common in the 4th century.

Flattened hexagonal bead, complete. Its present colour is an opaque pale greenish-blue, but the opacity could be the result of surface decay. L: 6mm; W: 6mm; Th: 4mm, Area 1, layer 112, Sf 82

- C.5.3 All of the vessel glass was found unstratified, but nonetheless it is possible to identify most of it as coming from Roman vessels. Only a small group of five thick-walled colourless fragments (Sf 119) can be considered modern in date.
- C.5.4 There are no examples of strongly coloured or cast vessels, both regarded as typically early. The group was divided between blown colourless and blown and moulded natural blue/green metals, strongly pointing towards a 2nd to 3rd-century date, according well with the date range supplied by the three Roman brooches from the site.
- C.5.5 There are, in all, 21 fragments of colourless vessels, 11 of which (Sf 98) are probably from the same vessel. The colourless glass is characterised by the extreme thinness of the vessel walls, with most less than 1mm thick. All are blown, and the curvature of the fragments suggests small vessels, probably beakers or cups. The only decoration is two or more lightly engraved horizontal lines; Sf 114 has two lines, and Sf 98 has approximately seven. They are most likely to derive from several colourless wheel-cut beakers, the most common drinking vessel of the early to mid 2nd century AD (Cool and Price 1995, 79). One fragment (Sf 120) with a slightly thicker wall also has two parallel engraved lines, but there also appears to be a group of diagonal parallel lines, implying a more complex pattern and suggesting a tentative identification as a late-3rd to 4th century



conical beaker. Never a common type, occasional fragments have been found in Colchester and Verulamium (Cool and Price 1995, 89). Sf 76 is clearly an upright rim fragment, with an engraved line directly beneath the rim. Although the fragment is too degraded for the rim treatment to be obvious, it is probably from a cylindrical cup with vertical ground rim (Price and Cottam 1998, 114), but this cannot be determined with complete certainty.

- C.5.6 Most of the natural blue green fragments are too small for any identification to be possible. There are, however, two open base fragments (Sf 51, Sf 67) which, although they do not join, are probably from the same thin-walled, bubbly vessel, but the exact form of the vessel is not apparent. Two small fragments (Sf 91, Sf 136) are probably wall fragments from mould-blown prismatic storage bottles (most likely the square bottle Isings (1957) type 50), very common from the 1st to the end of the 2nd century. None of the other fragments retain any detail characteristic of form or dating.
- C.5.7 There is one melted fragment (Sf 52) of colourless glass, and one partially melted blue/green body fragment (Sf 118).
- C.5.8 There are, in addition, 12 recognisable fragments of window glass, 11 of which are of the typically Romano-British cast matte-glossy type (Harden 1961), which can be dated to the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. Most of these are unstratified (Sf 46, Sf 49, Sf 90, Sf 99, Sf 123, Sf 144, and Sf 147), but individual fragments also come from layer 105 (Sf 96), context 114 (Sf 133), and context 115 (Sf 89). Several are pane-edge fragments, and one (Sf 147) shows tooling marks reflecting the method of manufacture. In general terms, matte-glossy window glass was in use during the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. There is, in addition, a single fragment of later window glass (Sf 97) found unstratified. Thin, and greenish in colour, it could be later Roman blown window glass, but could equally be as late as the 17th century.

C.6 Loomweights

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

C.6.1 A total of six loomweights in 29 fragments weighing 2.717kg were recovered, all of which were found in pits. This forms part of a total assemblage of 91 fragments weighing 7,039g, which includes an additional ten weights in 62 fragments weighing 4,322g that derived from the main Itter Crescent excavations (see Percival forthcoming).

Assemblage

- C.6.2 The weights are triangular with single perforations for suspension pierced through each angle. The most complete example has a maximum length of 123mm and is 60mm thick. The Fane Road fragments are all in a dense fine fabric with sparse flint inclusions and small quartz pebbles.
- C.6.3 Four pits from Fane Road contained loomweight fragments, with the largest single assemblage from both sites, containing the only semi-complete weight, coming from pit **199**. This suggests that some weights were deposited soon after use into the fills of selected pits, whilst the majority of those found at the Itter Crescent site were incorporated in general rubbish deposits, later becoming assimilated into pits and other features along with residual occupation debris.



Cut	Context	Context type	Quantity	Weight (g)
119	118	Pit	3	592
128	129	Pit	2	272
195	194	Pit	4	216
199	198	Pit	20	1637

Discussion

C.6.4 Pottery dating suggests that the loomweights were in use from around the late 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD. The weights are of the same form as the Type 1 triangular loomweights from Danebury most commonly found there in features dated to *c*. 310BC to 50BC. More locally examples have been recovered at Werrington in contexts of 2nd century BC to AD 100 date (Mackreth 1988, 98) and in later Iron Age and early Roman contexts at Fengate (Pryor 1984, fig.120).The Fengate loomweights occur in a range of similar fabrics but are slightly larger than the examples from Itter Crescent and Fane Road (Pryor 1984, table 3). The presence of the weights suggests fabric production was taking place at the site in the later Iron Age to Early Roman period.

C.7 Tesserae

by Alex Fryer

Introduction

C.7.1 A total of 1462 tesserae, weighing 18.49kg, were recovered from the Community Excavation at Fane Road Allotments, Peterborough. The assemblage contains tesserae formed mainly from stone, although there were approximately 500 tesserae formed from ceramic building materials found. The majority of the tesserae were found in unstratified contexts (see Tables C7.1 and C7.2 below).

Methodology

C.7.2 An assessment of the tesserae was undertaken using the methodology established in Oxford Archaeology guidelines for the sampling, recording and discard of combined building materials and fired clay by Oxford Archaeology (Poole 2009, 11). The site archive is currently held by Oxford Archaeology East and will be deposited with Peterborough City Museum in due course.

Fabric

- C.7.3 After an initial examination the tesserae were divided by fabric or geology, colour and size. The largest group by both weight (9195g) and number (845) are those made from stone.
- C.7.4 The majority of the stone tesserae come in two distinct colours and sizes, with a small number which are much smaller in size, and are not of the same type of stone. These



were identified by Stephen Critchley, using a 10x magnification lens to help define the textures and grain composition to broadly classify them, as follows:

The tesserae which have been classified as "Stone" in Table C7.1 below

C.7.5 A pale yellow / pale brown oolitic limestone composed of carbonate ooids with varying amounts of bioclastic debris cemented by a fine grained micritic carbonate. These are probably derived from local Middle Jurassic Great Oolite and Inferior Oolite Group sediments seen in abundant local outcrops of the Blisworth Limestones or further afield within the Lincolnshire Limestones.

The tesserae which have been classified as "Stone (blue-grey)" in Table C7.1 below

C.7.6 A grey micritic muddy limestone with an obvious layered texture. Limestones of this type also occur within the Blisworth Limestone.

The tesserae which have been classified as "Stone (white)" in Table C7.1 below

- C.7.7 A small number of tesserae are composed of a fine grained reddish yellow sandstone and a strikingly pale yellow siliceous cherty rock type which on morphological evidence may have been derived from nodules.
- C.7.8 It is suggested that the material would have been sourced locally to the town either by purchase from existing quarries, using waste material from dimension stone production or by local hand working of suitable outcrops. Examples of suitable lithologies which are located close-by consist of the extensive outcrops of the Blisworth Limestone in the upland to the west of Durobrivae or to the north around Castor or perhaps in the river cliff exposures to the south around Alwalton which was also the source of the "Alwalton Marble". Further to the north the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone forms extensive outcrops around Wansford and beyond. It is suggested that the stone that small number of tesserae classed as Stone (white) are formed from, may be the Rutland or Grantham Formation which also outcrop close to Durobrivae and elsewhere locally.
- C.7.9 Many examples were difficult to examine petrologically because of adhering limebased mortar. A proper petrological analysis and classification would require the benefit of microscopic thin section examination of samples.
- C.7.10 The ceramic tesserae are formed from a coarse red ceramic, and are likely to have been produced on site. They appear to have been cut from tiles, and a small number of the tesserae were cut from Imbrex and box flue tiles.

Shape and size

- C.7.11 Cubes are the most common shape for the large stone and ceramic tesserae. The smaller limestone tesserae are present in cube, but also quadrilateral and triangular forms.
- C.7.12 The tesserae vary in size from about 8mm to about 33mm.

Sampling Bias

C.7.13 The open area excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases.

Retention and Discard Policy

C.7.14 The tesserae that have been excavated from contextual areas will be deposited with the Peterborough City Council archives after marking, along with a selection of those



excavated from the unstratified areas. A selection of the tesserae from unstratified areas will be given to local schools and other educational purposes. The remainder will be placed back into a designated area of the area of the excavation.

Context	Material	Number	Weight	Thickness	Commentary
105	Stone	5	73g	18.89mm	
105	Stone (white)	1	6g	14.12mm	
105	Ceramic	3	49g	21.34mm	
109	Stone	1	16g	20.88mm	Mortar on one side
112	Stone	1	5g	9.38mm	
112	Ceramic	1	10g	17.97mm	
131	Ceramic	2	42g	20.32mm	
134	Ceramic	1	24g	20.44mm	
140	Stone	2	29g	18.47mm	
143	Stone (white)	1	10g	16.50mm	
143	Stone	1	9g	13.83mm	
144/5	Stone	1	16g	17.46mm	
148	Ceramic	2	39g	20.08mm	
151	Stone	1	9g	16.56mm	
153	Ceramic	1	34g	23.98mm	Mortar on sides + base
153	Stone	2	30g	15.14mm 18.43mm	Small grey
174	Ceramic	14	261g	26.56mm	
178	Ceramic	2	27g	20.55mm	
182	Stone	2	30g	15.28mm	
182	Ceramic	2	36g	32.16mm	
Total	All types	46	755g		
Total	Ceramic	28	522g		
	Stone	16	217g		
	Stone (white)	2	16g		

Table C7.1 – Breakdown of tesserae from stratified areas of the excavation

Context	Material	Number	Weight	Thickness	Commentary
Unstratified	Ceramic	541	8348g	29.81mm	
Unstratified	Ceramic	4	72g	14.92mm	Possibly made out of imbrex
Unstratified	Ceramic	12	172g	18.02mm	Possibly made out of box flue tile
Unstratified	Stone	519	6821g	18.94mm	
Unstratified	Stone (blue- grey)	-310	2157g	14.15mm	
Unstratified	Stone (white)	30	164g	13.60mm	White stone
Total	All types	1416	17734g		
Total	Ceramic	557	8592g		
	Stone	829	8978g		
	Stone (white)	30	164g		

Table C7.2 – Breakdown of Tesserae from Unstratified areas of the excavation



C.8 Painted Wall Plaster

By Alex Fryer

KEY

Painted surface:

[A] A strip: a linear decoration less than 10mm in width. [B] = A band: greater than 10mm. [E] = An expanse: a linear decoration of unknown width.

(Adjective) Polychrome linear surface adjective = having various or changing colours; made with or decorated in various colours

Dk = dark, M = mid, Lt = light, Pa = Pale, Du = dull, Br = bright, GQ = good quality, MQ = medium quality, PQ = poor quality

Mortar backings: 'Arriccio' is coarse mortar layers, which have been applied directly to the wall.

'Intonaco' is fine top plaster layer up which the decoration was painted. cbt: Crushed brick & tile added to the mortar.

Comments: Brush marks, surface keying, multiple plaster phases, chamfered fragments indicative of apertures, etc..

Results

C.8.1 Painted Wall Plaster sorted, counted and categorised on 16th November 2014. A fine layer (less than 1mm) of intonaco is present in all cases, except where stated.

Context	Bag ID	No				C	olour				Weight (g) Green
			Maroon Rec	k	Pink	Yellow	Black	Grey	Cream	White	
104	104A	1		GQ DK							
	104B	2				MQ M					
	104C	1				MQ M					
105	105A	9									MQ M
	105B	2					E				MQ M
	105C	5								E	MQ M
	105D	6						PQ			
	105E	6							Du		
	105F	10								MQ	
	105G	1					A -10mm	1		MQ	
	105H	1							MQ		
	1051	12	MQ								



Context	Bag ID	No				Co	lour			Weight (g)
	105J	11		MQ = 7 PQ = 4						
	105K	3		E – MQ = 2 PQ = 1					MQ	
	105L	2		E=GQ		GQ				
	105M	1	E - MQ			GQ				
	105N	1		E=GQ						DK
	1050	1					PQ			
	105P	3								PQ
106	106A	3						MQ = 2 PQ = 1		
	106B	6	MQ							
	106C	1	E=GQ					GQ		
109	109A	2	MQ							
	109B	2	MQ							
112	112A	6	MQ = 4 PQ = 2							
	112B	5	MQ						E=GQ	
	112C	10							MQ	
	112D	1						 MQ	A=5mm	
112	112E	2	MQ						+ 4mm	11mm
114	114A	1							PQ	
	114B	3		GQ = 2 PQ = 1						
	114C	4		10(-1					MQ	
	114D	1					GQ			
	114E	1								PQ
	114F	2	GQ		+				E=GQ	
131	131	1			MQ			1		
148	148	2	MQ							
151	151A	9	PQ							
	151B	1	MQ							
	151C	4						PQ		



Context	Bag ID	No				Co	lour		Weight (g)
153	153A	1	PQ						
	153B	1			PQ				
	153C	1						 PQ	
	153D	1						PQ	
174	174A	2	PQ						
	174B	5	PQ						
	174C	3						PQ	
	174D	1						MQ	
	174E	3							Lt = 2 Dk = 1
	174F	1							M MQ
	174G	1					B = 12mm	MQ	
	174H	1					1211111		
	1741	1				GQ	E		
176	176A	1						MQ	
	176B	1						MQ	
182	182A	1							GQ
	182B	7		MQ					
	182C	1		PQ			E		
	182D	2							
TOTAL		180							

Table C8.1: Tesserae found In context

Context	Bag ID	No	С	olour							Weight (g)
		Dark Red	Red	Orange	Blac	k	White		Mixed Pattern	Red / Green	
Unstratified	1	3			PQ						47
Unstratified	2	11				P – MQ					157
Unstratified	3	3						MQ			153
Unstratified	4	10							P-MQ		222
Unstratified	5	3								MQ	35



Context	Bag ID	No	C	olour				Weight (g)
Unstratified	6	4					M-GQ	105
Unstratified	7	20				MQ		
Unstratified	8	41				MQ		1757
Unstratified	9	3		GQ				390
Unstratified	10	29		MQ				514
Unstratified	11	35	MQ					545
Unstratified	12	44		PQ				2683
Totals		206						5889

Table C8.1: Tesserae found unstratified

C.9 Iron Age Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

C.9.1 A small assemblage of 75 sherds 1,173g of Iron Age pottery was excavated from the Fane Road Community Excavation. The pottery is all contemporary with the later Iron Age pottery from Itter Crescent (late 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD). The average sherd weight is 15g, which is is somewhat smaller than the average weight (32g) for the sherds recovered from Itter Crescent, reflecting the largely redeposited context of recovery.

Methodology

- C.9.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gramme. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.
- C.9.3 The assemblage from Fane Road is entirely shell-tempered (Table C9.1). The extensive use of fossil shell reflects the geology of the area which overlies Jurassic Cornbrash limestone with shelly mudstone deposits (BGS online). Shell rich fabrics form the major component of the contemporary assemblage from the neighbouring site at Werrington where a limited range of fine to coarse shelly fabrics formed the bulk of the assemblage alongside a small transitional shell with grog component (Mackreth 1988, 112). Similar shell, shell with limestone and shell with grog fabrics were also found at the later Iron Age settlement at Cat's Water, Fengate (Pryor 1984, 134).



Fabric		Quantity	Weight (g)
S1	Moderate to common fine shell (less than 2mm) in fine clay matrix	24	267
S2	Common medium shell pieces in sandy clay matrix (up to 4mm)	39	570
S3	Moderate medium to coarse shell pieces in sandy clay matrix (up to 6mm)	9	295
SG	Common medium shell pieces in sandy clay matrix (up to 4mm) moderate pale sub angular grog	3	41

Table C9.1: Quantity and weight of later Iron Age pottery by fabric

Form

- C.9.4 The assemblage contains rims from eight vessels (Table C9.2). The Fane Road assemblage contains rims from eight vessels including two shouldered bowls similar to examples from the later Iron Age site at Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987, fig.38 135) and six ovoid jars with everted or upright rims also found at Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987, fig.29, 2; fig.31, 36 and 48 and fig. 37, 98 and 103). The pierced base may be from a strainer perhaps used to strain brewers' mash as the fresh beer was produced (Lyons 2008, 37) or as a steamer with the perforated pot being placed on top of a pot of boiling water (Stilborg 2006, 79).
- C.9.5 The forms are identical to those found at Itter Crescent suggesting that they derive from similar sources of domestic debris. No storage jars or water jars were found perhaps because Fane Road lay outside the main focus of occupation.

Site	Form	Туре	Number
PETRFR14	Bowl	Shouldered bowl	2
	Jar	Ovoid	4
		Ovoid everted rim	1
		Ovoid up right neck	1
		Pierced base steamer	
Total			8

Table C9.2: Quantity and weight of later Iron Age pottery from Fane Road by form

Deposition

C.9.6 The later Iron Age pottery from Fane Road mostly came from the fills of gully **197** and from an unstratified spread of debris. Five sherds 27g came from pit **128** which also contained Roman pottery.

Feature type	Quantity	Weight
Gully	37	580
Pit	5	27
U/s	33	566
	75	1173

Table C9.3: Quantity and weight of later Iron Age pottery from Fane Road by feature type

Discussion

C.9.7 The later Iron Age pottery from the two excavations (Itter Crescent and Fane Road) is identical in form and fabric to the contemporary assemblages from the neighbouring settlement sites of Werrington and Cat's Water, Fengate (Mackreth 1988, Pryor 1984)



and comparable to the pottery from the Wakerly and Weekley (Jackson and Ambrose 1978; Jackson and Dix 1987). This suggests that there was occupation at Itter Crescent/Fane Road from the late 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD and later as it is likely that some handmade forms, particularly the large shell tempered storage jars and perhaps the straight sided bowls/dishes also in shelly fabric continued to be made and used into the fully Roman period.

- C.9.8 The use of shell, shell with limestone and shell with grog fabrics is comparable to the neighbouring settlement sites at Werrington and Cat's Water, Fengate (Pryor 1984, 134) indicating that the pottery of the Peterborough region falls firmly within the shell tempered tradition characteristic of the Iron Age in the lower Nene Valley with limited grog-tempered fabrics being introduced in the later Iron Age and fully Roman greywares replacing shell-gritted fabrics by the mid 2nd century (Mackreth 1988, 120).
- C.9.9 The presence of sooting and limescale on several vessels confirms the use of the pottery as domestic cooking vessels whilst the bowls, dishes, water jars and storage jars show that food serving, preparation and storage were also taking place at the site. The perforated base found at Fane Road might also suggest steaming or brewing. The range of vessel forms and sizes and the presence of limited specialised forms show that food preparation and serving was becoming more sophisticated in the later Iron Age and contrasts with the limited range of jars forms found on earlier and Middle Iron Age sites from the region (Hill 2002).

C.10 Roman Pottery

By Alice Lyons

- C.10.1 In addition to the Itter Crescent assemblage, a relatively small extra group of Roman pottery totalling 1278 pieces, weighing 16046g (10.79 EVE), was recovered from the adjacent site of Fane Road. This group represents 8% (by weight) of the Itter Crescent assemblage. The pottery is considered as an unstratified group as the majority was recovered from layers overlying the surviving archaeology. The pottery is significantly abraded with an average sherd weight of only 12.5g (significantly smaller that the Itter Crescent material which has an ASW of 19g).
- C.10.2 This material showed the same characteristics as Itter Crescent with a limited supply of pottery mostly produced within the Lower Nene Valley (Table C10.1). A total of fourteen broad fabric families were identified, dominated by the fragmentary remains of locally produced utilitarian STW jar and storage jars, also SGW globular jars and straight-sided burnished dishes of BB2-type (Tyers 1996 186-88). Also well represented are Nene Valley colour coated and grey ware globular jars and dishes. As with the main Itter Crescent assemblage Late Roman Oxford and Hadham red wares are rare.
- C.10.3 Also as within the larger Itter Crescent assemblage central Gaulish samian is the main imported ware present found in a similar percentage of weight as within the Itter Crescent assemblage (1.25% by weight). Specialist wares are rare as only one bead and flanged (type 7.1) mortaria (mixing bowl) in a Nene valley white ware fabric was found and a single fragment of a Spanish olive oil amphora.
- C.10.4 It is apparent, however, that this group of material is distinct from the larger Itter Crescent assemblage as it contains much less Early Roman material. Indeed grog tempered wares and diagnostic Early Roman wide mouthed jars are rare. This may be



due to the different methods of excavation, but may also reflect the later date of the underlying archaeology at Fane Road, where earlier deposits were not extensively investigated.

Fabric	Fabric Code	Vessel Form	Sherd Count	Sherd weight (g)	EVE	Sherd weight (%)
ware	STW	Jar (type 4.5), storage jar (type 4.14)	300			
Sandy grey ware	SGW	Bowl (Dr29 copy), jar (type 4.5, 4.8, 4.13), dish (type 6.17, 6.18, 6.19, 6.21)	377	3454	3.61	21.53
Nene valley Colour Coat	NVCC	Flagon (type 1.9, jug (type 1.10), beaker (type 3.3, 3.6, 3.14), jar (type 4.14), dish (type 6.17, 6.18, 6.19), bowl (type 6.14), castor box (type 6.2)	238	3 2854	1.84	17.79
Nene Valley grey ware	NVGW	Jar (type 4.4, 4.8), wide mouthed jar 9type 5.13), bowl (type 6.3, 6.15), dish (type 6.18, 6.19)	206	2784	2.68	17.35
Sandy oxidised ware	SOW	Flagon, jar, bowl, strainer	66	614	0.00	3.83
Nene Valley white ware	NVOW	Flagon, (type 1.9), jar (type 4.8), bowl, dish (type 6.19), mortaria (type 7.1)	24	572	. 1.31	3.55
Samian	SAM CG	Dish, bowl, cup(Dr33)	33	200	0.00	1.25
Verulamium white ware	SOW(Q)	Flagon, jar (type 4.5), dish (type 6.3)	10	167	0.47	1.04
Horningsea grey ware	HORN GW	Jar/storage jar	6	132	0.00	0.82
Sandy grey ware with grog inclusion (pre- industrialised)	SGW(GROG)	Jar/bowl	10	83	0.10	0.52
Fine grey ware	GW(FINE)	Beaker (type 3.14), bowl, strainer	4	. 20	0.21	0.12
Spanish amphora	BAT AM	Amphora	1	11	0.00	0.07
	HADREDW	Jar/bowl	2	2 8	0.00	0.05
Oxfordshire red colour coat	OXREDCC	Bowl	1	8		
Total			1278	16046	10.79	100.00

Table C10.1. The Fane Road Roman pottery assemblage, listed in descending order of weight

C.11 The Samian

By Stephen Wadeson

Introduction

C.11.1 Excavations at Fane Road produced a small assemblage of samian totalling 34 sherds, weighing 0.302kg, with an estimated vessel equivalent of 0.51 (EVE) and representing



a maximum of 26 vessels (MNV). Dating from the first century, (products of La Graufesenque) to the later second century (products of Lezoux) the majority of the assemblage *c*. 82% (by weight) is from Central Gaul, principally Lezoux with a further, smaller element of South Gaulish samian also identified. Quantities by fabric source in chronological order are shown in Table C11.1.

Fabric	Quantity	Quantity (%)	Weight (Kg)	Weight (%)	EVE
South Gaul	6	17.7	0.095	31.5	0.06
Central Gaul (Les Martres)	3	8.8	0.014	4.6	0.00
Central Gaul (Lezoux)	25	73.5	0.193	63.9	0.45
Total	34	100	0.302	100	0.51

Table C11.1: Samian quantified by fabric source in chronological order

C.11.2 The majority of the samian identified was recovered from unstratified deposits within Trench 1, primarily demolition layers associated with the villa accounting for *c*. 94% (by weight) of the total assemblage. The majority of the sherds are fragmentary and moderately to heavily abraded with an average sherd weight of *c*. 9g, and would suggest that the majority of the sherds were not located within their primary site of deposition and are of a residual nature.

South Gaulish Samian

- C.11.3 The earliest material recovered is South Gaulish from La Graufesenque accounting for c. 31% (by weight) of the total assemblage and is represented by a maximum of five vessels (0.06 EVE). Vessels identified include plain wares examples of cup form 27 and platter form 18 as well as a single example of a decorated Dr. 37 hemispherical bowl. The remaining decoration is of a zonal design consisting of a basal wreath of S-shaped gadroon and is typically seen on vessels of the late Flavian period and is consistent with the style of M. Crestio (Inv. Nos. 0004511, 0004523) AD 80-110.
- C.11.4 Forms typically associated with the pre Flavian period are noticeable by their absence, however due to the limited quantity of South Gaulish material recovered specific comments on the nature of the supply of vessels to the site during this period is not possible.

Central Gaulish Samian

C.11.5 The majority of the samian recovered is Central Gaulish and is represented by a maximum of 21 vessels (0.45 EVE). Accounts for *c*. 82% of the total assemblage by weight, the products of both Les Martre-de-Veyre and Lezoux were identified and can be dated to the second century AD. This includes a single example of a vessel with a maker's stamp identified in the assemblage.

Les Martres-de-Veyre

C.11.6 The earliest material recovered is Trajanic (100-120AD) from Les Martres-de-Veyre, and consists of three sherds from a maximum of three vessels. This includes a single example of a form 33 cup and dish from 18/31 or 18/31R. The remaining sherd is too small and fragmented for accurate identification.

Lezoux

C.11.7 The majority of the assemblage recovered by weight (*c*. 64%) was produced at Lezoux and dated to the Hadrianic or Antonine periods (AD120-200). Represented by a



maximum of 18 vessels (0.45 EVE) this includes the remains of the only example of a stamped vessel identified from the assemblage.

- C.11.8 Early plain wares forms identified within the assemblage date from the Hadrianic or early Antoine period as indicated by the presence of forms which went out of production by the mid 2nd century (*c*. AD150/160). These forms are limited within the assemblage with vessels identified consisting of two examples of the dish form 18/31.
- C.11.9 The majority of the plain wares from Lezoux however consist of forms typically associated with the Antonine period, vessels identified including form 33 cups, a single example of a form 31 bowl and a rim sherd from a form 38 bowl. A maximum of six form 33 cups were recovered and includes the only stamped vessel recovered during excavations (Stamp S1). Stamped on the basal interior, a partial makers stamp was identified, [ALB]VCI and can be associated with the potter Albucus ii (Hartley and Dickinson 2008, Vol 1, 133-144) who was producing vessels during the early to mid Antonine periods (AD145-175). A single example of an O&P, LV, 13 cup was identified also and is the only example of this form recovered from excavations at either Fane Road or Itter Crescent.
- C.11.10 In addition sherds from a maximum of two decorated vessels were identified within the assemblage and include the only example of a form 37 bowl from Lezoux. The sherd has retained enough of the decorative scheme to see that the vessels design consisted of panel decoration. Separated by a beaded border (A2?) with rosettes at their junctions only the lower half of a single panel is visible. Within this panel the lower half of a lion, Os.1378 (Oswald, 1936-37) can be identified (See Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl.83, no. 11) facing right, above a single row of acanthus (K23?) leaf tip fillers (Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl.83, no.10). The end of the zone of decoration is marked by a single ridge. The style of decoration is most likely the work of the potter Sacer i (AD 115-140), one of the major producers of decorated wares at Lezoux during the Hadrianic period.
- C.11.11 The second of the two decorated vessels identified within the assemblage from Lezoux consists of a single decorated body sherd from a form 72 globular beaker. Typical of the 2nd half of the 2nd century the vessel was decorated using incised 'cut-glass' decoration and as such is the only example of a vessel decorated in this style, or in fact a vessel of this form recovered during excavations at either Itter Crescent or Fane Road.
- C.11.12 The remaining sherds, representing a maximum of four vessels are too small and abraded for accurate identification and therefore not closely datable (*c*. 3% by weight). As a result only a broad date of between AD120-200 can be assigned to these sherds.

Discussion

C.11.13 Associated with settlement activity, the majority of the assemblage is unstratified and is too small and fragmentary for statistical analysis or to make any specific comments on the nature of supply to the site when considered as a separate assemblage. As such any interpretations of the results should be considered as part of a larger assemblage including material from excavations at Itter Crescent (Wadeson, *in prep*).

Acknowledgements

4.7.1 Many thanks once again to Dr. Gwladys Monteil for her help and comments on both the stamped and decorated assemblages respectively.



Catalogue of Samian Potters' Stamps

A single stamp was identified, each entry gives; potter; die; form; reading; pottery of origin; date; excavation number; trench number.

S1 Albucius ii, Die 6b. Drag.33 [ALB]VCI, Lezoux. c. AD145-175. (99999) Unstrat, Trench 1.

Catalogue of Decorated Samian

While neither fragments have been illustrated rubbings have been taken and placed in the site archive. Abbreviations: Drag.-Dragendorff; S&S-Standfield and Simpson, 1958; Os.-Oswald 1936-7.

D1 (99999) Unstrat, two joining body sherds, Drag.37 Bowl, La Graufesenque, basal wreath of S-shaped gadroon, zonal decoration. Typical of the late Flavian potters the use of this type of basal wreath is consistent with the style of M. Crestio (Inv. Nos. 0004511, 0004523) AD 80-110.

D2 (99999) Unstrat, SF111, single body sherd, Drag.37 Bowl, Lezoux. Panel decoration separated by beaded border (?)A2 with rosettes at junction. Lower half of lion Os.1378, facing right (see S & S 1958, pl.83, no.11) is visible above leaf tip fillers, acanthus (?)K23 (S& S 1958, pl.83, no.10). Single ridge at the bottom. Probably by Sacer i, AD 115-140.



APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Human Skeletal Remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction

- D.1.1 A single skeleton and a collection of disarticulated remains were recovered from the excavation of the Roman Villa at Fane Road in Peterborough. Like most of the skeletons from the earlier Itter Crescent excavation at the villa the remains were recovered largely from back filling layers and robber trenches. The skeleton was that of a Male adult between about 35-39 years old. The aims of the report were as follows:
 - To evaluate the potential of the material for recording anthropological information such as age, sex and stature.
 - To explore the potential of the remains to provide palaeopathological information.
 - To give recommendations for further analysis.

Methodology

- D.1.2 The human remains were assessed in accordance with national guidelines set out by Mays et al. (2004) and with reference to standard protocols for examining human skeletal remains from archaeological sites (Brickley and McKinley, 2004; Buikstra and Ubelaker, 1994; Cox and Mays, 2000).
- D.1.3 Completeness was recorded by noting the amount of bone present as a percentage and assigning it to one of four categories as laid out in the table below.
- D.1.4 Fragmentation was scored as either high (most bones fragmented and in pieces), moderate (approximately half of the skeleton has bones that are in fragments) or low (limited or few bones are fragmented).
- D.1.5 Surface condition was assessed using the scoring system devised by McKinley (2004) where the level of surface erosion on the bone was graded on a level between 0 and 5; grade 0 being no erosion and grade 5 being highly eroded.
- D.1.6 All remains were aged using the methods laid out by Buckberry and Chamberlain (2002) Lovejoy et al (1985) and Scheuer and Black (2000).
- D.1.7 Biological sex was estimated using the methods laid out by Buikstra and Uberlaker (1994).
- D.1.8 Any dental conditions, pathology or bony abnormalities were recorded. Particular attention was given to the presence of any unusual conditions that might require detailed specialist examination and/or the application of analytical techniques, such as radiography and histology.

Results

D.1.1 The results are summarised in the table below

Skeleton	burial type/position	Orientation*	Age	Sex	Pathology
number					
110	R side	N-S	35-39	M	Periostitus in L arm and
					R Femur.

Table D1.1: Inhumation results

*Position of the skull referred to first



Skeleton 110

- D.1.2 Skeleton 110 is around 50% complete and represents an adult male individual. Only the ribs and arms of this skeleton were clearly articulated within the grave cut however the semi-articulated material within fill (109) does appear to be that of the same individual. The surface condition of the bone is consistent with McKinley's (2004) grade one where little detail is masked. The fragmentation level was estimated to be medium meaning that over all the preservation of this skeleton is good.
- D.1.3 The skeleton is estimated to be around 35-39 years of age based primarily on the auricular surface of the pelvis (Buckberry and Chamberlain 2002, Lovejoy et al 1985) and the dental attrition (Brothwell 1981, Miles 1962).
- D.1.4 This individual is estimated to be male based upon a combination of cranial traits and pelvic traits as laid out by Buikstra and Uberlaker (2004)
- D.1.5 The dental health of skeleton 110 is relatively poor with the individual showing numerous caries or cavities and antemortem tooth loss with both the first and second left molars being lost over twelve months before death. Caries is a sign of infection in the tooth (Hillson 2005, 291) and is one of the most common dental conditions observed. The conditions observed here are consistent with the dental health of the Itter Crescent demolition phase skeletons found in 2011 (Ui Choileain 2011; Webb 2013).
- D.1.6 Little pathology was observed on the skeleton however the midshaft of the right femur shows signs of active periostitis with new bone remodelling. Periostitis is a non-specific infection which can occur as the result of an earlier trauma (Ortner 2003 206). The left humerus also showed signs of periostitis but in this case the infection was very well healed and difficult to observe due to the poor surface condition of the bone.
- D.1.7 A stature estimate was taken from the left tibia in accordance with the procedures laid out by Trotter (1970). The individual was estimated to be around 174cm tall or 5 foot eight inches.
- D.1.8 The skull of this individual displays an unusual number of ossicles (or tiny bones), particularly around the lamboid sutures. This is known as a metric trait and would have had no effect on the health of the individual.

Context	Preservation	Completeness	Mni	Age	Pathology
109	1	25%	1	35-39	Proximal end of clavicle enlarged, very prominent muscle attachment possibly due to trauma?
99999 T4	1	<25%	2	Juvenile/Adult	Juvenile: M1 displays caries, Adult: Axis and C2 completely fused
99999	1	<25%	1	Juvenile	Caries on upper M2
99999	1	<25%	1	Adult	Cribra orbitalia on left orbit
99999	1	<25%	1	Adult	None
99999	1	<25%	1	Neonate	None

The Disarticulated Remains

Table D1.2: The Disarticulated Remains

D.1.9 A large quantity of disarticulated remains was recovered from the backfilling layer and as unstratified finds. It is most likely that these were buried during the same time period



as the Itter Crescent skeletons and they have been later disturbed. Context 109 is the backfill of grave **108** which contained Sk110 and it is most likely that that they represent the same individual.

Conclusion

- Overall the pathologies displayed are fairly consistent with the post-villa population D.1.1 recovered from Itter Crescent (Webb 2013). The dental health in general is poor with some caries already being well developed in the juveniles. Cribra Orbitalia or pitting on the orbits was observed on one disarticulated skull. This has until recently primarily been associated with iron deficiency (Aufterheide and Rodriguez-Martin 1998, 349). However current research (Walker et. al. 2009) argues that the marrow hypertrophy that produces the pathological lesions referred to as porotic Hyperostosis and cribra orbitalia cannot be explained by iron deficiency. Walker et al. (2009) argue that both a deficiency in Vitamin C and Vitamin B12 are more likely causes of Cribra Orbitalia that iron deficiency. The lesions described as Cribra Orbitalia often occur in scurvy which is caused by a lack of Vitamin C. Similarly they are observed in cases which display other symptoms of Vitamin B12 deficiency. The possible trauma seen in Sk110 and the spine related conditions seen in the disarticulated remains are also consistent with the pathologies observed on the Itter Crescent skeletons (Webb 2013) and could all be interpreted as the result of a population who were not particularly wealthy and who were engaged in manual labour.
- D.1.2 While C14 dating would be useful to determine an exact date for this collection, as the vast majority of the HSR recovered is disarticulated and from unstratified layers it is not considered that enough information would be provided to render it financially or academically viable. No further work on this collection is necessary, apart from incorporation into the Itter Crescent analysis and publication as the human remains recovered provide more proof that the area was used as a burial ground after the abandonment of the villa.

D.2 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

Introduction

D.2.1 A total of 4.3kg of stratified faunal material was recovered from the excavation at Fane Road, yielding 83 "countable" bones (see below). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. One hundred and sixty five fragments of animal bone were recovered with 83 identifiable to species (50.3% of the total sample).

Methodology

D.2.2 To evaluate the potential of the material for recording anthropological information such All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1994). Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see Table D2.1). The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining



the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant 1982). Wear stages were recorded for lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. The states of epiphyseal fusion for all relevant bones were recorded to give a broad age range for the major domesticates (after Getty, 1975). Measurements were largely carried out according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976). Measurements were either carried out using a 150mm sliding calliper or an osteometric board in the case of larger bones.

The assemblage

- D.2.3 Table D2.1 shows the species distribution for the assemblage. Partial sheep/goat and pig skeletons were recovered from dark layer 105 (an adult of 2-3 years of age and a neonate respectively). Even if one takes this into account the assemblage is still dominated by sheep/goat remains along with slightly smaller numbers of cattle. Rabbit remains were recovered from surface 147 and are most likely intrusive. A single fragment of roe deer antler beam was recovered from context 131. A duck radius and fowl tibiotarsus were recovered from layers 174 and 105 respectively. Sheep remains (aside from the partial skeleton) consist mainly of lower limb elements (tibiae, metapodia etc.) along with smaller numbers of upper limb and cranial elements. A single measurable metatarsal was recovered from layer 174 from animal around 64cm tall at the shoulder. All bones were from adults apart from a neonatal metacarpal and femur from layer 105 & 184 respectively. Further ageable mandibles were recovered from laters 105 and 174, the first two coming from animal aged 1-2 years at death, the latter 6 months to 1 year old.
- D.2.4 The cattle assemblage again consisted mainly of lower limb elements with fragmentary mandibles. No measurable bones were recovered. A single juvenile radius was recovered from context 181 with 5 cut marks on the caudal shaft. Aside from the neonate skeleton from context 105 pig remains are limited to a partial female mandible and metatarsal from contexts 112 & 181 respectively.

Conclusions

D.2.5 This is a small sample that most likely represents general settlement debris, similar in nature and make up to the adjacent villa assemblage. Sheep and to a lesser extent cattle and pigs were raised primarily for meat, with wild mammals and ducks being hunted from the surrounding countryside. Fowl were raised for meat, eggs and feathers.

	NISP	NISP %	MNI	MNI %
Cattle (Bos)	16	19.6	10	41.5
Sheep/Goat (Ovis /Capra)	48*	58.6	6	25
Pig (Sus scrofa)	13*	15.8	3	12.5
Roe Deer (Capreolus capreolus)	1	1.2	1	4.2
Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)	2	2.4	2	8.4
Fowl (Gallus sp.)	1	1.2	1	4.2
Duck (Anas sp.)	1	1.2	1	4.2
Total:	82	100	24	100

Table D2.1: Species distribution for the assemblage.



D.3 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- D.3.1 Five bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas at Fane Road, Peterborough (as part of the Romans at Fane Road Community Project) in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- D.3.2 The features sampled include the grave of an adult male semi-articulated skeleton, a rubbish pit and layers of Roman date that are thought to be contemporary with the Roman Villa complex excavated by OA East in 2011.

Methodology

D.3.3 The total volume (up to eighteen litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table D3.1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

D.3.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and artefacts have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens #### = 100+ specimens

D.3.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal has been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

D.3.6 Preservation of plant remains occurs in four of the five samples and is by carbonisation with no waterlogged or mineralised plant remains present. Charred plant remains are generally scarce and are poorly preserved suggesting that the material had degraded prior to deposition. Cereal grains predominate with a single charred oat (*Avena* sp.) grain present in Sample 1, fill 106 of pit **107** and charred grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) occurring more commonly in Sample 3 taken from layer 105. Sample 3 also contains a charred glume base of spelt (*T. spelta*) wheat suggesting



that the grains are most probably of this wheat species. Charred seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.) are also present along with a small fragment of eggshell and four bones of a small animal, probably a rodent.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Preservation	Cereals	Chaff	Weed Seeds	Small Bones	Charcoal	Small animal bones	Large animal bones	Marine molluscs	Pottery	Fired clay	Metal
1	106	107	pit	18	15	Char red	#	0	0	0	++	0	##	0	0	0	Fe
2	109	108	pit	18	5	Char red	0	0	0	0	+	##	0	#	0	#	0
3	105		layer	14	40	Char red	##	#	#	#	+++	##	##	0	0	#	0
4	105		layer	1	1	none	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#	0
5	136		pit	16	10	Char red	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	#	##	#	0

Table D3.1: Environmental samples from PETRFR14

Discussion

D.3.7 In general the samples are poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant remains consist mainly of cereal grains that were all poorly preserved, either because of taphonomic factors or because they had been charred at a high temperature. Layer 105 contains the most abundant charred plant assemblage and most likely represents a spread of midden material which may have been used for levelling the area.

D.4 Shell

By Alex Fryer

Introduction

D.4.1 A total of 133 shell and shell fragments, weighing 2.68kg, were recovered from the Community Excavation at Fane Road Allotments (Table D4.1). The shells were quantified and examined to assess the diversity and quantity of these ecofacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations.

Species	Common Name	Habitat	Total Weight (g)	Total Number of contexts
Ostrea edulis	-)	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	2444	16 + Unstratified
Mytilus edulis	Mussel	Intertidal, salt water	81	6 + Unstratified
Cerastoderma edule	Cockle	Intertidal, salt water	3	Unstratified
Buccinum undatum	Whelk	Intertidal, salt water	5	Unstratified
Helix pomatia	Snail	Land	13	4
	Unidentified shell fragments		130	

Table D4.1: Shell by weight and number



Methods

- D.4.2 In order to obtain the Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI), shell apices were counted, bearing in mind that each individual originally had 2 apices. The MNI was arrived at by different means, depending on the species.
- D.4.3 Oysters have a defined left and right valve. The left is more concave in shape and displays radiating ribs on the outer surface. The right is generally flatter and lacks the ribs, although concentric growth rings are often visible (Winder 2011,11). To obtain the MNI, the number of left and right valves is counted, and the largest number is then taken as the MNI.
- D.4.4 For cockles and mussels, it is much more difficult to identify the left and right valves and so the MNI is calculated by taking the full amount of valves and halving this figure.
- D.4.5 Shell size has been recorded for each shell where there is a discernible apex and outer edge, and then then average taken across each context. The measurement is taken from the apex to the outer edge of the shell. Fragments have been weighed but not measured. For oyster shells the measurements have been taken from the Dorsal to the Ventral margin (Winder 2011).

Discussion

- D.4.6 The majority of the shells found are oyster shells 95% of the assemblage. They vary in width from 54.4mm to 91.5mm. There are slightly more right valves (44) than left valves (38).
- D.4.7 The lengths of the oyster shells indicate the time that they were harvested; larger oysters were left for longer before harvesting than smaller ones, although these could be juvenile oysters that were harvested too early.
- D.4.8 During the preparation of oysters, prior to eating, the right valve is prised off and discarded, with the meat remaining in the left valve. When equal numbers of left and right valves found this can indicate that the oysters are being prepared and eaten together.
- D.4.9 The majority of the shells that were found were moderately preserved. There were a large number of shell fragments also found, most of which appear to be part of oyster shells. There was evidence in 12 cases of damage likely to have been caused ding the opening (shucking) process. This was in the form of small "v" or "u" shaped holes at the centre of the outer edge, on the left hand valve.
- D.4.10 The other shellfish that were found as part of the assemblage; cockles (0.08%), mussels (1.25%), whelks (0.27%) were also eaten within the Roman period, but not as commonly as oysters. Given the small numbers, along with snail and mollusc shells, it is likely that these were contaminants of the oyster harvest.
- D.4.11 Most of the shell material found came from unstratified contexts, although are likely to be Roman in origin. Roman shells tend to be larger than in subsequent periods, until the size increased again in the modern period (Winder 2011, 6).

Context	Species	Total number of fragments	Total Number of pieces	MNI	Total Weight (g)	Oyster – left valve	Oyster – right valve	Evidence of Shucking	Average size (mm)
105	Snail		1	1	2				
	Oyster		4	2	129	2	2		84.25
	Shell	7			24				
	fragments								
109	Mollusc	2			0				Not complete
111	Oyster		2	1	12	1	1		Not complete
112	Oyster		7	4	177	4	3		88.57
	Oyster	4			7		1		Not complete
	Mussel		17		30				Only 2 complete – 50mm
	Shell	28			10				Not complete
	fragment								
114	Snail		1	1	2		ļ		Not complete
	Mussel		1	1	1		ļ		Not complete
	Oyster		5	5	124		5		78.4
130	Oyster		3	2	27	2	1		49.6
	Mussel		1	1	2				
131	Oyster	1			3				Not complete
136	Likely Oyster	1			3				Not complete
137	Oyster		3	3	31		3	1	69mm
138	Oyster	1			7		1		Not complete
139	Snail		1	1	4				Not complete
140	Oyster		1	1	5	1			Not complete
144/145	Oyster		1	1	18		1	1	73mm
148	Mollusc	3		-	4		-		Not complete
	Mussel	2			0				Not complete
151	Oyster	1			0				Not complete
	Oyster	1	8	6	•	2	6	1	76.38
	Mussel		2	1	5		<u> </u>	· ·	34
	Mussel	2		1	9				Not complete
153	Oyster	-	1	1	27		1	1	73
	Oyster	2		1	9		·	† <u> </u>	Not complete
157	Snail	- F	1	1	5		1	+	25
174	Oyster	+	4	3	133	3	1	2	71.5
	Oyster	+	<u>г</u>		32	<u>~</u>	1	<u> </u>	Not complete
176	Oyster	+	2	1		1	1		68.5
170	Snail	4	<u>~</u>		0	1	1		Not complete
181	Mussel	1		-	3				Not complete
182	Oyster	1	1	1	20		1	1	71
102	Oyster		1	1					
	Total	59	67	38		16	26	7	
	Oyster	9	42	31	1044	16	26	7	73.02
	Snail	4	4		13				25
	Mussel	5	21		50				42
	Mollusc	5			4				
	Fragments	36	1		37		1	1	

Table D4.2: Shells found within a context

Context		Total number of fragments		MNI	Total Weight (g)	Oyster – left valve	Oyster – right valve	Average size (mm)
Unstratified	Oyster	40	40	22	1400	22	18	71.09 (left) 72.02 (right)
Unstratified	Mussels	3	11		31			42.63
Unstratified	Whelks		7		5			47.13
Unstratified	Cockles		2		3			20.93
Unstratified	Fragment s	31			93			
	Total	74	60	22	1532			

Table D4.3: Shells from unstratified contexts



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APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	Number oxfordar3- 136468				
Project Name	An archaeological community excavation at Fane Road Allotment Site (HLF)				
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start 12-05-2014 Finish 13-06-2014					
Previous Work (by OA East) Yes Future Work Unknown					

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PETRFR14	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	53919	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Research

Please select all techniques used:

Field Observation (periodic visits)	Part Excavation	Salvage Record
Full Excavation (100%)	Part Survey	Systematic Field Walking
Full Survey	Recorded Observation	Systematic Metal Detector Survey
Seophysical Survey	Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	Test Pit Survey
X Open-Area Excavation	Salvage Excavation	Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditches	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
walls	Roman 43 to 410	building materials	Roman 43 to 410
surfaces	Roman 43 to 410		Select period

Project Location

County	Cambs	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Peterborough Unitary Auth	Fane Road allotments Fane Road
Parish	Paston	Peterborough
HER	Peterborough	
Study Area	325sqm	National Grid Reference TL 518 136



Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	David Crawford White OA east
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

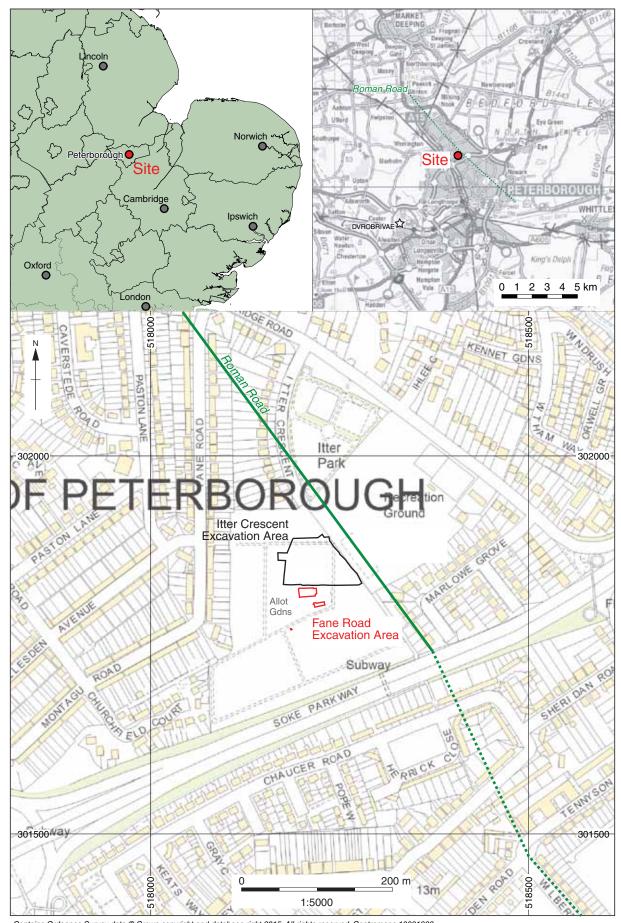
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Peterborough museum	OA East	Peterborough museum
PETRFR14	PETRFR14	PETRFR14

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents	Digital Media	Paper Media
Animal Bones	×			× Database	Aerial Photos
Ceramics	×			GIS	Context Sheet
Environmental	×			✗ Geophysics	Correspondence
Glass	×			× Images	Diary
Human Bones	×			➤ Illustrations	➤ Drawing
Industrial				Moving Image	Manuscript
Leather				× Spreadsheets	🗌 Мар
Metal	×			X Survey	Matrices
Stratigraphic				X Text	Microfilm
Survey				Virtual Reality	Misc.
Textiles					Research/Notes
Wood					× Photos
Worked Bone					× Plans
Worked Stone/Lithic					× Report
None					× Sections
Other					X Survey

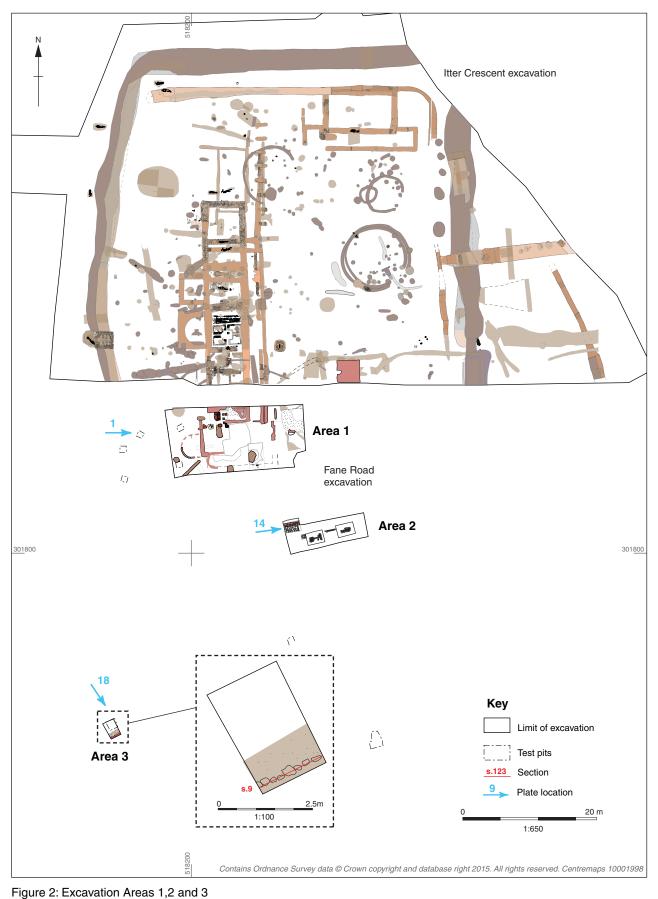
Notes:



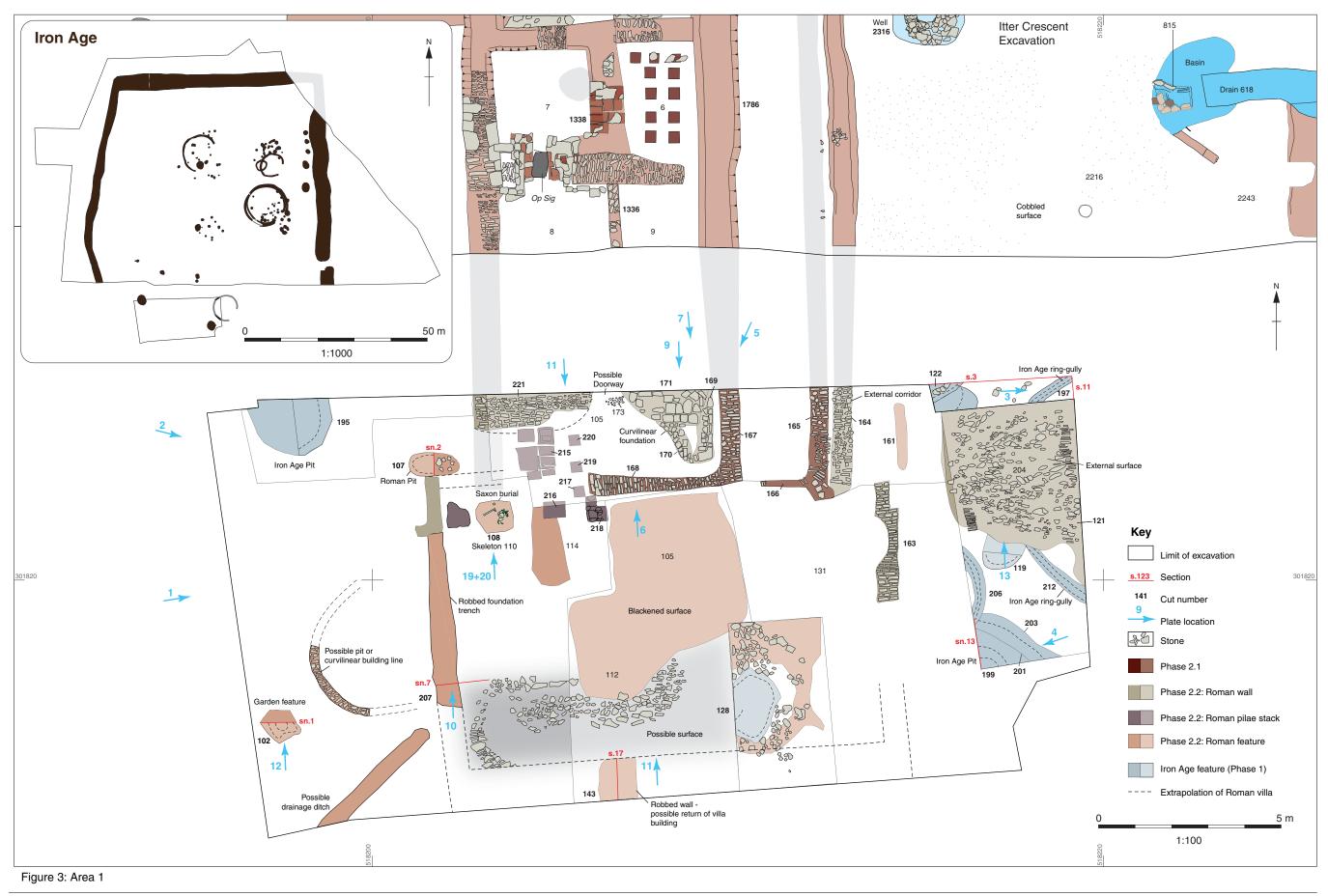


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015. All rights reserved. Centremaps 10001998 Figure 1: Location of the Community Excavation (red) in relation to the 2011 OA East Itter Crescent excavation (black)

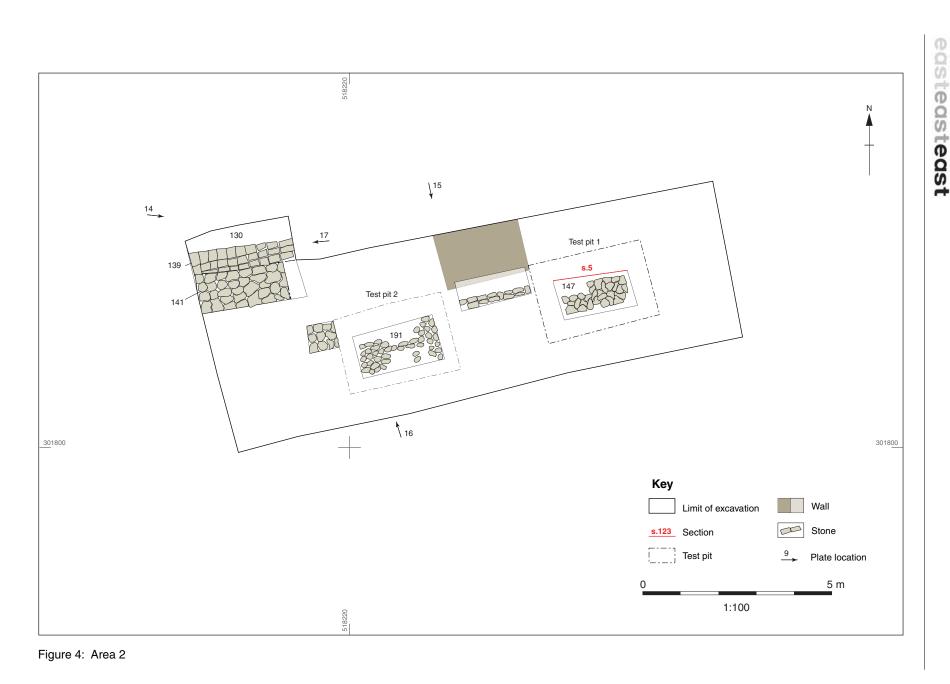






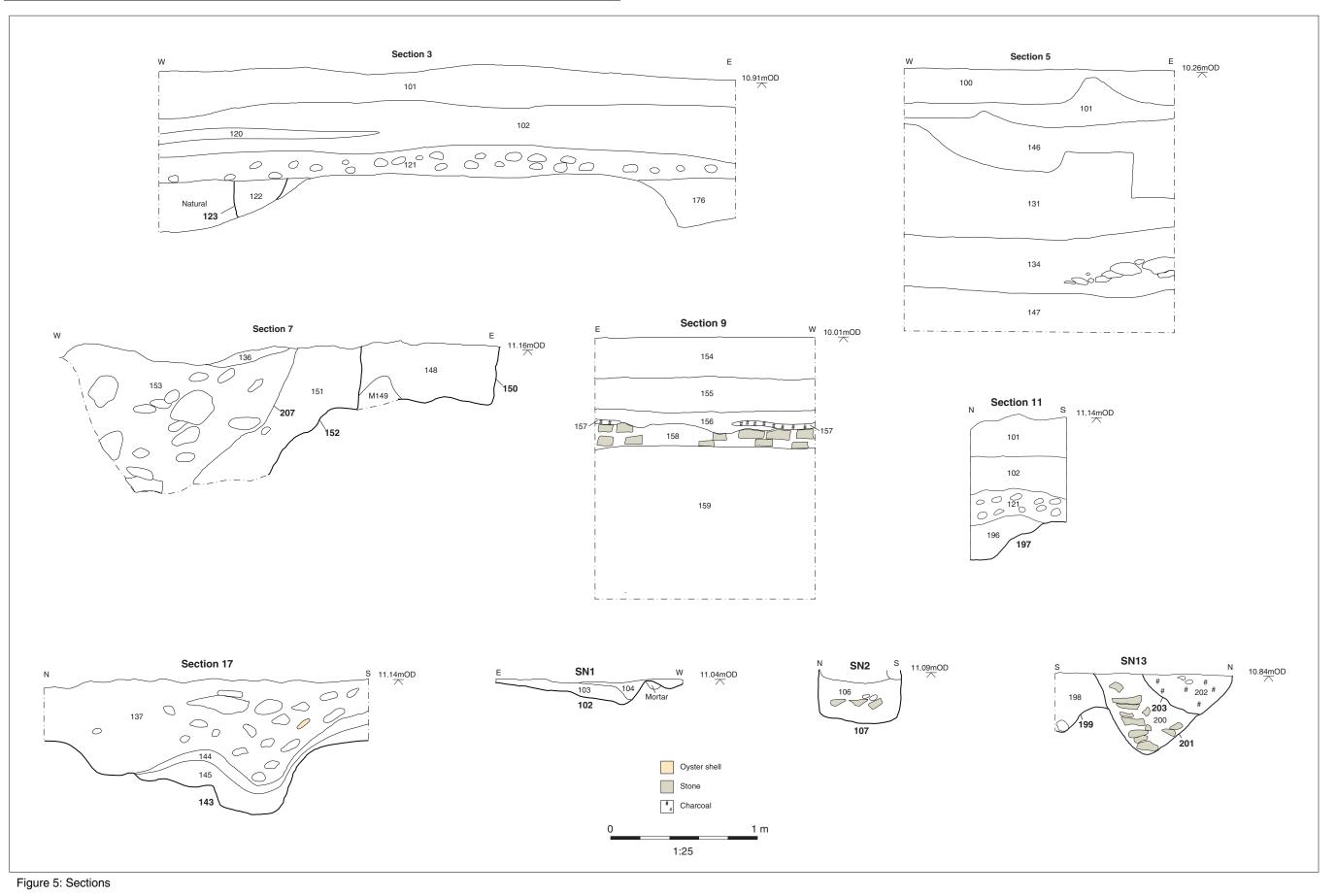


Oxford Archaeology East



Report Number 1794





Report Number 1794





Figure 6: Reconstruction of the Itter Crescent Iron Age settlement (Jon Cane)





Figure 7: Reconstruction of the Romano-British villa uncovered at Itter Crescent/Fane Road in the early 4th century (Jon Cane)





Plate 1: Overview of excavation Area 1, from west



Plate 2: Excavation working shot (Area 1) in week 2, from west





Plate 3: Iron Age gully 197, from west

Plate 4: Iron Age pit 199, from north





Plate 5: Wall foundations and internal features, from north-east



Plate 6: Structural remains in the northern part of Area 1



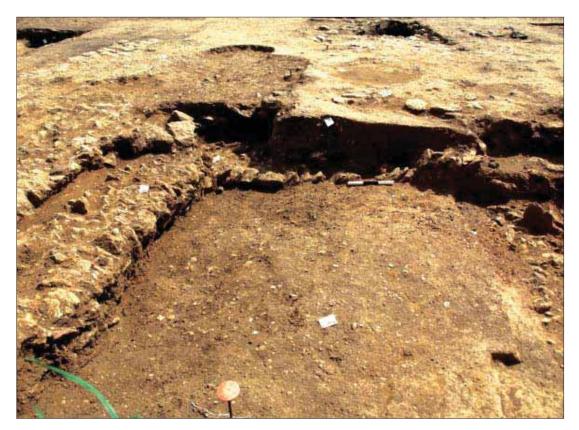


Plate 7: Wall 167, from north



Plate 8: Pilae stacks viewed from the north





Plate 9: Curvilinear foundation 170, from north



Plate 10: Robber trench 207, from south





Plate 11: Internal layer 105



Plate 12: Plinth base 102, from south





Plate 13: Roman external surface 204/121



Plate 14: Area 2, from north-west





Plate 15: Area 2, Test Pit 1 showing stone surface 147/191/141, from north



Plate 16: Area 2, Test pit 2 showing stone surface 147/191/141, from south





Plate 18: Area 3, showing wall north





Plate 19: Area 1, Saxon skeleton 110, from south

Plate 20: Detail of skeleton 110





Plate 21: Detail shot showing re-rendering of plasterwork found in Area 1



Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House Osney Mead Oxford OX20ES

t: +44(0)1865263800 f: +44(0)1865793496 e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3 MoorLane LancasterLA11QD

t: +44(0)1524 541000 f: +44(0)1524 848606 e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OAEast

15 Trafalgar Way Bar Hill Cambridgeshire CB23 8SQ

t:+44(0)1223 850500 e:oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com



Director: GIII Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIFA Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a Private Limited Company, N⁰: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, N⁰: 285627