LATE IRON AGE AND ROMAN ACTIVITY IN THE MIDDLE OUZEL VALLEY: EXCAVATIONS AT LAND EAST OF FENNY ROAD, STOKE HAMMOND

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The combined results of open area excavation, evaluation trial trenching, and geophysical survey at Stoke Hammond revealed late Iron Age and Roman occupation, as well as three phases of post-Roman field ditches. The late Iron Age features included two possible ring gullies representing the remains of possible round houses. One of the ring gullies was superseded by a sub-square enclosure. The sub-square enclosure was associated with a large pit, possibly for clay extraction, and a broad linear ditch. Late Iron Age finds included metal working residues, the waste from red deer antler working, and a bone pin. Cattle dominated the animal bone assemblage, with smaller quantities of pig/boar and sheep/goat. In the mid-1st century AD an east-west droveway, rectangular enclosure and associated structural features were constructed c.150m north of the existing late Iron Age area of activity. An entranceway to the rectangular enclosure faced the late Iron Age area of activity to the south. From their similar assemblages of Belgic grog-tempered and Romano-British shell-tempered pottery, the late Iron Age sub-square enclosure continued to be a focus of activity/occupation into the late 1st century AD. Major reorganisation of the site occurred in the first half of the 2nd century AD. While the droveway continued in use, a prominent north-south boundary ditch was constructed off its southern side, bisecting the rectangular enclosure and restricting east-west movement across the site. Late Roman activity of the 2nd to 4th century, including a stone-lined corn drier, was concentrated to the southeast of this new boundary ditch. Following the trial trench evaluation, the dense area of late Roman archaeological remains was preserved in situ and not investigated further. An extraordinary late Roman deposition outside the south-eastern area was a possible cremation of a foetus or newborn infant and/or votive offering including burnt and unburnt bone of a hare and charred remains of cereal-based food product, placed inside a shell-tempered jar interred in one of the infilled early Roman droveway ditches; placed outside of the vessel was the fore limb of a dog and the rear upper leg of a horse. Although small, the ceramic assemblage from the site displays no apparent hiatus in datable fabrics and/or forms from the early 1st to the 4th century AD. Viewed in its local topographic and archaeological landscape, the late Iron Age and Roman activity at Fenny Road appears to represent peripheral development to a higher status area of late prehistoric/Roman occupation centred around the area of St Luke's Church, c.300m to the west, where a concentration of late Iron Age and Roman pottery and at least eight Roman coins have been found.

INTRODUCTION

Between May and August 2018, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land east of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8282 2963; Fig. 1). This work took place in advance of housing development, commissioned and funded by Mears Group PLC. An earlier geophysical survey (Bunn 2015) and trial trench evaluation (Cotswold Archae-

ology 2016a) had identified the presence of a small late Iron Age enclosure, Roman boundary, enclosure and droveway ditches; as well as a stone-lined corn drier and early medieval drove/trackway. The archaeological remains were found in three areas, with a concentration of features abundant in late Roman pottery in the southeast corner of the site. Based on these initial results, open-area excavation of two separate areas (Areas 1, 2; Fig. 1) was required by the local planning authority, based on written advice from Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS; dated 11/03/2015). The archaeological remains in the southeast corner of the site (Area 3) were to be preserved *in situ*.

Research Context

Prior to the work at Fenny Road, few purposeful archaeological excavations had taken place in the Stoke Hammond area. While development around Milton Keynes and along the M1 corridor to the northeast has resulted in numerous large excavations of rich Iron Age and Roman sites (e.g. Pennyland and Hartigans [Williams 1993]; Caldecotte [Zeepvat *et al* 1994; Wavendon Gate [Williams *et al* 1996]; and more recently, Broughton [Atkins *et al* 2014], to name but a few), the archaeology of the upper Ouzel valley above where the Roman road now known as Watling Street crossed the river close to the Roman town of *Magiovinium* (see Fig. 4), has remained poorly understood; a situation at odds with the abundant field survey and aerial photographic data in the Bucks Historic Environment Record (HER) from this area (see below). In relation to this wider archaeological context, the aims of the excavations at Fenny Road were to characterise and date the occupation on the site, so as to place this evidence within the known morphological development of the local Iron Age/Roman landscape.

The character and development of rural settlement during the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods remain important research themes for the Solent-Thames region (Fulford 2014, 180; Lambrick 2014, 150). In this regard, it had been proposed (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a) that Stoke Hammond lies on the a line of a possible Roman road (Viatores 1964, road 173a-d) running between the Roman town at *Magiovinium* on Watling Street and Fleet Marston on Akeman Street to the south-west. A key research question set for the excavation was whether the Fenny Road site represented a 'ladder' type settlement beside this possible road. The route of this possible Roman road is shown on a map by Atkins *et al* (2014, 9, fig. 1.5) in the introductory section to their Broughton monograph. However, the position of *Magiovinium* in this map is misplaced *c*.2.5km south along Watling Street from its actual location. Furthermore, the line of the road does not, as indicated in Atkin's figure, pass through Stoke Hammond, but rather leaves Watling Street at Little Brickhill to follow the crest of the Greensand ridge and cross the Ouzel *c*.1.5km to the south (see Fig. 4). Accepting that the existence of such postulated minor Roman roads is often unverified by field data, as is the case with road 173a-d, this reappraisal of its possible route does change the emphasis of the question regarding the 'type' of Roman settlement at Stoke Hammond; if not a 'ladder' type settlement, what characteristics best define it, and how are these reflected in the overall status/wealth and development of the local area from the late Iron Age through Roman era.

The work at Fenny Road represents the first open-area excavation along the 3km stretch of the Ouzel valley between late prehistoric sites at Newton Leys (Brown 2012) Bletchley (Edgeworth *et al* 2006) in the north, and the Three Locks Golf Course Roman farmstead site to the south (Ford 2000) (see Fig. 4, nos. 10, 11, 17). Given the significance of this excavation to the late Iron Age and Roman archaeology of the Ouzel valley and Stoke Hammond in particular, the following report presents a detailed account of the archaeological remains dating to these periods at the Fenny Road site, along with a summary account of post-Roman, medieval and post-medieval features. Full details of the recorded archaeology can be found in the Post-Excavation Assessment and Research Archive Reports (Lloyd-Smith *et al* 2019a, 2019b), which will be deposited along with the excavation archive and finds with the Buckinghamshire County Museum.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The site is located east of Fenny Road, on the north-eastern edge of Stoke Hammond village (Fig. 1). In 2018, the site comprised two parcels of open grassland divided by an east-west hedge. To the south, the site is bordered by the grounds of Tyrell's Manor, and to the north and northwest by a residential estate; to the east lie open fields.

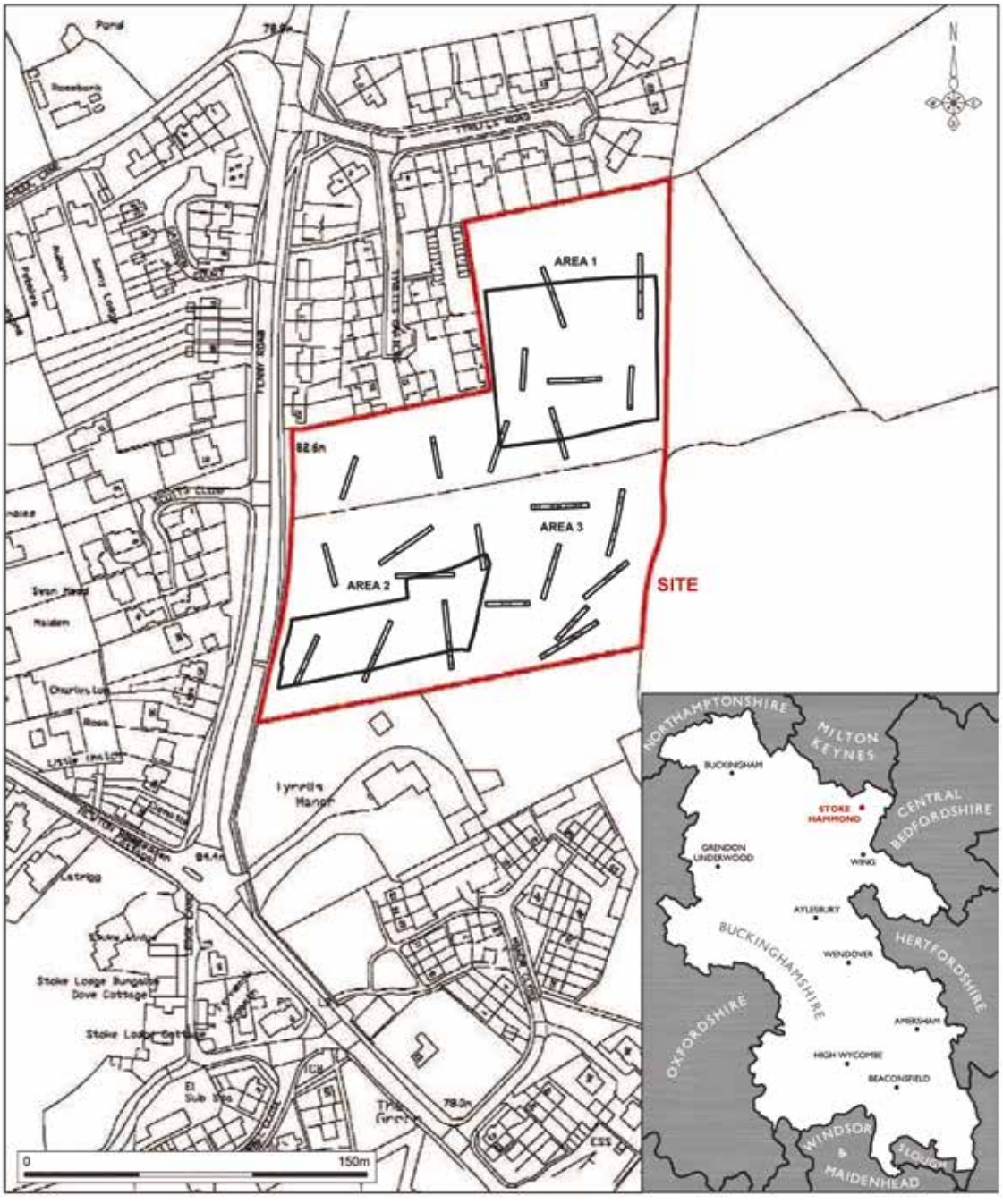

FIGURE 1 Site location plan with development site outlined in red and the locations of evaluation trial trenches shown in relation to the two areas of subsequent excavation outlined in black (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

The area of development covered 2.7ha, within which the designated excavation areas comprised Area 1 (Figs 1, 2) in the northern field (max. 75 x 67m; *c.*0.36ha) and Area 2 (Figs 1, 3) in the southwest corner of the southern field (max. 89 x 34m; *c.*0.37ha.). The south-eastern corner of the southern field, Area 3 (max. 75 x 50m; *c.*0.375ha), was not excavated, and the archaeological remains were preserved *in situ*.

Stoke Hammond lies on the West Walton Formation of sedimentary mudstone originating in the Jurassic period, overlain by Quaternary deposits of diamicton (poorly-sorted clay-rich sands and gravels of glacial origin) of the Oadby Member (British Geological Survey 2019). The machined surface of this variable deposit was oxidised, light brown or orangey brown in colour, with variable inclusions of flint nodules, flint pebbles and gritty sand and chalk. The site gradually sloped downwards from *c.*84m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south, to *c.*79m aOD in the north. With higher ground to the west, the site lies close to the break of slope to a *c.*500m-wide river terrace between the 75m and 80m contours, at the lower edge of which lies the Grand Union Canal (Figs 1 & 4), here following the course of the valley of the river Ouzel which flows north to join the Great Ouse *c.*15km away. The Roman town of *Magiovinium* (see below) is located on the opposite side of the Ouzel, *c.*4km north of the Fenny Road site (see Fig. 4).

Approximately 200m south and southeast of the site, a tributary stream flowing northwest (now straightened to form a field boundary) has cut into the river terrace. This stream flows through the village of Stoke Hammond and its descent from higher ground in the west powered a former medieval/post-medieval water mill at Bridge Farm (see Fig. 4, No. 23). The majority of the medieval village of Stoke Hammond lies on the northern side of the stream, the topography gradually rising to *c.*100m aOD before descending to another east-flowing stream *c.*1.5km to the north.

Soils on the site belonged to the Marlow association (SSEW 1983), described as well-drained fine loam and clayey soils, but also including some coarse and fine loam/clayey soils, with slowly permeable subsoils liable to seasonal water-logging. The evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a, 20-25) recorded variable depths of top/subsoils across the site. In the northern field (Area 1), top/subsoil depths varied between 0.43m and 0.74m, with topsoil depths between 0.21m and 0.35m (av. 0.27m), and subsoil depths between 0.20m and 0.46m (av. 0.28m). Across the southern field (Area 2), total top/subsoil depths varied between 0.46m and 0.90m, with topsoil depths between 0.19m and 0.40m (av. 0.33m), and subsoil depths between 0.21m and 0.50m (av. 34m). The slightly smaller variation in soil depths in Area 1 is likely the result of a medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow field system extant in the northern field until at least 1946, when it was recorded in an aerial photograph (Edwards 2013, 11; Fig. 7). Also visible in this photography is a major north-south ditch (identified in excavation as F1034) crossing the northern field.

Archaeological Background

The upper Ouzel valley has a significant number of archaeological sites, although the majority are only known from loose finds, find-scatters and/or cropmarks and occasionally geophysical survey (Fig. 4; Table 1).

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

Cropmarks recorded approximately 0.5km to the east of the Fenny Road site suggest the presence of two possibly Neolithic (4000–2400BC) long mortuary enclosures, and a possible Bronze Age (2400–700BC) round barrow (Edwards 2013; Fig. 4, No. 1). These monuments are seemingly overlain by a later (potentially later prehistoric or Roman) field system and drove/trackways. This cropmark site occupies a slight rise (island) of gravel sub-strata on the river terrace. Furthermore, directly to the south, a cluster of rich prehistoric Neolithic/Bronze Age find-scatter sites (Fig. 4, Nos 2-4) follows the 75m contour of the same river terrace (Parkhouse 1995); the most southerly of these sites (Fig. 4, No. 4) also contains Roman material. The only other known prehistoric site, c.1.6km south of Fenny Road, was the discovery of three struck flints during topsoil removal for the construction of the A4146 Bypass (Fig. 4, No. 6; Sprenger & Thorpe 2007, 8).

On higher ground to the west of the string of sites along the 75m contour, two concentric square enclosures, of unknown date but potentially late prehistoric, have been recorded at Moat Farm (Fig. 4, No. 5). The topographic situation of this site, set back from the Ouzel but close to a tribu-

FIGURE 2 Overview of Area 1 looking southeast from northwest corner of site after first phase of machining with Phase 2 early Roman droveway ditches F1098 (left) and F1096 (right) visible; Segments A nearest to camera (Photograph: Samuel Thomelius)

FIGURE 3 Overview of Area 2 looking northeast. Long section (Segment A) through Phase 1 late Iron Age ditch F2017 in left of photograph and Phase 5 medieval droveway ditches F2005 (right) and F2009 (left) following the edge of excavation. Photograph taken during second stage of machining the northeast corner of Area 2 (Photograph: Samuel Thomelius)

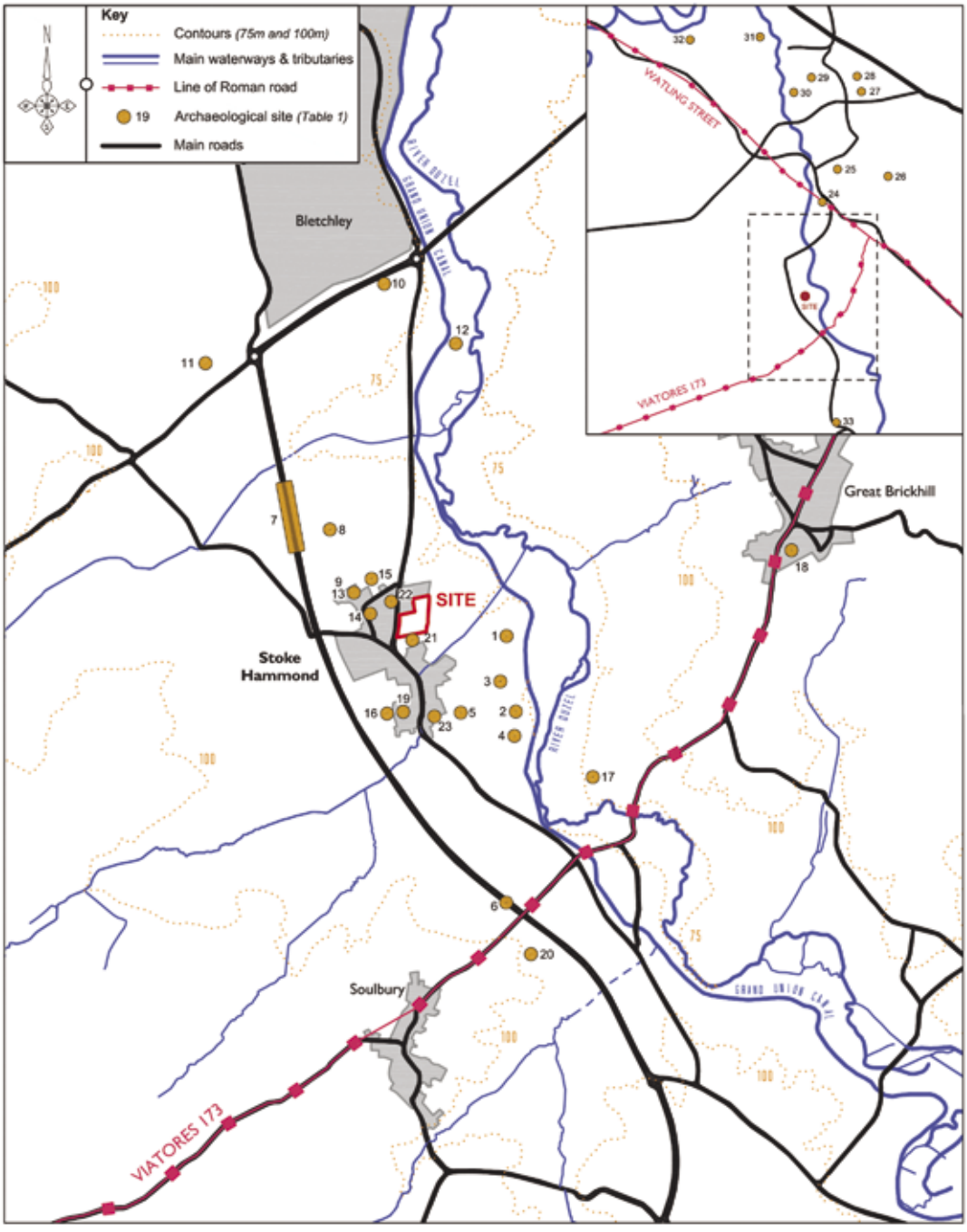

FIGURE 4 Archaeological sites in the upper Ouzel valley mentioned in the text. Insert: sites mentioned in wider region mentioned in the text. See Table 1 for site descriptions (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

TABLE 1 Archaeological sites in the middle Ouzel valley mentioned in the text.

No.in Fig. 4	*Bucks. HER No.*	*Location*	*Description*
1	–	Oak Farm	Crop marks of two elongated oval enclosures; possible Neolithic based upon typological parallels; also possible ?Bronze Age ring ditch, and later prehistoric/Roman field systems and droveway leading to river Ouzel.
2	0612602000	Ground Farm	Finds scatter: Neolithic flint scatter; 35 pieces of debitage; 1 blade; 1 core; Geophysical survey inconclusive due to magnetic anomalies.
3	0612603000	Oak Farm	Finds scatter: 48 pieces of worked flint, inc. barbed and tanged arrowhead; Bronze Age.
4	6126001000	Ground Farm	Finds scatter: Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman finds discovered during fieldwalking; Geophysical survey identified ditches, pits, and possible kiln.
5	0006950000	Moat Farm	Crop marks: two possible square enclosures, one inside the other, of unknown date; possibly prehistoric (?Iron Age). Outer *c.*30m x 30m; inner *c.*15m x 15m.
6	–	A4146 / North of Gt Brickhill Rd.	Watching brief findspot: three struck flints.
7	–	A4146 / North of Newton Rd.	Watching brief features and findscatter including Neolithic flintwork and relatively abundant Iron Age pottery, along *c.*400m stretch of Stoke Hammond bypass, north of Newton Road bridge.
8	0056080000	Southands Farm	Crop marks/Findscatter: Possible late prehistoric or Roman enclosure recorded on aerial photographs; 10 Belgic/Rom sherds recovered from fieldwalking (HER 0560801000)
9	0107900000	St Luke's Church	Find spot: IA, RB, ?Late Saxon, Early medieval pottery found while digging graves in cemetery of St Luke's Church
10	0612300000	Stoke House Farm	Excavation: Early to Middle Iron Age farmstead enclosure.
11	–	Newton Leys	Excavation: Early to Middle Iron Age farmstead.
12	0620000000	Stoke House Farm	Crop marks: undated rectangular enclosure on river terrace adjacent to river Ouzel.
13	0186110000	St Luke's Church	Find spot: Late Roman coin of Carausius (AD 286–293), found during restoration of St. Luke's Church in 1852.
14	0185900000	St Luke's Church	Find spot: Late Roman coin showing Constantius Augustus on obverse and Beata Tranquillitas series of Trier (AD 320–325)
15	0496400000	St Luke's Church	Find spot: Late Roman coin of Constantius II (AD 337–361).
16	0108400000	Mount Pleasant Farm	Find spot: Roman and medieval pottery recovered from groundworks at Mount Pleasant Farm.
17	0165903000	Three Locks Golf Course	Excavation: Roman farmstead. Excavations recorded stonewall footing, cobbled hard-standing area, field system ditches and droveway; substantial pottery and animal bone assemblage, as well as 45 Roman coins (date range, mid/late 1st to mid/late 3rd century AD; with majority dating to 3rd century AD)
18	0439500000	8 Holts Green	Find spot: Two early Roman urned cremations, c.AD 100–150.
19	0108403000	Mount Pleasant Farm	Find spot: Metalwork of possible Saxon or medieval date.
20	0061120000	Ruslip Farm Quarry	Possible Saxon cemetery located just off hill crest. Seven individuals excavated including one possible cremation, associated with bone comb fragments and grass-tempered Saxon pottery as well as prehistoric flint-tempered pottery.
21	0052290000	Tyrell's Manor	Late 15th century origins.
22	0230300000	6 Fenny Road	Find spot: courseware 12-13th century pottery sherds found in garden.
23	0051520000	Bridge Farm	Possible site of medieval watermill, mentioned in AD 1467.
Fig. 4 Insert			
24	–	*Magiovinium*	Roman town and possible auxiliary fort.
25	–	Caldecotte	Iron Age enclosures and Roman farmsteads including pottery kilns.
26	–	Danesborough	Iron Age hill fort.
27	–	Magna Park	Late Iron Age enclosure settlement.
28	–	Broughton	Iron Age enclosures and Roman period cremation cemetery.
29	–	Middleton School	Late Iron Age and early Roman enclosures and settlement.
30	–	Hartigans	Middle Iron Age small sub-square enclosure and settlement.
31	–	Pennyland	Iron Age enclosures
32	–	Bancroft	Roman villa with 2nd–century temple/mausoleum.
33	-	ABC	Middle Iron Age settlement site on Stoke Hammond-Linslade Western Bypass

tary stream, is broadly comparable to the Fenny Road site. Likewise, a cropmark of a rectangular enclosure, of unknown date but potentially prehistoric, has been recorded at Stoke House Farm (Fig. 4, No. 11), *c.*1.5km north of the Fenny Road site. Here also, *c.*500m northwest of the river terrace, an early/mid-Iron Age settlement site comprising a rectangular enclosure, two round houses, boundary ditches, droveways and field enclosures has been excavated at the northern end of the Stoke Hammond A4146 Bypass (Fig. 4, No.10; Edgeworth 2006); the site lies at c.80m aOD. However, there was no evidence for late Iron Age or Romano-British occupation/activity at the site.

Within the immediate area of Stoke Hammond bounded by the two east-flowing tributary streams mentioned above, a concentration of findspots of late prehistoric material (Neolithic through to late Iron Age) is recorded, stretching *c.*800m northwards from near St Luke's Church (Fig. 4, Nos. 8, 9). A relatively rich concentration of prehistoric material (particularly Iron Age pottery) was recorded by the A4146 watching brief over a distance of *c.*400m north from the Newton Road bridge to a northern tributary stream of the Ouzel (Sprenger & Thorpe 2007; Fig. 4, No. 7). Adjacent to this spread of material at Southlands Farm, *c.*600m northwest from the Fenny Road site, cropmarks of a possible prehistoric/Romano-British rectangular enclosure and a scatter of ten late Iron Age 'Belgic' pottery sherds (Fig. 4, No. 8) have been recorded from the crest of land midway between the two tributary streams. Quantities of prehistoric Iron Age and Romano-British pottery have also been unearthed during grave digging in St Luke's Church (Fig. 4, No. 9).

Roman (AD 43–410)

Within *c.*100m of St Luke's Church three late Roman coins (Fig. 4, Nos. 13-15) were found, as well as a separate find of Roman pottery (Fig. 4, No. 9). Also, the HER records four Roman coins, found in the parish in 1883 (Bucks HER 108000000). Finds of Romano-British pottery are also recorded to the north and south of St Luke's Church, at Southlands and Mount Pleasant Farms (Fig. 4, Nos 8, 16). About 800m southeast of the Fenny Road site, on the other side of the small stream which runs through Stoke Hammond, a scatter of Romano-British pottery (as well as Neolithic and Bronze Age material; Fig. 4, No. 4) indicates the presence of a relatively large Roman site; the distribution of material suggests the site extended in a north-south orientation along the 75m contour, corresponding to the lower edge of the river terrace. Taken as a whole, the Romano-British distribution suggests dispersed occupation/activity between the 75m and 90m contours, often superimposed on later prehistoric material. Again, as with the distribution of prehistoric material, the higher ground to the west of Stoke Hammond is noticeably devoid of recorded Romano-British finds.

The only other excavated Roman site in the vicinity lies across the Ouzel to the southeast of Stoke Hammond, at Three Locks Golf Course (Fig. 4, No. 17), *c.*1.3km from the Fenny Road site. Although the densest area of archaeology there was preserved *in situ* (so the true extent and arrangement of the site remains unknown), investigations recorded part of a likely substantial late Roman farmstead (2nd to 4th century), with stone-wall footings and a cobbled metalled area, as well as an adjacent field system, boundary and droveway ditches (Ford 2000; Hearne 1991). The Three Locks Golf Course site lies *c.*300m north of a possible Roman road (Viatores 173) running southwest from Watling Street along the Greensand ridge; the Roman farmstead at Three Locks occupied a strategic location close to where this road would have crossed the Ouzel. Other known sites close to this road include two early Romano-British urned cremations (*c.*AD 100–150) excavated at Holt's Green Road, Great Brickhill (Allen 1979; Fig. 4, No. 18); thus far the only known Roman site from the Great Brickhill area, further highlighting the concentration of contemporary sites immediately to the west of the Ouzel around Stoke Hammond.

Slightly further afield, Watling Street crossed the Ouzel valley *c.*4km to the north of Stoke Hammond and the Fenny Road site; the Roman town of *Magiovinium* (Fig. 4 insert, No. 24) lay on the east side of the Ouzel, close to where the road crossed the river.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066)

Archaeological evidence is sparse for the presumed Anglo-Saxon origins of the medieval village of Stoke Hammond, with only a few sherds of possibly late Anglo-Saxon pottery recorded in find scatters from the area around St Luke's Church

(Fig. 4, No. 9). Approximately 2km south of Stoke Hammond, seven Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials (possibly pagan) and one possible cremation found with a bone comb, were excavated at Rislip Farm quarry (Farley 1998; Fig. 4, No. 20). The burials were likely part of a larger cemetery which lay just off the crest of a hill, *c.*300m to the south of the supposed Roman road.

Medieval (AD 1066–1539)

The village of Stoke Hammond is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) as *Stoche*: a common place name in England denoting an Anglo-Saxon church (Morris 1978, 43:9). The oldest extant building in Stoke Hammond is St Luke's Church, which is mostly a 14th-century build, with a 15th-century porch (DoE 1984, 42). The church occupies high ground *c.*500m north of the stream flowing through the village. The small concentration of Roman coins found in and around the church suggests the presence of a significant (for the immediate area) Roman site. Whether this topographic location continued to be of importance in the post-Roman period is unknown, but it is plausible that the later medieval church was constructed on top of, or not too far from, a possible Saxo-Norman predecessor.

Findspots of medieval material from Stoke Hammond are sparse. Coarseware 12th to 13th-century medieval pottery has been found at 6 Fenny Road (Fig. 4, No. 22), and metalwork of medieval or possibly Saxon date was found during groundwork at Mount Pleasant Farm, on the southwest edge of the village (Fig. 4, No. 19). To the northwest of Stoke Hammond, cropmark and earthwork evidence for a possible hollow way and building platforms suggests that the medieval village extended further than the bounds of the current settlement in that direction (Sprenger & Thorpe 2007, 4, 12). Likewise, Tyrell's Manor (Fig. 4, No. 21), adjacent to the south of the Fenny Road site, has late 15th century origins. Furthermore, the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks within the northern part of the Fenny Road site (Edwards 2013) indicates that the area formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Stoke Hammond in the medieval period. Lastly, the possible site of a medieval/post-medieval watermill (Fig. 4, No. 23) highlights the importance of this tributary stream to the continuation of the Stoke Hammond locality as a site of occupation from at least the Iron Age to the present day.

Previous archaeological investigations and excavation methodology

The geophysical survey (5th Dec. 2014; Bunn 2015) of the Fenny Road site revealed the presence of a *c.*15m sub-square enclosure and prominent north-south oriented linear feature terminating to the north in line with a possible east-west droveway; the north-south linear feature also appeared to delimit a series of small rectangular enclosures in the southeast area of the site (Fig. 5). Subsequent trial trench evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a) targeted potential archaeological features identified in the geophysical survey, as well as sampling the 'blank' areas in between (Fig. 1). In four trenches towards the west of the site (Trenches 6, 10, 12, 15), no archaeological features were recorded (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a).

In all trenches targeting geophysical anomalies, a well-preserved ditched enclosure, track/droveway systems and associated features were identified. Artefactual material was almost entirely late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman in date, suggesting occupation from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD; the enclosures thought likely to represent a late Iron Age/Roman farmstead, possibly a 'ladder' settlement beside a local road or track (Cotswold 2016a). Little artefactual material of earlier (prehistoric) or later (Saxon/medieval) dates was found in the evaluation. A single residual sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery and four medieval sherds were found in an east-west aligned track/droveway ditch in the southwest corner of the site.

In addition to the evaluation, a watching brief was carried out on 20 geotechnical test pits (Cotswold Archaeology 2016b) targeting areas away from already known archaeological features. No further archaeological features or deposits were recognised. For the approximate locations of the geotechnical test pits in relation to the open area excavation, see Lloyd-Smith *et al* (2019a).

Excavation methodology

Open-area excavation was conducted according to a generic brief for archaeological excavations prepared by BCAS. The two areas of excavation were stripped under archaeological supervision, followed by the mapping and archaeological excavation of all revealed archaeological features. The initial machining of the south-eastern corner of Area 2 coincided with the edge of trial trench 19 (Fig. 5). The eastern edge of Area 2 was later

extended *c*.6m to fully expose the sub-square enclosure ditch (F2047). In addition, the northeast corner of Area 2 was extended by *c*.14 x 37m to further expose linear ditch F2026 (see Fig. 17). Archaeological features were allocated identifying 'Context' numbers and classified as either Features (F) or Deposits (L). Smaller, discrete, archaeological features were half/quarter-sectioned and 50% of the fill excavated. Larger features (e.g. ditches) were investigated with a variable number of excavated segments, identified with a letter suffix (A, B, C, etc.). Context numbers of features investigated in the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a) are prefixed with the text letters 'CA' in the following report, and shown on plan figures in italics. Unless otherwise stated, all features in Areas 1 and 2 were sealed by topsoil (L1000/2000) and subsoil (L1001/2001), and cut the natural boulder clay drift geology (L1002/2002).

Chronological Sequence

Overview

Six main stratigraphic phases of activity at the Fenny Road site spanning the late Iron Age to post-medieval periods were identified (Table 2; Fig. 5). A very small quantity (four pieces; 21g) of Neolithic/Bronze Age struck flint was found in the north of Area 1 in Phase 2 early Roman droveway ditch F1096, and a single sherd (3g) of flint-tempered late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was found in Phase 1-2 late Iron Age/early Roman ditch CA1804=F2017 in the south of Area 2. While no definite Neolithic, Bronze Age, or early/middle Iron Age features were identified, this limited material does indicate dispersed, low-intensity activity in the vicinity of the Fenny Road site during this time

To understand the history of late Iron Age and Roman occupation at the Fenny Road site as a whole, the results of the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a) and the subsequent excavation (Lloyd-Smith *et al* 2019b) have been taken into consideration. In particular, the addition of ceramic data from the southeast corner of the site, Area 3, provides a more comprehensive picture of the site development. Based upon the ceramic fabric descriptions (Sommerville 2016) and in

Table 2 Chronological phasing of archaeology features at the Fenny Road site.

Phase	*Period*	*Main Archaeological Features*	*Date*
1.1	Late Iron Age	Area 2: Two ring gullies	1st C BC / 1st C AD
1.2	Late Iron Age	Area 2: Square enclosure, clay pit, broad E-W linear	1st C AD
2	Early Roman	Area 1: Droveway ditches, rectangular enclosure, postholes, medium sized pits, shallow pit/hollows. Area 2: LIA features remain in use/open.	Mid-1st / early 2nd C AD
3	Late Roman	Area 1: SW-NE linear recut boundary ditch; short curvilinear ditches; Cremation urn; likely intrusive material in Phase 2 features; Area 2: Possible recut to NW-SE boundary ditch, and possible field/enclosure ditches on south side. Area 3: Probable enclosure ditches; stone-lined corndrier; cultural stratigraphy.	2nd – 4th C AD
4	?Post-Roman	Area 1, 2: Five field ditches	*c*.5-11th C AD
5	Medieval	Area 1: EW ditch F1108. Area 2: EW droveway ditches	*c*.12-13th C AD
6	Post-medieval	Area 1: NNW-SSE field boundary ditch recut with field drains.	*c*.17-19th C AD

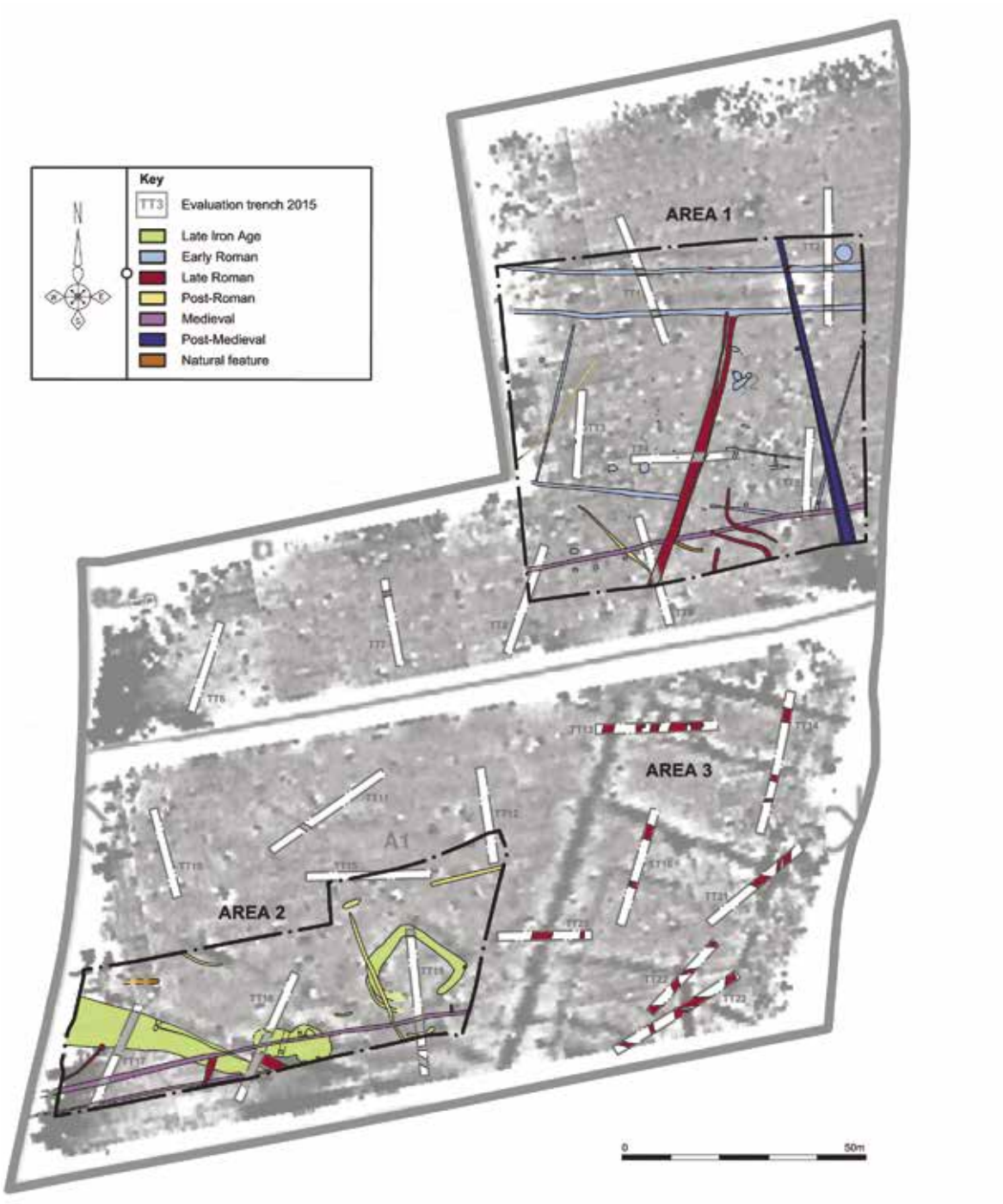

FIGURE 5 All-features plan combining the results of the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a) and excavation (Archaeological Solutions), overlain on image of processed geophysical data (Bunn 2015, fig. 2). (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

comparison with pottery types from the same features in the excavation (Peachey 2019), the two reported assemblages have been amalgamated (Table 3). A degree of standardisation was required to combine the data: Sherds recorded as Harrold Shelly ware (HAR SH) from features investigated in the evaluation occur with material recorded as Belgic/Roman shell-tempered ware (ROB SH) in the excavation; these have been combined as the latter. Similarly, the variety of fine, medium and course grog-tempered wares recorded in the evaluation have been subsumed into the single 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware type (SOB GT); Roman medium grey ware (GWM) has also been equated with generic Roman sandy grey ware (GRS) from the excavation. The four, distinct, fabric types recorded in the evaluation are: unsourced white wares (UNS WH); soft pink grog-tempered ware (PNK GT); Fine grey ware (GRF); and Baetican amphora (BAT AM).

The amalgamated Romano-British pottery assemblage data indicate broad spatial separation of chronologically related pottery fabric types between Areas 1, 2 and 3 (Table 3). Prehistoric hand-made late Iron Age pottery occurs only in Area 1, mixed with 'Belgic' grog- and shell-tempered wares dating predominately to the 1st century AD. Area 2 contained a larger assemblage of grog- and shell-tempered early Roman pottery, along with a limited variety of truly Romanised pottery types (sandy grey ware, oxidised fine wares and imported Lezoux samian sherds) predominately dating to the late 1st to mid-2nd century AD). The ceramic assemblage from the evaluation of Area 3 shows a clear shift to a wider range of late Roman pottery types dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. The small size of the amalgamated assemblage and the fact that it derives from different recovery strategies (open-area excavation in Areas 1 and 2, compared with trial trench evaluation in Area 3) mean that it cannot be statistically interrogated. As an anecdotal presentation of the material, though, Table 3 does serve to illustrate the broad spatio-chronological development of the site, as well as highlighting particular occurrences/concentrations of pottery/fabric types in each phase, for example the higher quality of grog-tempered pottery in Phase 2 early Roman ditches in Area 2, and the overwhelming concentration of pottery from Structure 1 in Area 1. These and other observations are discussed below.

Phase 1.1: Late Iron Age

A total of 104 sherds (654g) of handmade, sand-tempered late Iron Age pottery (Table 3; Fabric Q1) was found in three features in the southwest of the site (Area 2: F2019, F2026, F2047). Judging from the Romano-British grog- and shell-tempered pottery also found in these features, the late Iron Age pottery is likely residual and possibly associated with two possible ring gullies F2003 and F2050, which may be the remains of two late Iron Age round houses.

Possible Ring gullies F2003, F2050

The western 8.50m long arc of possible eaves-drip ring gully F2050 was truncated along its eastern side by enclosure ditch F2047, as well as by Phase 4 ditch F2026 (Figs 6, 7). A continuation of gully F2050 to the east of F2026 was not located and it may have terminated in this area. In profile, gully F2050 had moderately to steeply sloping sides and shallow concave to flat base (0.60m wide by 0.30m deep); its single fill (L2051) was mid- to dark grey-brown silty clay. Segment L2051B contained one sherd (17g) of grog-tempered Romano-British pottery, thought to be probably intrusive from ditch F2026 which cuts through gully F2050 at this point. Thirty metres northwest of F2050, the southeast portion of a second possible ring gully, F2003, extended for *c*.9m from the northern edge of Area 2 (Figs 6, 7). Although devoid of finds, the arc of the gully is similar in size and shape to round house eaves-drip gullies found at many Iron Age sites in the region. Extrapolated, gully F2003 describes a circular area of *c*.10-12m in diameter. No internal features or postholes were recorded associated with either F2003 or F2050.

Phase 1.2: Late Iron Age/Early Post-Conquest

Sub-square enclosure F2047

The sub-square enclosure was first identified in the geophysical survey (Bunn 2015), and confirmed in the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a, 12). At that time, no finds were made in what was interpreted as the southern side of the enclosure ditch CA1907, or what was thought to be a recut on its interior edge, CA1910 (Fig. 6). The north side of the enclosure was exposed and surveyed as CA1913, but not excavated. During open-area excavation, the evaluation trench backfill indicated that the position of CA1907 lay to the south of the

TABLE 3 Combined assemblage of late Iron Age and Roman pottery from the evaluation (Sommerville 2016) and excavation (Peachey 2019) ordered by feature group, phase and site area. (See Appendix for fabric codes; S. Sherd count; W. Sherd weight, g.)

	Q1		SOB GT1		ROB SH		BSW1		GRS1		LGF SA		OXF1		LNV CC		LEZ SA2		PNK GT		UNS WH1		GRF		BAT AM		OXF RS (M)		OXF WH (M)		
Feature Group	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**S**	**W**	**Spot Date Range**
PHASE 1.1																															
Ring Gullies			1	17																											M1-L1
PHASE 1.2																															
Sq. Enclosure	89	516	21	147																											LIA-L1
NW-SE Ditch			135	1148	8	82																									M/L1-E2
Clay Pit			79	575	10	103					1	6																			M/L1-2
Discretes	2	26	1	2	7	49	19	90																							LIA-L1
PHASE 2																															
Ditches, Area 2			350	4060	55	471	1	5			3	10																			M-L1/E2
Droveway			11	52	32	271	12	77	5	8							3	3													M/L1-E/M2
Rect. Enclosure			1	8	4	33									2	6															M/L1-M2-4
Structure 1			40	3166	69	491							48	178	2	78															M/L1-E2 (+M/L4)
PHASE 3																															
NS Ditch			9	34	17	303	3	13	15	50	1	13	2	14					3	41											M/L1-L2-4
Angled Ditches			1	9	4	26			8	104			1	1																	M1-4
Cremation					57	808																									M/L2-4
Phase 3, Area 3																															
Corndrier							1	7	1	21			1	3	1	8															L2-4
Other Features			19	196	15	234	7	64	28	405			10	53	3	102			25	721	4	15	1	8	1	102	4	75	4	254	L2-4
PHASE 4																															
Ditch F2026	14	112																													LIA-M1 (Res.)
PHASE 5																															
Droveway			19	115	5	28			1	3			2	6					1	110											M/L1-L2-3 (Res.)
EW Ditch F1108					1	5			4	32																			1	50	M1-4 (Res.)
PHASE 6																															
NS Ditch, Area 1					1	4																					1	20			M1-4 (Res.)

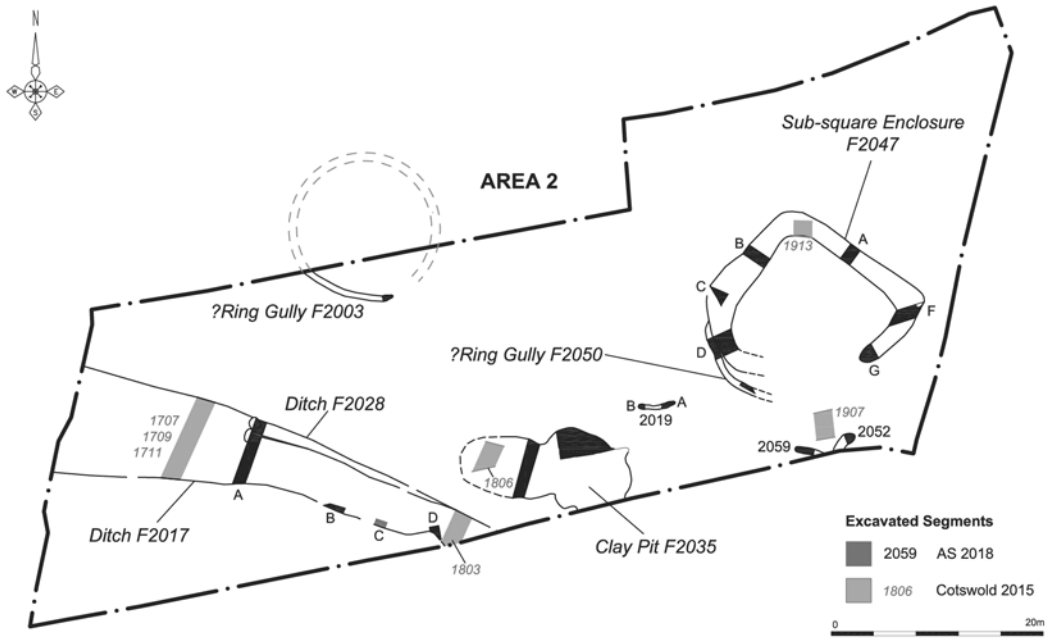

FIGURE 6 Plan of Phase 1 late Iron Age features, Area 1 (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

probable location of the sub-square enclosure, and later ditch CA1910 aligned with the northern of two parallel medieval droveway ditches (F2009; see below). What feature CA1907 represents is unclear and it is unknown how it relates to the possible ditch terminus F2052 adjacent to the east (Fig. 6).

During the excavation, the southeast terminus, northeast and northwest sides were surveyed. The southwest side of the enclosure ditch cut into an early gully (F2050) as well as being truncated along its length by a later southeast-northwest aligned ditch (F2026), which made the true extent of the sub-square enclosure ditch hard to identify. To the east of post-Roman ditch F2026, the southwest corner of the large sub-square enclosure ditch F2047 was not identified and it is possible that it terminated somewhere close to this line. The sub-square enclosure measured 16.00-16.50m externally; the surveyed portions of the interior area measured 12.30-12.50m across. No features were recorded inside the enclosure. Four, full-width, perpendicular segments (A, B, D, G; Figs. 6, 7) were excavated across the enclosure ditch; full-width Segment F was excavated at an angle across the southeast corner of the enclosure ditch. The sections varied between 1.70m and 2.20m wide, and between 0.50m and 1.00m deep, with a consistent steep-sided profile and concave base; the shallowest segment at the southeast terminus, F2047G, was probably not fully excavated. A single fill (L20480) was recorded in all segments, except in F2047B, where a charcoal-rich upper fill (L2049B) was present. There was no evidence that the enclosure ditch had been maintained or re-cut.

Ditch F2047 (L2048) contained 89 sherds (516g) of late Iron Age handmade, sand-tempered pottery, 21 sherds (147g) of early Romano-British grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery, 8g of CBM, and 2885g of animal bone. The identifiable animal bone was dominated by cattle, with small quantities of pig/boar, sheep/goat and red deer antler fragment also present. The antler fragments displayed saw and chop marks, indicating working of the material on site or in the immediate vicinity. Also present in the same segment (L2050D) was one piece of a worked bone pin (animal species unknown; Fig. 8), which, although not complete, is similar to a Roman example found at Colchester (Crummy 1981, 20, fig. 17) suggesting a probable early Roman date for this artefact.

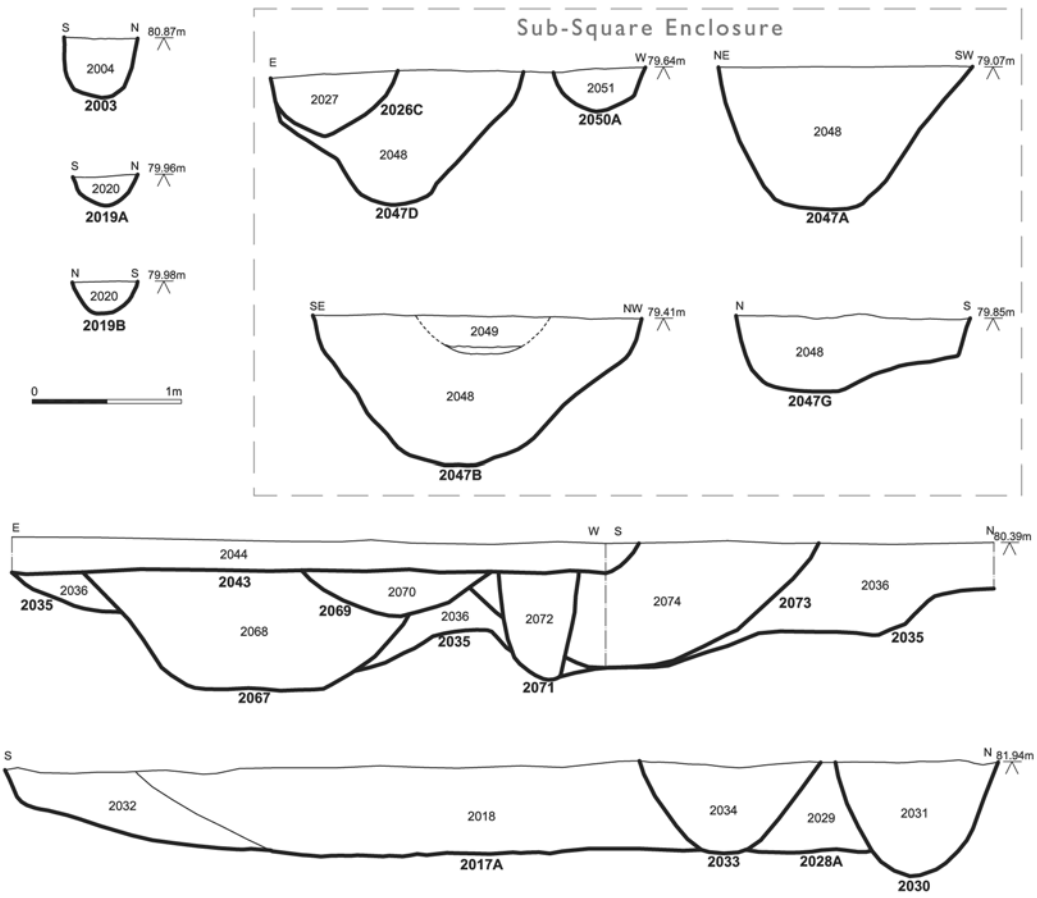

FIGURE 7 Sections through Phase 1 late Iron Age features (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

Along its western edge, enclosure ditch F2047 cut the western arc of possible ring gully F2050, suggesting the enclosure replaced an earlier/existing late Iron Age round house structure. The much larger size of the enclosure ditch and its sub-square shape suggests this feature was not an eaves drip or house-boundary ditch, and no features were recorded in the interior area to suggest a building was present. Alternatively, the sub-square ditch may have functioned as a very small enclosure, probably for (temporarily) holding livestock. The sub-square shape of enclosure F2047 is a common plan for late Iron Age enclosures in the region (Brown 2012; Chapman & Chapman 2017; Jackson 1989; Williams 1993) which typically have internal dimensions between *c*.20m and *c*.40m. The Fenny Road example is thus notable for the small area enclosed (12.5 x 12.5m; *c*.150 sq. m.) with what would appear to be an 'over-sized' ditch in proportion to the area enclosed.

Possible clay pit and associated backfill deposits

Approximately 13m southwest of enclosure ditch F2047, a large, irregularly shaped area of deposit F2035 (max. 13.50m long by 8.50m wide) was interpreted as a possible clay extraction pit. In the evaluation, the western end of F2035 had been recorded as 'ditch' CA1806 (Fills: CA1807, CA1808) and excavated to a depth of 0.66m (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a, 12). Although irregularly shaped in plan, the long axis of F2035 was oriented broadly parallel to the southeast-northwest alignment of Phase 1 ditch F2017, *c*.3.5m to the south (Fig. 6). In cross section and open-area excavation along

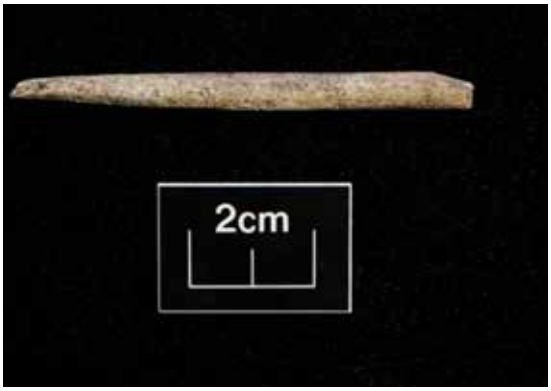

FIGURE 8 Bone pin from Phase 1.2 late Iron Age enclosure ditch F2047 (Photograph: Katherine Henry)

its northern edge, F2035 (L2036) was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.00m, with a very irregular profile and base. A number of smaller, intercutting features (F2065, F2067, F2069, and F2071) were recorded in section as cutting into the fill of the larger pit F2035 (L2036), and a line of light-grey silt (L2038) at the base of F2035 was interpreted as a possible earlier ditch (F2037). In all likelihood, these features are merely parts of the irregularly cut F2035 and/or areas of dumped backfill within F2035 (Fig. 7). The natural boulder clay in this area of the site was relatively free of flint and chalk inclusions, and the irregularly shaped profile and base of F2035 suggest the feature may have been a clay extraction pit, possibly for ceramic production, or more likely for use as daub, given the poor quality of the clay.

In all, F2035 contained 45 sherds (391g) of grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery and ten sherds (103g) of shell-tempered Romano-British pottery, both dating to the mid- to late 1st century AD (Table 3); also present was one sherd of a South Gaulish samian ware platter, typically imported in the mid- to late 1st century and clearly contemporary with the post-conquest date of the bulk of the associated Belgic and related pottery from this feature. A small but varied assemblage of animal bone (1629g) was recovered, of which the identified elements displayed a roughly equal proportion of cattle, horse, sheep/goat, pig/boar and dog/wolf. All except the dog/wolf bones displayed cut/chop marks, indicating the on- or near-site processing of slaughtered livestock (Appendix Table A5). Four pieces (126g) of metal-working residue were also found in this feature during excavation (Appendix Table A4) and a further piece (60g) of slag was found in equivalent feature CA1806 (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a, 29).

Ditches F2017/2028 and recuts

Across the southwest corner of the site, a series of at least three, approximately parallel, intercutting ditches appeared to form a long-standing and well-maintained land boundary, to the north of which lay the late Iron Age/early post-conquest features discussed above. Ditch F2017 (Figs 6, 7) had moderately sloping sides, a concave to flat base (5.00m wide by 0.60m deep) and was recorded as cutting a narrower ditch (F2028) along its northern edge. Two 'pits', F2030 and F2033, recorded in section as cutting ditches F2028 and F2017 respectively, are considered more likely to be integral parts of the same (or unrecognised recut) ditches.

The pottery assemblage from these ditch fills (Table 3) includes a limited range of broadly contemporary material, dating to the late Iron Age/mid- to late 1st century AD, indicating the maintenance of the boundary during this period. No late Roman (or later) material was found to suggest any of the northwest-southeast recut ditches date to after the late 1st century AD. The finds assemblage from Segment A of these ditches included 131 sherds (1185g) of grog-tempered ware, including some highly burnished thin-walled vessels which do not maintain currency long past the Roman conquest, and a smaller quantity of only eight sherds (82g) of shell-tempered ware, including a lid-seated jar that suggests a mid-1st to late 1st/early 2nd century date. Excluding the small quantities of faunal remains from relationship slots (F2017B, C, D; Fig. 6), which may include intrusive material, 1722g of animal bone was retrieved from F2017A, F2030, and F2033, dominated by cattle with occasional sheep/goat and horse bone, with no noticeable differences in the identified species in each. Also found in Ditch F2017 (L2018A) were 11 pieces (356g) of metal residue including possible tap and furnace slag.

Discrete late Iron Age features: F2019, F2052, F2059, F2063

Four discrete features (or possible ditch termini) located immediately southwest and south of the sub-square enclosure (Fig. 6) are most likely associated or contemporary with the late Iron Age/early post-conquest activity in this area of the site; the

function of these features is uncertain. Short gully F2019 was rich in material finds and charred plant remains, including 19 sherds (90g) of Romanising black burnished ware (the only such pottery in Area 2), seven sherds (49g) of shell-tempered pottery, as well as six pieces (62g) of iron slag, and 154g of non-diagnostic animal bone. This varied finds assemblage suggests gully F2019 may have functioned a possible beam-slot or work-frame foundation, in some way related to a particular domestic or craft activity; the assemblage of Romanising black burnished ware indicates the use of the area around the sub-square enclosure, and presumably the enclosure itself, continued well into the second half of the 1st century AD.

Phase 2: Early Roman

It is clear from the early Roman finds in Area 2 that, apart from the possible late (pre-Roman) Iron Age ring gullies F2003 and F2050, all Phase 1 features in the southwest of the site remained open, and probably in use, into latter half of the 1st century AD. Sub-square enclosure F2047 continued to be a focus of activity including iron, horn, and possibly bone-working. However, while there are some notable imported pottery forms present (e.g. samian), the range of ceramic fabric types is clearly more restricted compared to that from features in and around the rectangular enclosure in Area 1 (Table 3). Also notable is the near absence or localised presence in Area 2 of (early) fully Romanised ceramic fabrics, including Romanising black-surfaced grey ware, and the generic sandy grey wares; only one sherd (1g) of local Roman fine ware was found in Area 2, but this was residual. The quantity and distribution of Romano-British shell-tempered pottery in Area 2 is also notably more restricted than in Area 1, which – when the material in (possibly late) Phase 2 Ditches F2013, F2039, and F2019 in Area 2 is excluded (see below) – includes only 27 sherds (233g) compared to 125 sherds (1111g) in Area 1 (not including the near-complete Phase 3 late Roman cremation urn, F1010). Whether these distribution patterns of pottery types reflect different, contemporary consumption patterns (possibly reflecting different social preferences and/or economic access) or a slight chronological difference in the use or occupation of both areas (with Area 1 continuing to be used once Area 2 had been abandoned) is hard to tell from the small size of the finds assemblage. What is clear, though, is that in the latter half of the 1st century AD, the focus of activity at the Fenny Road site shifted to the northeast, around a rectangular enclosure on the south side of an east-west droveway.

East-west droveway: F1096, F1098

Parallel east-west ditches F1096 and F1098 ran across the northern area of the site, continuing in both directions beyond the edge of the excavation (Figs 9, 10). The distance between the ditches varied between 8.00m in the west and 6.80m in the east; no features were recorded in the area between the ditches. Similar in profile (Fig. 11), with single fills of grey-brown silty clay, they contained a total of 61 (389g; Table 3) sherds of Roman pottery, the vast majority of which (51 sherds; 323g) was found in the southern droveway ditch, F1096. Segment G (L1097G) was particularly rich in pottery (39 sherds; 261g), which included three sherds (3g) of an early to mid-2nd century Lezoux samian ware shallow dish, representing one of the latest vessels of the early Roman pottery assemblage from the Fenny Road site. A notable other find in Segment F1096G was a copper-alloy brooch found in two fragments, one incomplete dome

FIGURE 9 Fragments of a copper alloy brooch with glass insert, from Phase 2 early Roman droveway ditch F1096 (Photograph: Katherine Henry)

with a dark glass setting in the top centre and a small catch-plate on the reverse, and the other, two tightly conjoining hemispheres, with dimples in the top centre for possible missing settings and an offset projection with a tiny perforation, presumably for a hinge-type set up (Fig. 9). The piece has some similarities with Iron Age brooches, but the glass settings more suggests more a Roman date. However, no comparable types have been located in the standard literature (Hattatt 2007).

The droveway ditches F1096 and F1098 contained a moderate assemblage of animal bone (283 pieces; 4219g; Appendix Table A4). Contrary to the distribution of pottery, most of the animal bone (164 pieces; 3326g) was found in the northern droveway ditch F1098, in particular in Segment A (L1099A; 81 pieces; 2543g), possibly representing a dump of waste/midden material. The animal bone assemblage is dominated by cattle remains, which account for 134 of the identified bone.

Alternative scenarios for the early Roman development of the Fenny Road site

Southern droveway ditch F1096 intersects F1114, and the latter's recut F1112, at right angles. The relationship between F1096 and F1114 was indistinguishable in the field and it is possible that they were contemporary, although the small quantity of pottery found in F1114 (four sherds; 10g) compared to that in southern droveway ditch F1096 may counter this. F1114 could be traced for *c.*46m extending southwest from droveway ditch F1096, after which point it had been completely re-cut by ditch F1112 (Fig. 13). Whether F1114 was contemporary with, and bisected, the Phase 2 rectangular enclosure (F1106, F1128, F1160 and F1185, see below), or post-dated this feature, is hard to determine; both interpretations are feasible, based upon the available evidence.

The first interpretation (Fig. 10, left) would have ditch F1114 bisecting the rectangular enclosure and possibly continuing to the south to pass *c.*8m east of Phase 1 sub-square enclosure F2047; the fact that ditch F1112 re-cuts the alignment of F1114 suggests the latter did originally continue to the south. Three ditches in the southwest of the site (Area 2) may also be included in this interpretation: Ditch F2039 following Phase 1 boundary F2017 possibly continuing to the southeast to join ditch F1114 at an approximate right angle, and two northeast-southwest ditches, F2007 and F2013, projecting from and cutting into the south side of ditch F2017. The pottery in these three Area 2 ditches does suggest a late 1st-century date, broadly contemporary with the early Roman activity in and around the rectangular enclosure in Area 1. However, it is possible this material is residual, redeposited from the Phase 1 features they cut into.

The second interpretation (Fig. 10, right) suggests a more simplified sequence of spatial development of the Fenny Road site through the late Iron Age and early Roman periods. In this interpretation, the late Iron Age occupation or activity in Area 2 continued alongside the creation of the early Roman droveway and rectangular enclosure in Area 1, but the two zones of activity were not 'connected' by ditch F1114, nor were ditches F2039, F2007, and F2013 added to Area 2 at this time.

Based on the stratigraphy and finds data alone, either scenario is possible. However, the preferred interpretation is the latter. This is supported by the finds density in ditch F1114, lower than would be expected compared to the early Roman droveway ditches, rectangular enclosure, and discrete postholes and pits in Area 1, assuming these features were contemporary and parts of a unified arrangement.

Rectangular enclosure and associated discrete features

On the south side of droveway ditch F1096, a rectangular enclosure was formed by ditches F1160 (east),F1185 (west) and southern side ditches F1106 and F1128 (Figs 11, 12). The northern side of the enclosure was formed by the southern droveway ditch F1096. The maximum dimensions of the enclosure are *c.*57m east-west by *c.*37m north-south. At the northwest corner of the enclosure is a 1.70m gap between the north end of ditch F1185 and droveway ditch F1096, either indicating the position of the latter's up-cast bank or a narrow entranceway into the enclosure; the enclosure's northeast corner lay beyond the edge of the excavation. The southeast corner, between ditches F1106 and F1128, was cut through by ditch F1108. In the southwest corner of the enclosure, ditches F1106 and F1185 meet at a right-angle, south-side enclosure ditch F1106 possibly continuing to the west, indicating the likelihood of a similar neighbouring enclosure in this direction (up slope).

A possible entrance way to the enclosure was

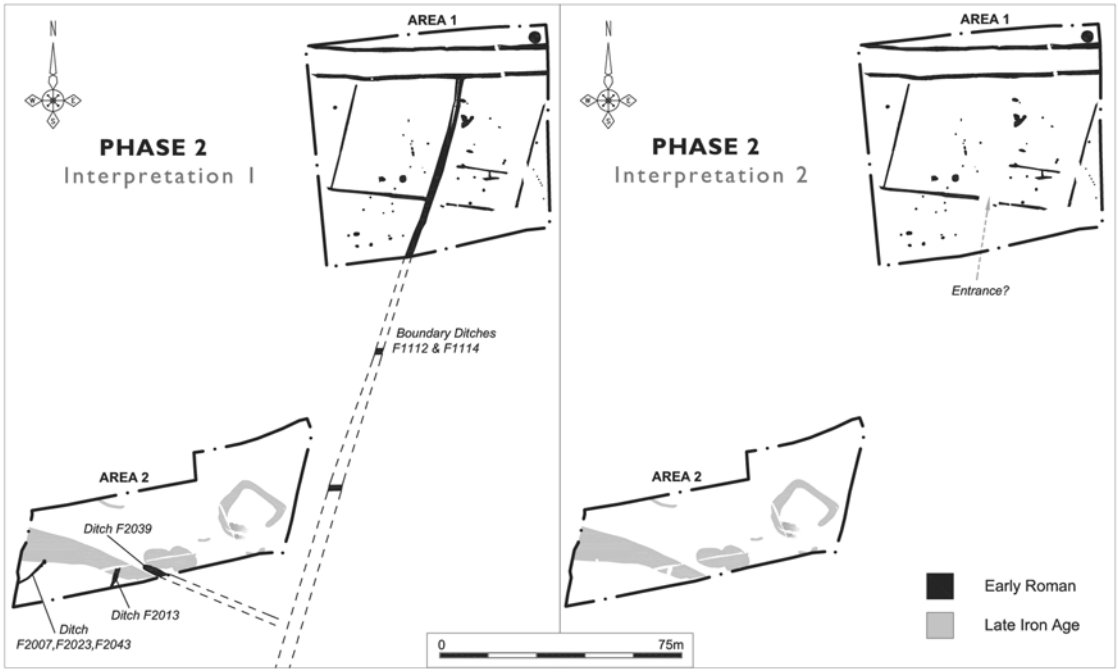

FIGURE 10 Left: Possible interpretation of Phase 2 early Roman features including ditch F1114 and ditches F2007, F2013, and F2039 in Area 2. Right: Plan of simplified interpretation of Phase 2 early Roman features (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

located approximately mid-way along its southern side, where there is a *c.*4.50m gap between the western terminus of ditch F1128 and the truncated eastern terminus of ditch F1106. The eastern end of enclosure ditch F1106B was cut by prominent Phase 3 ditch F1112B. Two postholes, F1049 and F1051, just outside to the south of the entrance way, were possibly parts of a gateway structure.

Discrete early Roman features, Area 1

Excluding the late Roman cremation/votive offering F1100 (see below), in Area 1 there were 67 discrete features, comprising 36 postholes/possible postholes, 7 pits, 22 pit/hollows, two possible pits, and three discrete gully-like features (including one posthole CA303 and one gully CA403 from the evaluation; Fig. 11). Most of these features were located within the early Roman rectangular enclosure, while a few pits and postholes were found to the southwest, outside the enclosure, and pit F1152 was located to the north of droveway ditch F1089. Finds were made in only 13 (5%) of the discrete features (Table 4). However, when ordered by the possible structure or feature groups these discrete features are part of, it is evident that the most of the pottery was found in the eastern part of the rectangular enclosure, in a cluster of postholes and possible structural gullies or post-trenches, which possibly constitute a rectangular structure (Structure 1, see below). Including the pottery (1807g) recorded during the evaluation from three features in Area 1 (CA403; CA203; CA407; Cotswold Archaeology 2016a, 27) pottery from these discrete features accounts for 78.27% of the total Roman pottery by sherd weight from Area 1 (Table 4).

Possible rectangular structure (Structure 1)

A cluster of 17 discrete features, including gully CA403, lie within an approximately rectangular area (max. 14.50m E-W by 9.40m N-S; Figs 13, 14; Table 5). Bisecting this area on its long axis is gully/post-trench F1120 (15.70m long by 0.20-0.50m wide by 0.20-0.40m deep) with steep sides, a

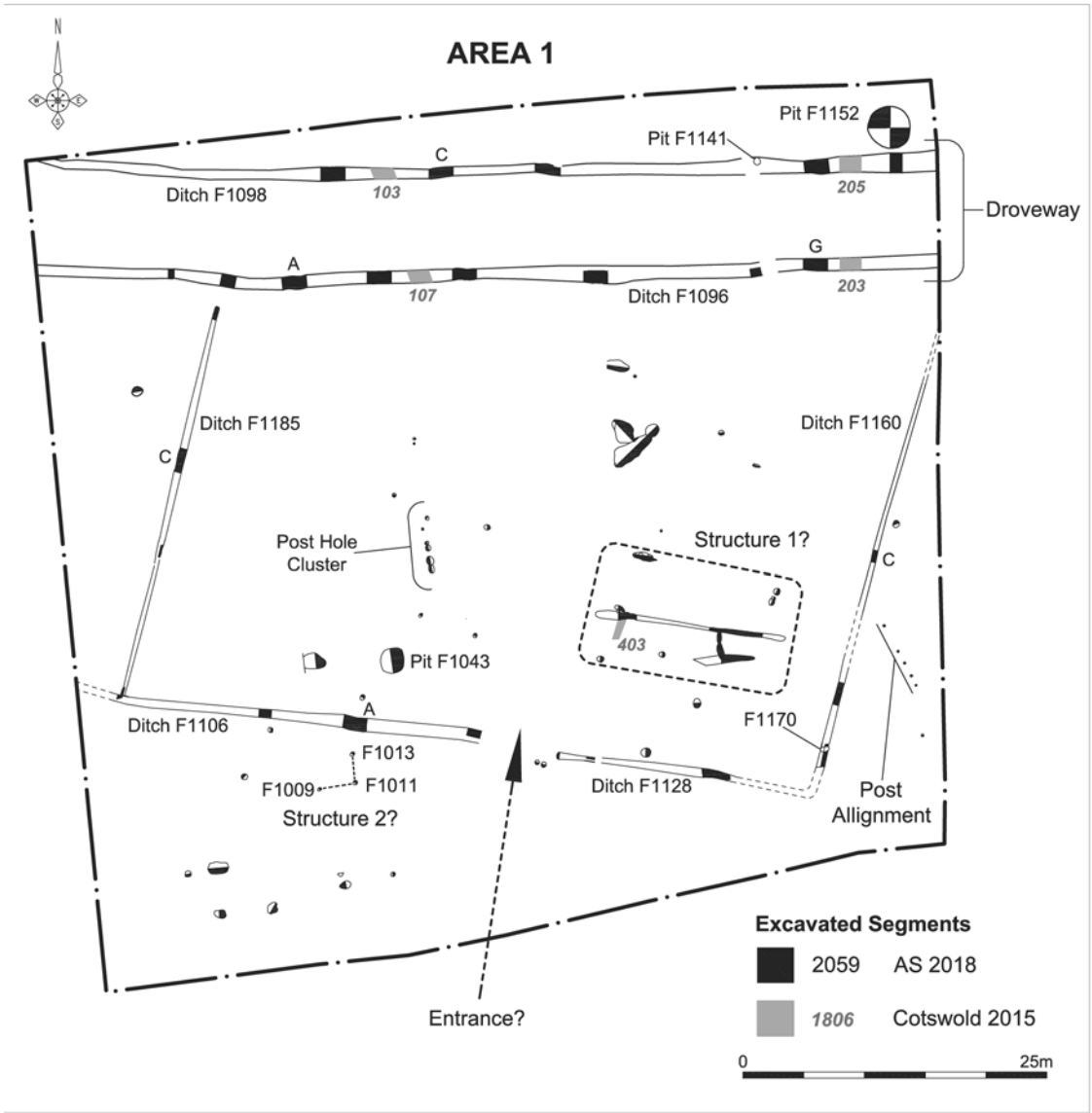

FIGURE 11 Plan of Phase 2 early Roman features in Area 1 (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

concave to flat base with a single fill of pale yellow grey-brown silty clay. The architectural form of this possible structure is unknown, but it appears to have been post-built, combining single posts with possible post-trenches at its western end (CA403, F1110, F1122) and (?internally) towards the eastern end (F1162, F1168). Gully F1120 possibly formed a long axis post-trench/wall, with internal 'rooms' along the structure's southern half.

A total of 3913g of Romano-British pottery was found in features which are thought to constitute Structure 1 (Table 5), comprising: 40 sherds (3166g) of grog-tempered pottery; 69 sherds (491g) of shell-tempered pottery; two sherds (78g) of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware in pit/posthole? F1168 (L1169); and 48 sherds (178g) of oxidised fine ware from pit/posthole F1162. Spatial patterning is evident in the distribution

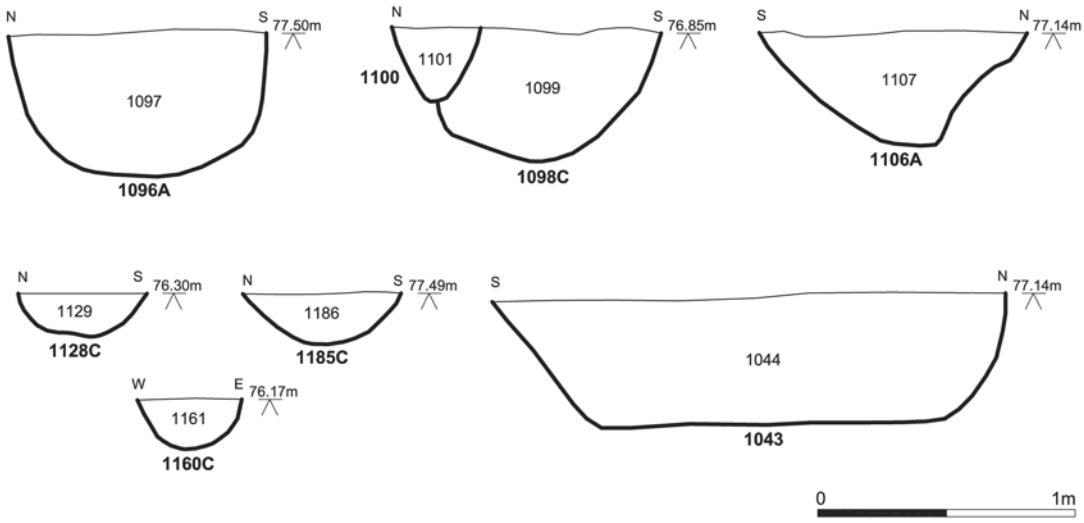

FIGURE 12 Sections through Phase 2 early Roman features in Area 1 (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

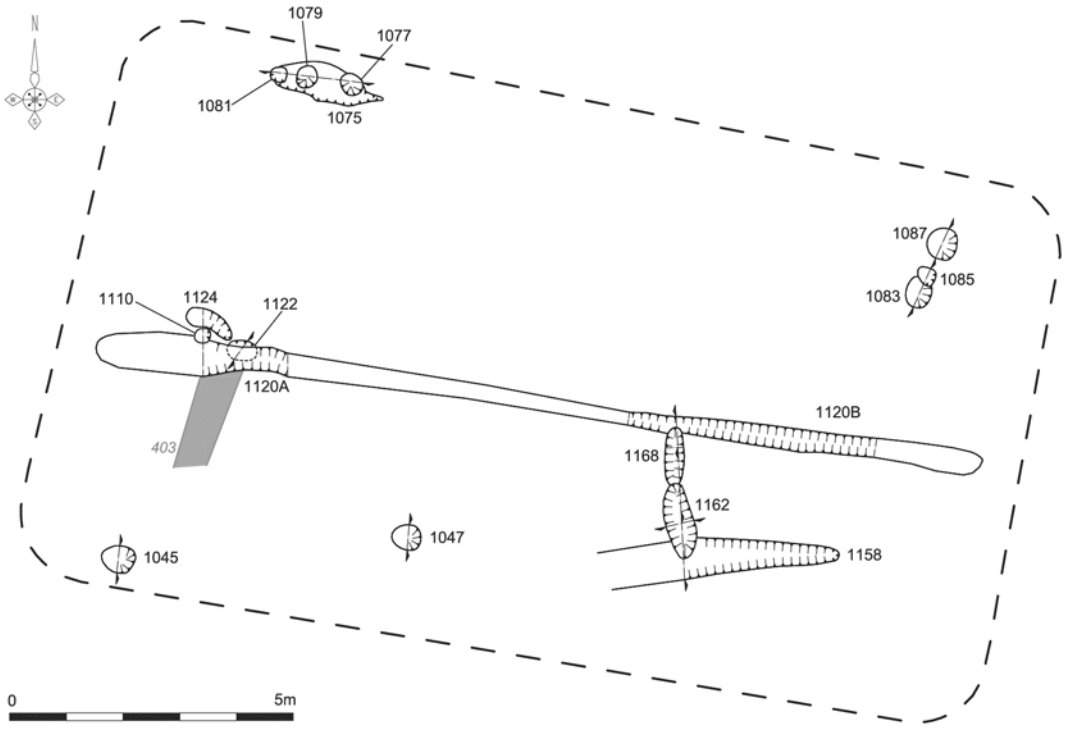

FIGURE 13 Plan of possible early Roman rectangular structure (Structure 1) (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

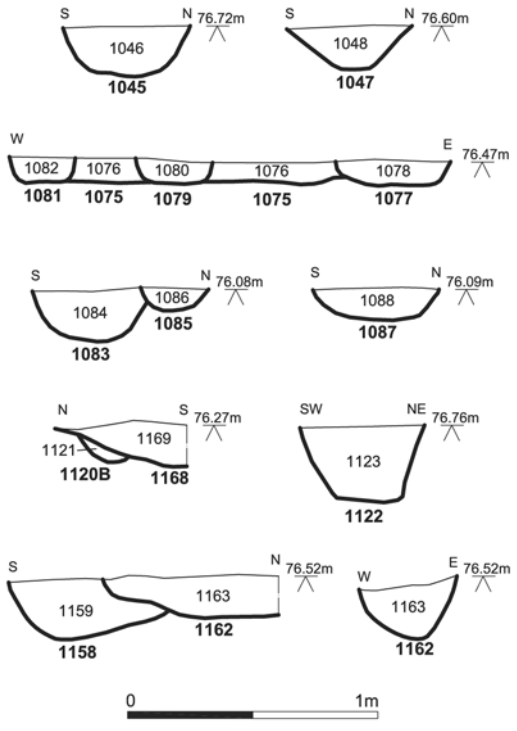

FIGURE 14 Sections through constituent features in Structure 1 (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

of different pottery/fabric types in the features that constitute Structure 1. All the grog-tempered pottery derived from two (probably parts of the same) gully/post-trench/posthole features (CA403, F1110), forming the western end of the structure, along with a small quantity (five sherds; 31g) of shell-tempered pottery probably from the eastern portion of gully F1120; while a smaller, more varied assemblage of shell-tempered (64 sherds; 489g), all the local fine wares, and both Lower Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, were contained in three adjacent/intercutting posthole/post-trench gullies (F1158, F1162, F1168) in the middle/eastern area of the possible structure.

From the open-area excavation, the large assemblage of grog-tempered pottery in F1110 and the smaller group of shell-tempered ware in F1120 comprise large storage jars and cooking pots. A single jar was present in F1110, closely comparable to vessel types known to have been produced in kilns at Caldecotte and consistent with a date in the 1st century AD, primarily post-Roman-Conquest. Gully F1120 contained a fairly typical neckless jar, common in Belgic assemblages of the 1st century AD. Of the assemblage contained in F1158, F1161, F1168, the shell-tempered rim sherds in gully/post-trench F1158 and pit/posthole F1162 are too small for comparison of their form to others in this group of pottery (and to the Fenny Road pottery assemblage as a whole), while the local fine material in pit/posthole F1162 included a reed-rimmed bowl and tall-necked flagon with a rouletted band both form types that emerged around the beginning of the 2nd century AD and is paralleled in material from Caldecotte (Marney 1989), *c.*4.2km to the north of the Fenny Road site. The two Lower Nene Valley colour-coated sherds in pit/posthole F1168 were from a wide-mouth jar or bowl paralleled in groups at Bancroft dated to the latter half of the 4th century (*ibid.*); these two sherds may be intrusive and derive from late Roman activity at the site (see below).

Other possible structures, posthole alignments and clusters

Three large postholes just outside and to the south of rectangular enclosure ditch F1106 were arranged in a right-angle (2.60 x 2.00m), possibly representing the partial remains of a four-post structure (Structure 2), commonly interpreted as raised storage huts or granaries. However, no environmental finds were recovered from the samples from each posthole to corroborate this interpretation in this instance. Of note is posthole F1011 which contained an incomplete skeleton of a large dog/wolf, including a range of bone elements including: two humeri, two femurs, tibias, radius, sacrum, two calcanei, two taluses, metapodials, phalanges, a range of vertebrae (including three tail vertebrae) and rib fragments, but no skull (although the feature was only half-sectioned). Cut marks suggest the animal had been carefully skinned, possibly for its pelt. No pottery was found in any of the postholes, but a fragment (20g) of miscellaneous Roman tile suggests a likely Roman date for this possible structure, and other postholes in the area.

A cluster of seven postholes or possible postholes (F1025, F1029, F1031, F1031, F1035, F1037 and F1039) lay within an area *c.*15m across in the centre of the western half of the enclosure, suggesting the presence of some sort of post-built structure, though no definite spatial/structural

TABLE 4 Discrete features (postholes, gullies/post-trenches, pits, pit/hollows) in Area 1 containing finds. (Spot dates to centuries AD; E. early; M. mid; L. late)

Feature	*Fill*	*Type*	*Finds*	*Notes*	*Group Context*	*Spot Date*
1059	1060	Posthole	A. Bone (4g)	Northern posthole in SSE-NNW line of five postholes, outside to east of enclosure	Post Alignment to east of enclosure	
1139	1140	Posthole	CBM (2g); A. Bone (1g)	Large pit/posthole close to inner-edge of southern side of enclosure F1128	Isolated	
1043	1044	Pit	A. Bone (169g)	Large pit; southwest area of enclosure; few features in vicinity	Isolated	
1152	1153	Pit	A. Bone (82g)	Large pit north of droveway F1098	Isolated	
1011	1012	Posthole	A. Bone (680g); Roman tile (20g)	Possible 4-post structure to south of enclosure (with F1013, F1109)	Structure 2	M1-4 (tile)
1173	1174	Pit/ Hollow	A. Bone (2g)	Shallow (?disturbance/ trample) feature	Cluster of features southwest of enclosure	
1089	1090	Pit/ Hollow	Pottery (1g); A. Bone (15g); Oyster. Shell (8g)	Area of inter-cutting shallow hollows, north area of enclosure	Trample north of Structure 1	M-L1
1110	1111	Posthole (?=CA403)	Pottery (1402g)	Possible posthole/north end of Gully CA403	Structure 1	1
1162	1163	Posthole	Pottery (543g); A. Bone (109g); F. Clay (5g)	Possibly structural feature (e.g. post-trench); between features Gully F1158 and ?Posthole F1168	Structure 1	1
1168	1169	Posthole	Pottery (140g)	?Structural element between Pit/Posthole? F1162 and Gully F1120	Structure 1	M-L4 (?Intrusive)
1120	1121	Gully	Pottery (31g); A. Bone (7g)	?Structural element (?post-trench)	Structure 1	M-L1/E2
1158	1159	Gully	Pottery (33g); CBM (174g)	?Structural element (?post-trench)	Structure 1	M1-4
CA403	CA402	Gully (?=F1110)	Pottery (1764g)	?Structural element (?post-trench); west end of group of features which constitute Str.2.	Structure 1	1-2

TABLE 5 Constituent features in possible Phase 2 early Roman rectangular building (Structure 1), Area 1.

Feature	*Fill*	*Feature Type*	*Feature Description (Dimensions in metres)*	*Fill*	*Comments*	*Roman Pottery*	*Spot Date*
1045	1046	Posthole	Circular in plan, steep sloping sides, flat base (0.50 x 0.50 x 0.20)	Firm, brownish grey sandy clay			
1047	1048	Posthole	Circular in plan, gradual sloping sides, flat base (0.50 x 0.50 x 0.20)	Firm, brownish grey sandy clay			
1075	1076	Post-trench/ packing	Irregular oval in plan, with a flat base (0.70 x 1.5 x 0.10)	Firm, brownish grey silty clay	Cut by F1077, F1079, F1081		
1077	1078	Posthole	Circular in plan, gradual sloping sides, flat base (0.43 x 0.45 x 0.11)	Firm, dark brown/grey silty clay	Cut F1075		
1079	1080	Posthole	Circular in plan, gradual sloping sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.30 x 0.10)	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Cut F1075		
1081	1082	Posthole	Circular in plan with steep sloping sides, flat base (0.27 x 0.25 x 0.11)	Dark brownish grey silty clay	Cut F1075		
1083	1084	Posthole	Circular in plan, gradual sloping sides, concave base (0.45 x 0.43 x 0.20)	Firm, greyish brown silty clay	Cut by F1085		
1085	1086	Posthole	Circular in plan, gradual sloping sides, concave base (0.25 x 0.25 x 0.11)	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay	Cut F1083		
1087	1088	Posthole	Circular in plan, gradual sloping sides, concave base (0.50 x 0.50 x 0.13)	Firm, brownish grey silty clay			
1110	1111	Posthole/ -trench	Circular in plan, gradual sloping sides, concave base (0.40 x 0.40 x 0.13).	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay, with freq. charcoal.	?Northern part of CA403	SOB GT (1402g)	1C
CA403	CA404	Post-trench	Linear NE-SW in plan, with concave base (+2.00 x 0.43 x 0.17)	Mid-greyish brown silty clay	?Southern part of F1110	SOB GT (1764g)	1-2C
1120	1121	Gully/ Post-trench	Linear E-W in plan, steep sloping sides, flat/concave base (16.00 x 0.20-0.50 x 0.20-0.40)	Firm, greyish brown silty clay	Cut by F1110; Cut F1122	ROB SH (31g)	M-L1/E2
1122	1123	Posthole	Circular in plan, steep sloping sides, flat base (0.50 x 0.50 x 0.30)	Firm, reddish brown/ grey silty clay	Cut by F1120A		
1124	1125	Post-trench/ packing	Oval in plan, gradual sloping sides, concave base (0.80 x 0.30 x 0.11)	Firm, greyish brown silty clay			
1158	1159	Gully/ Post-trench	Linear E-W in plan with steep sloping sides and a concave base (+2.70 x 0.50 x 0.30).	Firm, pale yellowish brown clay		ROB SH (33g)	RB
1162	1163	Post-trench	Oval N-S in plan, steep sloping sides, concave base (1.30 x 0.50 x 0.20)	Compact, dark grey/ brown silty clay, with charcoal inclusions	Cut F1158; ?Cut F1168	ROB SH (365g); OXF1 (178g)	2C
1168	1169	Post-trench	Oval N-S in plan, steep sloping sides, concave base (1.00 x 0.30 x 0.20)	Compact, greyish brown silty clay	Cut F1120B; Cut by F1162	ROB SH (62g); LNV CC (78g)	M-L4 (?Intru.)

arrangement was discernible (Fig. 11). Five postholes in the southeast part of Area 1, just to the east of enclosure ditch F1160, form a distinct northwest-southeast alignment. No datable finds were made in any of the postholes. However, given the dominance of early Roman finds from discrete features in this area of the site, this probable fence-line is considered most likely to be broadly Roman in date.

Early Roman pits, Area 1

Excluding the late Roman cremation/votive offering F1100, 30 pit-like features were recorded in Area 1, of which only one contained datable finds (pit/hollow, F1089; 1 sherd (1g) of generic Roman sandy-grey ware). However, considering the dominance of early Roman finds from this area, it is thought likely that all the pit-like features date to the mid-1st to early/mid-2nd century AD, and relate to domestic/pastoral/agricultural activity in and around the rectangular enclosure. The pit-like features can be grouped into three typological categories: six definite pits with clear edges and distinctive grey silt fills; 22 shallow pit-like hollows with defuse edges, likely representing areas of trample and/or minor ground disturbance; and two possible pits (F1141, F1170) cutting into fills of Phase 2 ditches (which potentially are simply dumped material within the ditch fills rather than later pits; see below).

The six, definite pits (F1007, F1025, F1094, F1043, F1152, F1189) are evenly distributed across Area 1, occurring both as apparently isolated features (F1152, F1189), and within clusters of shallower pit-like features and postholes to the southeast of the enclosure (F1107), in the eastern half of the enclosure (F1025, F1043) and (F1094) within an area of trample/disturbance to the north of possible Structure 1. While the three small pits (F1007, F1025, F1094), occurring alongside shallower pits or hollows most likely represent areas of similar but more substantial ground disturbance, the larger, more distinctive, pits (F1043, F1152, F1189: Fig. 11) appear to be deliberate features in their own right. None are sufficiently deep to suggest they were storage pits. The large size in plan of pit F1152 (3.50m dia. by 0.35m deep), and its location north of the droveway, suggest it may have been related to some sort of outfield function, possibly representing a small watering hole for livestock.

The majority of recorded 'pit' features had indistinct edges with pale grey/brown clayey silt fills and are best termed as 'pit/hollows'; probably representing trample or other minor ground disturbances. They varied in plan from circular to irregularly shaped, with maximum widths between 0.27m and 1.80m, and depths between 0.05m and 0.30m. Two clusters of pit/hollows, one to the southwest of the rectangular enclosure, the other inside the enclosure, were in line with the southern entrance and to the north of possible Structure 1 and likely represent areas of more intensive activity related to the use of the enclosure and its associated structures. The two remaining pit-like features, F1141 and F1170, were 'cut' into infilled Phase 2 Ditches F1098F and F1160A respectively. Thus, if they are pits, they are better classed as Phase 2/3 early/late Roman (or later). 'Pit' F1141 (L1142) contained no finds, while 'Pit' F1170 (L1172) contained two sherds (9g) of generic shell-tempered Roman pottery.

The environmental sample from Pit F1170 (L1171; Appendix Table A6) was the richest from the site, containing 17.35 items per litre. The charred macro-fossil assemblage presented a distinctly different picture to the four other rich samples from features in Phase 2 Structure 1, or the Phase 3 cremation/votive offering, F1100, which were dominated by cereal grains. In contrast, the sample from L1171 was dominated by the seeds of non-cereal taxa (97.98%), with a wide range of taxa represented. Most prevalent were seeds of small legumes morphologically comparable to clover (*Trifolium* sp.), which made up 48.53% of the non-cereal taxa. Also significant were dock (*Rumex* sp.; 19.71%) and wild grasses (Poaceae; 17.35%). The latter category included fescue (*Festuca* sp.), annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) and brome grass (*Bromus* sp.). Other grassland taxa included meadow/bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/ bulbosus*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). A number of the other taxa recorded can occur in grassy habitats, as well as other waste ground and cultivated habitats. This includes docks, common in arable and non-arable habitats. However, the range of taxa could represent a clover-rich meadow/pasture. It is possible that this sample represents a store of fodder for stalled animals. A similar deposit, composed predominantly of probable lucerne

(*Medicago* cf. *sativa*) was recovered from a mid-2nd to 3rd-century deposit at Fordham Road, Soham (Summers 2015). Remains of hay were interpreted in a number of samples of mid/late Roman date at Stansted (Carruthers 2008, 34.10-34.11). Foddering of animals on site, such as over-wintering cattle, would have been significant, improving the diet of dairy animals or feeding draft animals. The difference between the charred macro-fossil assemblage from F1170, those from Structure 1 features, and the stratigraphic later position of F1170, dug or dumped into the southeast corner of the already infilled or silted early Roman rectangular enclosure, both suggest a possible change in land use or management into the later Roman period, possibly once the enclosure and associated structures had gone out of use.

Possible late Phase 2/early Phase 3 Ditches F2039, F2013, F2007 (+F2023), Area 2

In the southwest part of the site, numerous recuts to Phase 1 ditch F2017 are evident, and it is likely that maintenance of the ditch took place both during the late Iron Age (Phase 1) and early post-conquest Roman (Phase 2) eras. As discussed above, ditches F2039, F2013 and F2007, also a feature recorded as 'pit' F2023, which may be part of ditch F2007, could represent a final re-cutting episode of ditch F2017, with the addition of ditches F2007 (+F2023) and F2039 at right angles to the south, after occupation of this area of the site had ceased in the late 1st century AD. Compared to the other features in Area 2, these ditches contained relatively large quantities of both grog-tempered and shell-tempered pottery, the latter being prevalent in Area 1 to the northeast, suggesting a broad contemporaneity in their deposition.

Southwest-northeast aligned ditch F2013 could be traced for 7m from the southern edge of the excavation; its northern terminus appeared to have been truncated by medieval droveway ditch F2009 (Fig. 15). At segment F2013B, this ditch cut Phase 1 ditch F2017. Ditch F2013 (L2014) contained over 2.5kg of Romano-British grog-tempered pottery (89 sherds; 2588g), representing 51.8% by weight of grog-tempered pottery from Area 2. Ditch F2013 also contained 14 sherds (143g) of shell-tempered pottery, representing 33.6% of this fabric type in Area 2. Ditch F2013 contained ceramic forms whose date extends into the early 2nd century AD.

Approximately 22m to the west, ditch F2007 was oriented roughly parallel to ditch F2013 and contained four large sherds (137g) of shell-tempered Roman pottery. The relationship of this ditch to Phase 1 ditch F2017 was masked by 'pit' F2023, from where 18 sherds (122g) of grog-tempered and three sherds (15g) of shell-tempered pottery were recovered. In plan, 'pit' F2023 is recorded as cutting both; it is also possible that pit F2023 is merely the northern terminus of ditch F2007.

Ditch F2039 extended in a southeast-northwest direction for 8m, and lay between the north edge of Phase 1 feature F2017 and the south edge of Phase 1 clay pit F2035. Ditch F2039 had no stratigraphic relationships, but its single fill (L2040) contained 36 sherds (336g) of grog-tempered, and one sherd (5g) of shell-tempered pottery, including forms spot-dated to possibly extending into the early 2nd century AD.

In summary, while the Phase 1 late Iron Age enclosure F2047 and ditch line F2017 appear to have remained in use during the early post-conquest era, the evidence points towards the reorganisation of Area 2 once the enclosure was abandoned, probably sometime in the late 1st century AD, as follows:

- Southwest-northeast ditch F2013 cuts into the southern edge of Phase 1 late Iron Age boundary ditch F2017;
- Grog- and shell-tempered Romano-British pottery is concentrated in ditches F2013, F2007/2023 (and F2039);
- The (near total) absence of fully Romanised sandy-grey and fine ware pottery from Area 2, all of which was found in Area 1.

The late 1st century AD reorganisation of the late Iron Age site involved:

- The abandonment of sub-square enclosure F2047, by which time the ditch was probably completely infilled, alongside clay pit F2035;
- Re-statement of Phase 1 boundary ditch F2017, with ditch F2039, which may have terminated approximately in line with the western end of the large area of truncation, caused by presence and infilling of pit F2035;
- To the south of ditch F2039, two small ditches, F2013 and F2007(2023), were cut at near right angles, the northern ends of both appearing to terminate within the line of earlier Phase 1 ditch

F2017; suggesting this wide boundary ditch remained a defining feature/boundary in the landscape, despite being infilled to at least the inter-face between the subsoil and geological sub-strata.

Phase 3: Late Roman

The reorganisation of land use around the late Iron Age enclosure at the end of the 1st and early 2nd century AD was part of wider structural changes to land divisions and a shift in focus of occupation and crop processing activities to the southeast of the site (Area 3). Based upon the total ceramic assemblage from Area 1, the rectangular enclosure and associated structure features went out of use around the early/mid-2nd century, at which time the enclosure was bisected by a prominent north-south boundary ditch, which continued to the south, passing *c.*8m to the east of the former late Iron Age enclosure (Figs 15 & 16). This north-south ditch represented a major realignment of land-use, dividing the previously open ground between the late Iron Age and early Roman enclosures. The concentration of late Roman 2nd to 4th century pottery in the southeast part of the site (Table 3 and see below), indicates that this north-south ditch, with a likely eastern bank, delimited the deposition of material, forming a definitive land boundary with different activities and land use taking place either side. The early Roman east-west droveway crossing the north of the site appears to have remained in use well into the late Roman era, although there is no evidence for its ditches being re-cut and/or maintained.

North-south boundary ditch and recut: F1114 & F1112

The profile of ditch F1114 was 0.70m wide, with steeply sloping sides and a concave-almost V-shaped, base, 0.49m deep. It contained a single fill (L1115), a brown-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions of flint gravel and chalk. A similar profile was evident when this ditch was recorded in the evaluation (CA405), where its surviving portion measured 0.70m wide and 0.58m deep; no finds were made during the evaluation. No evidence of slumped bank material was visible; however, the positioning of recut F1112 along its western side suggests the original and re-cut up-cast banks were to the east.

Recut ditch F1112 extended *c.*58m from the southern edge of Area 1 to meet, and slightly cut into, southern droveway ditch F1096 (Figs 15 & 16). At its broadest, Ditch F1112 measured 2.40m wide and was 0.60m deep, with a vertical to concave western side, gently to moderately sloping eastern side and slightly concave base. In all the five excavated segments along its length, Ditch F1112 had a single fill (L1113), comprising firm, brown grey silty clay, with occasional inclusions of flint gravel and chalk. It contained a total of 36 sherds (359g) of Roman pottery (as well as two sherds [3g] of intrusive modern porcelain). The Roman pottery included fragmented rim sherds of shell-tempered jars, comparable to forms dated to the late 1st/early 2nd century AD (Table 3). Animal bone (1334g) was also recovered, dominated by cattle, along with equid (horse/pony) and individual bones and teeth of sheep/goat and hare (Appendix Table A4). Ditch F1112 was previously investigated in four trial trenches (CA407, CA903, CA1324, CA2003: Fig. 15). Ten sherds (99g) of 1st to 4th-century Roman pottery were recovered from two (CA407; C2003) of the four segments excavated, including one sherd (13g) of South Gaulish samian, dating to the late 2nd to 4th century (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a, 29).

Late Roman cremation/votive offering: F1100

Pit F1100 (Figs 15, 16) was cut into the northern edge of the upper fill of early Roman droveway ditch F1198 at Segment C, and contained a near-complete Romano-British shell-tempered jar dating from the mid-2nd to 4th centuries (Fig. 17). The edges of the pit dug to contain the vessel were hard to trace, as the backfill surrounding the jar was indistinguishable from the fill of ditch F1098. Despite this, pit F1100 was recorded as oval in plan (1.50 x 1.00m) with steeply sloping sides and a concave base, 0.60m deep. The backfill surrounding the vessel was compact, dark brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal, stone, and shell. Inside the vessel were 35 (6g) heavily fragmented pieces of bone, just over half of which was burnt. Identifiable elements were from a hare, with teeth (including an incisor) and limb fragments. The remaining fragments inside the jar were identifiable as a small mammal, with two possibly from a human foetus or newborn infant (Table 6).

The backfill surrounding the vessel contained butchered remains of an equid (horse/pony) tibia

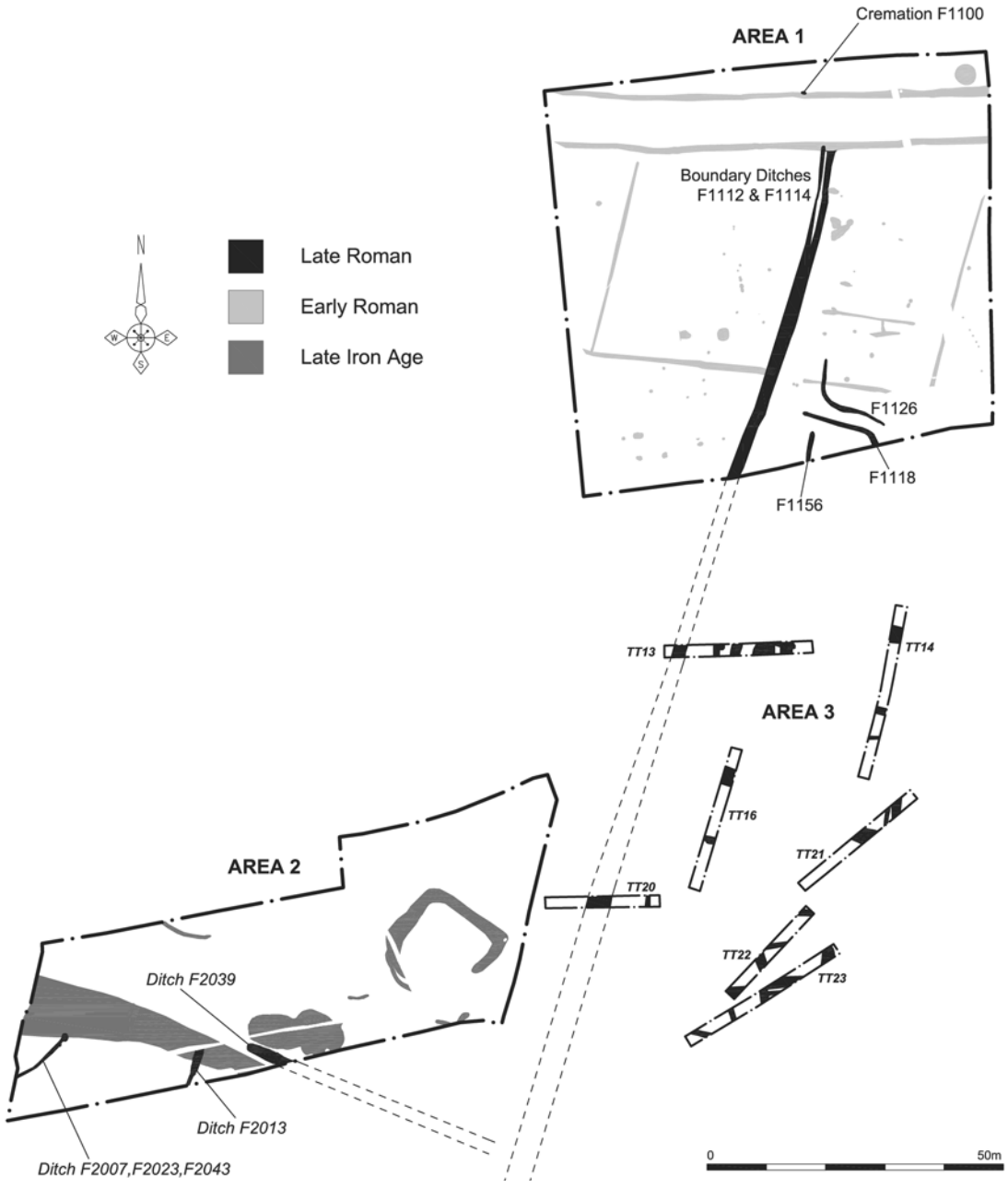

FIGURE 15 Plan of Phase 3 late Roman features, including Area 3; see Figure 5 for plan of geophysical anomalies in relation to late Roman features (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

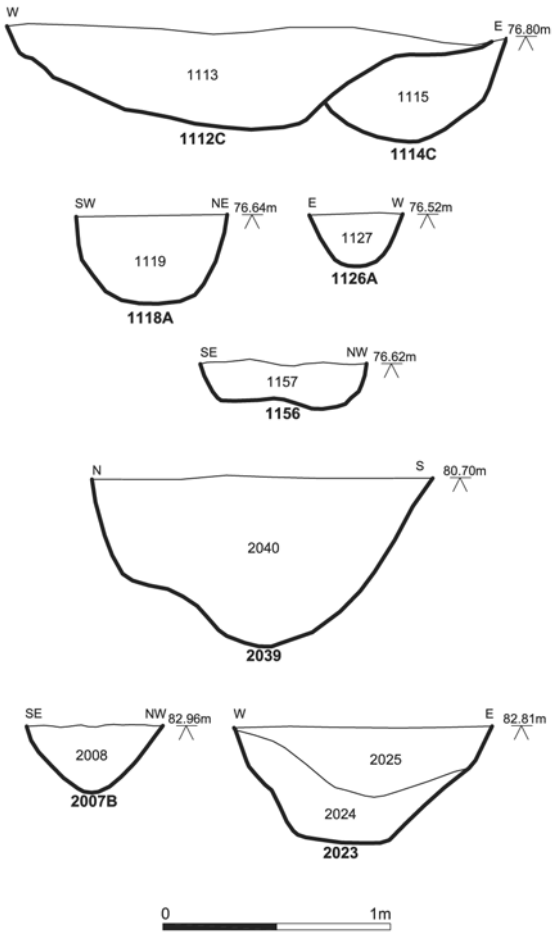

FIGURE 16 Sections through Phase 3 late Roman features (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

FIGURE 17 Phase 3 late Roman (2-4th century) shell-tempered jar used to inter a cremation/votive offering in Pit F1100. (Photograph: Katherine Henry)

(back upper leg), radius, ulna, metapodials and a phalange from a fairly large dog/wolf (suggesting the presence of one, possibly articulated, front leg). None of the standard food species such as cattle, sheep or pig were present, either inside the vessel or in the surrounding backfill.

The deposit inside the vessel was rich in carbonised remains (59 specimens identified in a 1 litre sample; Appendix Table A6) dominated by cereal grains and largely in the form of glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). Single seeds of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and a large grass (Poaceae) were also recorded. As a complete archaeo-botanical assemblage, it appears to represent a fully processed grain product, the majority of which is likely to have been spelt (*T. spelta*). Fragments of a carbonised, organic 'bubbled' material were also encountered, which might represent fragments of a burnt food product, possibly a bread or other cereal/plant-based. Archaeological remains of cereal-based food products are likewise known from elsewhere (e.g. Heiss *et al* 2017; Valamoti *et al* 2019) and are probably present but unrecognised at many more sites. However, evidence for the deliberate, ritualised deposition of plant remains from archaeological contexts is even rarer, but most likely reflecting poor preservation and survival rather than a genuine exclusion from ritual and religious activities. Remains of a mid-late 1st-century AD cremation pyre at Saint-Memmie in north-eastern France included the remains of a carbonised flatbread loaf (Heiss *et al* 2015). This at least provides a parallel for the inclusion of bread or other prepared foods in Roman cremations and ritual deposits.

It is unclear if this deliberate act of deposition was contemporary with the use of the droveway and adjacent enclosure along its southern edge, or took place after one or both of these areas had gone out of use. The enclosure was relatively

TABLE 6 Animal bone from late Roman cremation/votive offering F1100 (NISP, Number of specimens identified; MNI, Minimum number of individuals)

Context	*Quantity*	*Weight*	*Identified species*	*NISP*	*MNI*	*Element range*	*Comments*
Inside vessel SF 1.2	35	6g	Hare/ Small mammal	35	1	limb frags, teeth	Approx. 50% burnt grey/ black; small mammal bone includes two possible human pre-/neonate bones
Outside vessel SF 1.2	16	271g	Dog/wolf	10	1	metapodials, proximal phalange, ulna, radius, rib	Large, robust animal; small bony lumps on metapodials
			Equid	1	1	tibia	Cut mark on shaft.
			Mammal	5		small fragments	

short-lived and went out of use when bisected by ditches F1114/F1112, which cut into but respected the southern edge of the droveway. This suggests that the droveway continued to be used after the enclosure was abandoned in the early/mid-2nd century. If this was the case, the deposition of a cremation/votive offering into the upper fill of the northern ditch of a still active droveway, takes on added significance.

Late Roman ditches (F1118, F1126) and ditch terminus (F1156), Area 1

Three gullies in the southeast corner of Area 1 are tentatively assigned to late Roman Phase 3. Together, Ditches F1118 and F1126 contained a total of 14 sherds (170g) of generic Roman pottery; no archaeological finds were made in ditch terminus F1156. Adjacent curvilinear/angled ditches F1118 and F1126 were *c.*1.80m apart, with parallel northwest-southeast oriented sections extending *c.*12m. Ditch F1126 lay to the north, F1118 to the south. At the southeast end of F1126, ditch F1118 angled to the south, while opposite the northwest end of F1118, ditch F1126 turned north; the pair thus formed a mirror image arrangement, perhaps functioning as a narrow gateway for moving livestock through. Broadly similar ditch arrangements have been interpreted as a channelled entranceway to a late Iron Age/early Romano-British enclosure at Site 1 Magna Park, Milton Keynes (Chapman & Chapman 2017, 8, fig. 3) and at an Iron Age enclosure at Long Dole, Northamptonshire (Masefield *et al* 2015, 25-32, fig. 21.15). While the two curvilinear gullies at the Fenny Road site are not framing an entranceway to an enclosure, they are offset *c.*6m east from and at right angles to Phase 3 ditch F1114/recut F1112. The northern arm of ditch F1126 extends for *c.*7m parallel to ditch F1114/recut F1112, and cut Phase 2 enclosure ditch F1128, underlining the proposed broad contemporaneity of these four features (F1114/1112, F1118 and F1126). However, ditches F1118 and F1126 were also both recorded as cut by probable medieval ditch F1108 (Fig. 18). It is important to note that these relationships are hard to verify in the field archive and it is possible that they were erroneously recorded.

Ditch F1156 extended for *c.*5m from the southern edge of excavation, roughly parallel *c.*8-9m to the east of ditches F1114/recut F1112; the northern end of F1156 terminating *c.*2m south of ditch F1118. Although no finds were made in F1156, its distinctive U-shaped profile is very similar to those of ditches F1118 and F1126 (Fig. 16). The three ditches appear to form the southern part of an enclosure/entranceway, bounded by ditch F1114/recut F1112 to the west. Ditches F1118 and F1156 continue south towards the dense area of late Roman features in the southeast corner of the site (Area 3), and thus appear to form the northern edge of a series of small enclosures, identified in the geophysical survey and evaluation in Area 3, projecting eastwards off boundary ditch F1114/recut F1112 (Fig. 15).

Late Roman activity in Area 3

From the early/mid-2nd century onwards, the focus of activity at the Fenny Road site shifted away from the droveway to the southeast of the newly created boundary ditch F1114/recut F1112. Here, a series of east-west and north-south aligned ditches investigated in the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a) appear to form small enclosures on the east-side of boundary ditch F1112 (Fig. 15). Also present was a stone-lined corn-drier (CA1313) and a buried soil layer (CA1412), both of which indicate a relatively intense area of activity compared to the preceding early Roman enclosure and few associated structural features in Area 1. In total, 125 sherds (2268g) of later Roman (late 2nd to 4th century) pottery was retrieved from features in Area 3 during the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a; Table 3). As this assemblage derives from a limited number of features exposed in evaluation trenches (Fig. 15), it can only be taken as an indication of late Roman activity at the site; no statistical comparisons of pottery between the three areas of the site are possible. Anecdotally, however, it is evident the majority of later Roman pottery is concentrated to this area (Table 3).

Phases 4-6: Post-Roman activity

Three distinct phases of post-Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity in the form of shifting field boundaries are discernible at the Fenny Road site (Fig. 18). Some of these features contained residual prehistoric and/or Roman pottery in their fills, while others did not contain finds and have been assigned a post-Roman date, based upon stratigraphic relationships and/or their spatial association/alignment.

Phase 4: Post-Roman/early medieval field ditches

Five ditches in Areas 1 and 2, aligned southwest-northeast or southeast-northwest, are assigned a broad post-Roman/early medieval date based upon their stratigraphic relationships. The spatial layout of this possible post-Roman field system does not respect any of the Roman ditches, nor does it form the basis for the subsequent medieval/post-medieval field boundaries. No Saxon or Saxo/Norman finds were made in any of the excavated features at Fenny Road, either in the five ditches assigned to the post-Roman phase, or as residual material in later medieval/post-medieval ditches. The only item which may be related to this proposed post-Roman field system is an unstratified metal detector find of a copper-alloy buckle of late Roman or early Anglo-Saxon date (Fig. 19). Although difficult to date precisely, it is similar to Marzinzik's (2003) type group I.10d-ii, which dates to the 7th century.

Phase 5: Medieval droveway (F2005 & F2009) and field boundary ditch (F1108)

Two parallel ditches aligned east-west and between 3.50m and 4.60m apart, running along the southern edge of Area 2 were assigned a (?early) medieval date based upon four sherds (47g) of 12th to 14th-century shell-tempered medieval pottery found during the evaluation in Ditch CA1703 = F2009/2043 (Fig. 3). This ditch was also recorded in other trial trenches as CA1809, CA1910, and potentially equates with CA2203 in the southeast of the site (Fig. 5). The two ditches varied in width between 0.55m and 1.10m, with moderately to gradually sloping sides and a flat to concave base (0.16-0.37m deep); both contained single fills of firm, yellow-brown to grey sandy silt. The ditches likely formed a double-ditch, field boundary or droveway, connecting the higher land to the west lying between the medieval church (to the north) and tributary stream (to the south), to the lower lying river terrace, flood plain, and ultimately the Ouzel to the east. The only other comparably early medieval pottery recorded from Stoke Hammond comprises sherds of 12th to 13th-century date, found in the garden of 6 Fenny Road (Fig. 4, No. 21), *c.*150m northwest of the current site. This possible droveway lies *c.*13m north of the present-day northern boundary of Tyrell's Manor (Fig. 4, No. 20). The manor dates to at least the late 15th century, when it appears in historic records as "Stoke Hammond Manor" (Page 1927, 471). It is possible that the parallel medieval ditches of the Fenny Road site relate in some way to the original northern boundary to the manor house.

In Area 1, ditch F1108 shares the east-west alignment of the medieval droveway in Area 2, and the present-day field edges. Based solely upon its stratigraphic relationships, ditch F1108 should be dated to the early/late Roman period, as it cuts early Roman enclosure ditches F1128 and F1160; and is cut by late Roman ditch F1112. However, many of the stratigraphic relationships are hard to

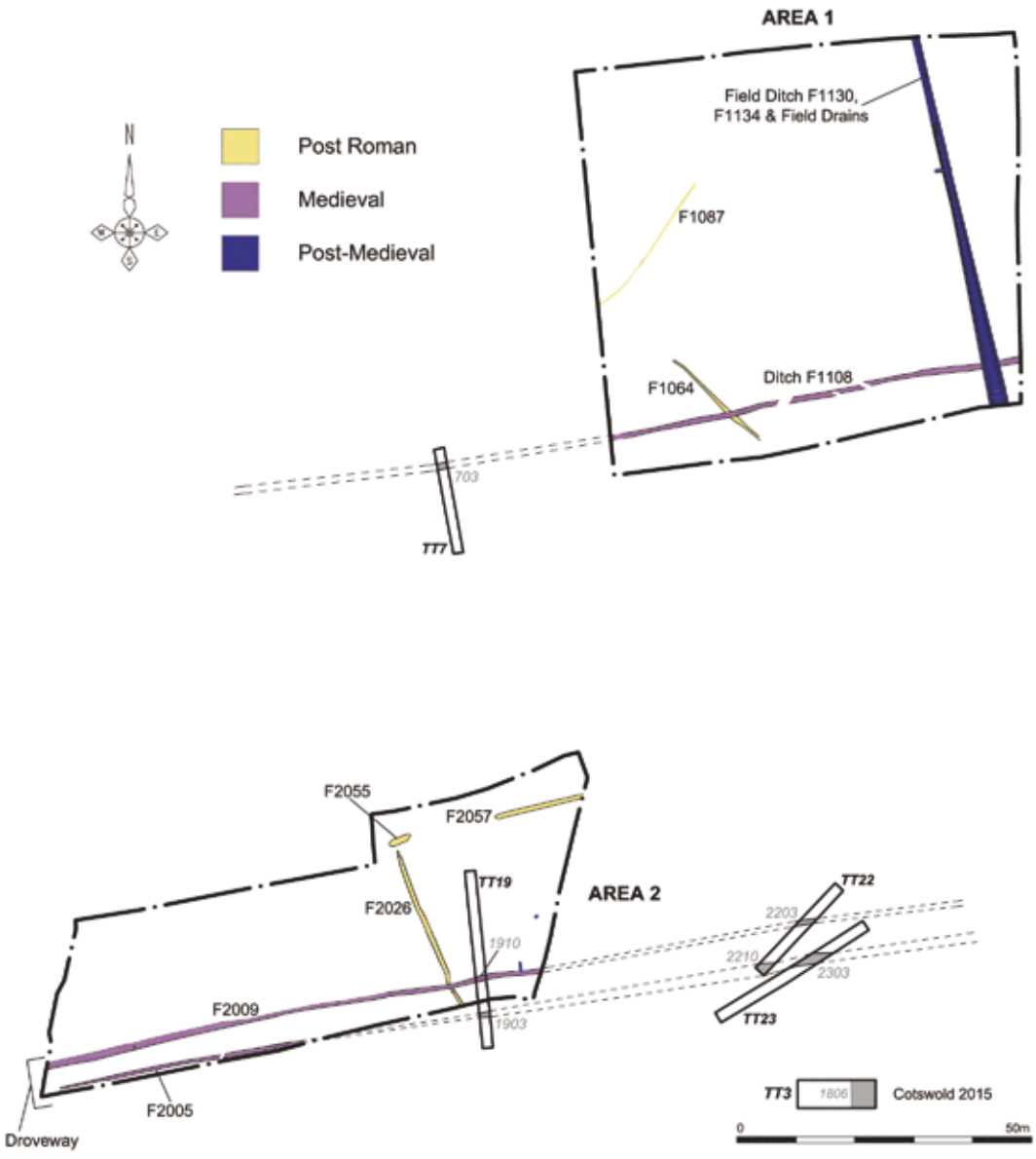

FIGURE 18 Plan of post-Roman features, Phases 4, 5, 6 (Illustration: Danielle Hall)

verify in the field archive, and it is likely that some were erroneously recorded. While no other datable finds were made in sections of ditch F1108, excavated in the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a), the variance of its orientation with all other late Iron Age and Romano-British features at the site suggests a later rather than early date. Ditch F1108 was cut by, and continues to the east of, post-medieval Ditch F1134, so it seems reasonable to assign Ditch F1108 a broad medieval date.

Phase 6: Post-medieval and later features

A series of parallel, superimposed linear ditches (F1130, F1134) and field drains (F1130, F1145) crossed the eastern edge of Area 1 and, apart from one later modern posthole/disturbance feature

FIGURE 19 Copper alloy buckle from land east of Fenny Road. Date: Roman/early Anglo-Saxon (4th – 7th century AD); unstratified metal detector find. (Photograph: Katherine Henry)

F1137, and a probable geotechnical test pit F1151, cut all other archaeological features in this area. A full-width slot through Ditch F1134 (L1135D) produced an assortment of medieval/post-medieval material including 529g of peg-tile, a fragment of clay pipe, a copper-alloy lace tag dating to around the 15th to 16th century, as well as 529g of equid (horse/pony) bone. This ditch is clearly visible on an aerial photo taken in 1946 (Edwards 2013, 11), which shows that it bounded a field of ridge and furrow to the west. In Area 2, pit F20161 (0.60 x 0.70 x 0.35m) with steeply sloping sides and a flat base, was cut into the upper fills of Phase 1 late Iron Age enclosure ditch F2047F. Its fill (L2062) contained four fragments (220g) of post-medieval peg-tile, as well as the skull of a large dog: the size of the muscle attachments and upper jaws suggested a large farm dog or working guard dog). This feature and its contents likely represents the disposal of post-medieval refuse in farm land on the edge of the village.

DISCUSSION

Introduction

The combined results of the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016a) and excavation (Lloyd-Smith *et al* 2019b) at Fenny Road reveal multi-period activity at the site, the most intensive dating to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. This work represents the first large-scale investigation in the Stoke Hammond area, and when placed in the local and regional archaeological contexts begins to highlight the intricate relationships between late Iron Age, early post-conquest, and late Roman occupation and land use in the middle Ouzel valley between the 1st and 4th centuries AD.

Neolithic/Bronze Age landscape

The smattering of residual Neolithic/Bronze Age finds at Fenny Road attests to the presence of dispersed earlier prehistoric activity, but no features dating to these periods were identified. This material is likely peripheral to the concentration of broadly contemporaneous find scatter sites which lie along the lower edge of the river terrace to the east (Fig. 4, Nos 2-4). The free-draining sand and gravel river terrace appears to have been the preferred topographic location for Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation along the Ouzel valley. At the same time, however, the Fenny Road material does indicate the wider utilisation of the poorly drained mixed boulder-clay valley slopes, particularly along the courses of small tributary streams.

The late Iron Age farmstead

The small assemblage of hand-made, sand-tempered late Iron Age pottery in features in the south of the site, mixed with a larger quantity of grog-tempered Belgic and some shell-tempered Romano-British pottery dating to the mid-/late 1st century AD, indicates a likely transitional pre-/post-Roman conquest date for the late Iron Age occupation of the site.

Site development

Two possible eaves-drip gullies (F2003, F2050) may constitute the remains of a small, low-status late Iron Age farmstead, dating to the first half of the 1st century AD. No structural evidence was recorded in the vicinity of either gully, although this is often absent or partially lacking at many Iron Age sites in the region, e.g. Magna Park,

Milton Keynes (Chapman & Chapman 2017) and on the Stoke Hammond bypass at Bletchley (Edgeworth 2006). Whether the two possible round houses at Fenny Road were occupied contemporarily or sequentially (either directly one after the other or with episodic site occupation) is unknown. Clustering of round house ring gullies, often interpreted as representing a chronological sequence of re-builds, is well documented at middle/late Iron Age and early post-conquest period sites in the local area, e.g. The ABC site on the Stoke Hammond-Linslade Western Bypass (Moore *et al* 2007), The Stoke Hammond bypass (Edgeworth *et al* 2006), Newton Leys (Brown 2012), Middleton School, Milton Keynes (Zeepvat & Cuthbert 2016), and is perhaps best displayed at Broughton Manor Farm (Atkins *et al* 2014).

Despite the evident small size and low status of the late Iron Age site at Fenny Road, a major change occurred sometime around the mid-1st century when one of the ring gullies (F2050) was superseded by a significantly more substantial sub-square enclosure ditch (F2047). The internal area of this enclosure is only *c.*12 x 12m, approximately equivalent to the preceding round house structure. No internal features were recorded and it is uncertain whether the sub-square ditch surrounded a structure of some sort, or functioned purely as a well-defined enclosed space. The enclosure was oriented northwest-southeast, with an entrance probably located on the south-eastern side.

The regular sub-square form of the Fenny Road late Iron Age enclosure is similar to many mid-/late Iron Age enclosures in the Milton Keynes region, e.g. Hartigans and Pennyland (Williams 1993), Magna Park (Chapman & Chapman 2017), and at Newton Leys (Brown 2012). The size of such sub-square enclosures varies, with larger examples enclosing the structural remains of round houses; the 'type site' being Wootton Hill Farm (Jackson 1993), with further examples investigated at Magna Park(Chapman & Chapman 2017). With internal dimensions of 35 x 39m respectively and well-defined/protected entrances, these larger late Iron Age enclosures have been interpreted as defended, high-status farmstead sites. Smaller, sub-square enclosures dating to the middle Iron Age have been excavated at Hartigans (Williams 1993) and Newton Longville (Brown 2012), with maximum internal dimensions of *c.*20m and *c.*15m respectively. Both of these smaller enclosures are spatially associated with adjacent round house ring gullies, either directly abutting the outside of the enclosure ditch (Hartigans), or joined by curvilinear gullies (Newton Longville). The arrangements of these enclosures and ring gullies have been interpreted by their excavators as small – though obviously well-defined and well-protected – stock enclosures located directly adjacent to a round house structure; the two forming a single architectural ground plan. The small sub-square enclosure at the Fenny Road site appears to be a similar example, demonstrating that the practice of building well-defined small stock enclosures close to/abutting the domestic round house continued into the late Iron Age and early post-conquest periods.

To the southwest of the sub-square enclosure was large, irregularly shaped pit F2035, possibly a clay extraction pit for the production of daub. Finds of fired clay in many of the late Iron Age features attest to the presence of such material in some form, although this may have been for small-scale domestic or industrial use such as hearth or furnace lining, rather than architecture; no definite late Iron Age structural features were identified within the excavation. The backfill of F2035 contained a similar assemblage of mid-late 1st-century pottery to that in the square enclosure ditch, as well as pieces of slag attesting to metal working on or near the site. Further to the southwest, the late Iron Age farmstead appears to have been delimited by a broad, well-maintained ditch aligned northwest-southeast, the extent of which is unknown at present.

Early Roman transformations

In the mid-1st century AD, little seems to have changed at the Fenny Road site. The occurrence of Belgic grog-tempered and Romano-British shell-tempered pottery in the fills of the late Iron Age enclosure, clay pit and broad boundary ditch in the south part of the site indicate continued occupation. While the broad boundary ditch appears to have been maintained and re-cut a number of times, no new additional structural features were constructed and the immediate area around the sub-square enclosure does not appear to have experienced any modification, re-organisation or expansion. The first new feature in the post-conquest period was probably the east-west

droveway (F1096, F1098), passing *c.*120m north of the late Iron Age sub-square enclosure. Two observations can be made regarding this droveway. First, it connects two (or more) areas that lay outside of the excavated area: one upslope to the west and one downslope towards the river terrace to the east; *i.e.* it did not connect to a 'site' within the excavated area. The droveway also appears to have 'bypassed' at a distance the existing late Iron Age enclosure and area of related activities.

On the south side of the early Roman droveway, and thus most likely added after the droveway was in place, a large rectangular enclosure was constructed (max. *c.*57 by *c.*37m), with an entranceway approximately midway along its southern side. The ditches of this enclosure were not as substantial as those flanking the droveway, and to have been an effective boundary against livestock its bank may have been planted with a hedge. While clusters of postholes, pits, and shallow pit/hollow features are present, no clear architectural forms can be defined. However, one possible rectangular structure (Structure 1) within the enclosure is proposed, as well as a possible 'four'-post granary structure (Structure 2) just southwest of the enclosure. One of the posts of the latter contained the headless skeleton of a dog, suggestive of a deliberate 'votive' act in connection with its construction and/or the building's use/function. Areas of shallow pit/hollows inside and to the southwest of the rectangular enclosure likely represent minor ground disturbance related to domestic and/or agricultural processing activities taking place in this area. What, then, do the rectangular enclosure and associated structural features represent? Two possible scenarios can be envisaged:

- The 'relocation' of the late Iron Age occupation site and associated activities to alongside the early Roman droveway. The sub-square enclosure to the south continued to be occupied for a short time, but was abandoned during the latter half of the 1st century AD.
- The creation of a 'new' farmstead at the site, which was part and parcel of the changes to the organisation of the landscape introduced during the early Roman period.

Unfortunately, the combined finds assemblage from the late Iron Age and early Romano-British enclosures at Fenny Road is too small to provide a definitive answer either way. Similar Belgic grog-tempered and Roman-British shell-tempered wares indicate that the occupation in both areas overlapped chronologically. The character of the pottery from both areas is consistent with low-status domestic activity in the region, frequently associated with small farmsteads or agricultural settlements in the Ouzel valley and the north Bucks region in general.

Late Iron Age and early Roman economy

Despite clear spatial separation between the late Iron Age and early Roman areas of occupation and activity, their likely chronological overlap and the small sample size of the faunal and archaeobotanical assemblages mean that possible changes in the agricultural economy cannot be identified. There is insufficient economic data from the late Roman activity in the southeast of the site to contribute to questions regarding possible longer-term changes.

Much of the late Iron age/early Roman faunal assemblage appears to be from butchering and meat waste. Cattle clearly provided the bulk of the meat, as well as also providing traction, milk, dung, horn, skin and other by-products. Sheep remains are frequent, but it not to the same extent as cattle; sheep would have provided fleeces, lanolin and dung as well as meat, skins and by-products. Pig/boar clearly contributed some meat, but in low numbers. Pig have no secondary purpose, thus it may not be worthwhile for a community to keep them, so these may have been wild hunted boar, as hunting is certainly shown from other species (red deer) in the assemblage. The equid remains from late Iron Age/Roman features suggest medium to large ponies were kept; little ageing data was available, yet some arthritic problems were seen on a pelvis that suggest an older or working animal. The equids at this site were also used for skins and meat, although the meat may have been for feeding domestic or working dogs, whether purposely provided, or scavenged from waste. Likewise, red deer would have been common in the late Iron Age and Roman periods, supplementing the diet and perhaps providing some sport. In addition, there was clearly an interest in the antler for working, and the skins would have been kept for clothing and other uses.

The archaeobotanical assemblage, although not extensive, provides some useful insights into

activities at the site, particularly during the early Roman period. The late Iron Age/early Roman economy was based primarily on the cultivation of glume wheat, most likely spelt wheat, based on glume identifications from early Roman deposits. Although spelt wheat was the preferred grain for consumption, barley and potentially oats are likely to have contributed to the diet, as well as having a possible role as fodder crops. The poor representation of oats could potentially be attributed to its use as fodder and the reduced contact with fire that this entails (*cf.* Carruthers 2008, 34.11). A single pea/bean seed from the infilling of late Iron Age clay pit F2035 is insufficient to demonstrate a significant role in the diet of the site's inhabitants, although recovery of carbonised pulses can be affected by their more limited contact with fire during processing, when compared to cereals. A spelt wheat dominated economy is paralleled elsewhere in the region. For example, the Iron Age and Roman settlement on the Stagsden bypass (Scaife 2000), where an arable economy dominated by spelt wheat was identified in the late Iron Age and 1st/2nd centuries AD. At Wavendon Gate there was a significant increase in carbonised macrofossils recovered from bulk samples of Roman period deposits, compared to Iron Age features. This was primarily in the form of spelt wheat, which was associated with a proliferation of corn-driers (Letts 1996). Although earlier in date (middle Iron Age), carbonised cereals from Pennyland also provided good evidence of local cultivation, primarily of spelt wheat and barley (Jones 1993).

Late Roman reorganisation and intensification

During the latter half of the 2nd century, the Fenny Road site underwent substantial expansion and re-organisation of land-use, and the quantity and range of local/regional ceramic wares provides evidence for some economic growth in terms of material wealth. By the mid-2nd century, the rectangular enclosure went out of use and was bisected by a large southwest-northeast ditch. This ditch abutted the southern droveway ditch to the north, passed through the southern entrance of the rectangular enclosure and continued to the south to pass *c.*8m east of the site of the late Iron Age sub-square enclosure. At this time also, it is possible that the northern edge of the broad late Iron Age ditch line in the southwest part of the site was re-cut, possibly connecting to the main late Roman north-south ditch; two smaller ditches were also dug, almost at right-angles to the south side of the now largely infilled late Iron Age ditch.

The concentration of late Roman 2nd to 4th-century pottery in the southeast part of the site (Area 3) indicates that this north-south ditch and its probable eastern bank delimited the deposition of material and formed a definitive land boundary, with different activities and land use taking place either side. At the same time, however, the early Roman east-west droveway crossing the north of the site appears to have remained in use well into the late Roman period. In Area 3, a series of east-west and north-south aligned ditches appear to have formed small enclosures projecting off the east-side of the boundary ditch. Also present was a stone-lined corn-drier and a buried soil indicating a greater intensity of activity, compared to the preceding early Roman enclosure and the few associated structural features in the north of the site. The late Roman activity in Area 3 was bounded to the north by short curvilinear ditches 'projecting' off the east side of the boundary ditch, possibly forming some sort of channelled entranceway for moving livestock.

There is no apparent chronological gap in the pottery assemblage to indicate a hiatus in site use around the mid-2nd century, between the abandonment of the early Roman enclosure in the north part of the site and the establishment of activity in the southeast part. Rather, the history of site use represents a gradual, steady growth in material wealth reflected in a small, but increasingly regional ceramic assemblage.

Cremation/Votive Offering

Sometime between the 2nd and 4th centuries, either nearing the end of the life of the early Roman rectangular enclosure or when the focus of activity had shifted to Area 3, a cremation/votive offering (F1100) was deposited into the upper fill of the northern droveway ditch. At the centre of this was a complete jar containing unburnt and burnt bones of a possible human foetus or newborn and a hare, also featuring charred cereal grain as well remains of prepared cereal food. This unusual deposit is a clear indication that plant foods also played a role in such religious practices, as well as the more recognisable faunal and artefactual elements. Finds of carbonised grain are occasionally made

in cremation deposits, but it is generally difficult to determine whether they were a deliberate part of the pyre or an incidental inclusion, such as with straw used as kindling. The remains of a flatbread loaf from a cremation deposit at the Roman cemetery at Saint-Memmie in north-eastern France (Heiss *et al* 2015) is an interesting parallel and may indicate a more routine use of cereals and prepared cereal foods as offerings. Outside of the jar were found the remains of the fore leg of a dog and the upper hind leg of a horse. The absence of the three usual animal species kept for human consumption (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) further highlights the extraordinary nature of this deposit.

The middle Ouzel valley in the late Iron Age and Roman periods

A prominent topographic feature of the middle Ouzel valley is the southwest-northeast oriented Greensand ridge, which flanks the northern edge of the Chiltern Hills lying further to the south-east and from where the Ouzel has its source at Dagnall. The postulated Roman road, Viatores 173a-d (Viatores 1964, 271-284) ran along the northern edge of the ridge, linking the Roman town at Fleet Marston on Akeman Street to the southwest and Watling Street at Little Brickhill, south of the Roman town of *Magiovinium,* to the northeast. The Greensand ridge line causes a slight narrowing of the Ouzel valley between Soulbury and Great Brickhill, *c.*1.5km south of Stoke Hammond, where the Viatores road would have crossed the river (Fig. 4). While smaller off-shoot roads and trackways would have connected farmsteads and larger settlements located away from this minor Roman road, it is clear that Roman settlement at Stoke Hammond was far removed from any 'direct' influence of traffic moving along it. Similarly, in the opposite direction, trackways would have linked contemporary settlements downstream along the western side of the Ouzel valley with Watling Street and *Magiovinium*, and any goods and communications would have passed through numerous rural settlements before reaching the Romano-British inhabitants of the Fenny Road site. These observations suggest that the Romano-British settlement at Fenny Road was truly rural in nature and several steps removed from local and regional lines of communication and trade; a picture borne out by the overall low status of the site with few regional and continental imports. However, this is not to say that the locale was not 'prosperous' on its own terms.

The Fenny Road site lies on eastern edge of a concentration of find scatters abundant in Iron Age and Roman material, extending from the area around St Luke's Church northwards across the high ground interfluve between two tributary streams flowing into the Ouzel (Fig. 4). The area around the church has produced a number of Roman coins and a concentration of Iron Age and Roman pottery which suggests a moderately high-status farmstead. In this regard, it is of particular note that both the Phase 1 late Iron Age ditch line (F2017) in the southwest of the Fenny Road site, and the Phase 2 early Roman droveway crossing the north of the site, continue to the west beyond the excavation, and are aligned towards the area just south of St Luke's Church, *c.*300m away. It appears that the droveway at Fenny Road was a formal line of movement connecting a possibly higher status (main) farmstead somewhere in the vicinity of the church with lower-lying river terrace pasture to the east. Thus, the apparent peripheral location of the Fenny Road site during the late Iron Age and early Roman period may be the underlying reason for its overall low status in material wealth and architectural structures.

The late Roman re-organisation of the Fenny Road site involved the abandonment of the rectangular enclosure, which was possibly deliberately bisected by a prominent north-south ditch (later re-cut) which formed a barrier to east-west movement in this area of the site, and to the southeast of which was located the main focus of late Roman activity. The late Iron Age enclosure to the west of the boundary ditch was by this time totally infilled, but the line of the late Iron Age east-west ditch appears to have still functioned as a land boundary and was restated and used as the baseline for a new field system to the south. The existing, early Roman, east-west droveway crossing the north of the site continued to be used, and a possible cremation or votive offering was interred in its infilled northern ditch. The 2nd to 4th-century activity at Fenny Road appears to represent a deliberate expansion eastwards from the 'core' area of occupation around St Luke's Church. Unlike many larger Romano-British sites in the region, for example Boughton (Atkins *et al* 2014) which experienced significant decline and/or abandonment in the mid to late 2nd century, before localised resurgence in

the 3rd and 4th centuries across the region (Zeepvat & Radford 2007), the Stoke Hammond area appears to have remained resilient over the long term. Located at a distance from both the Roman road system and from major Roman towns and larger settlements, Stoke Hammond was perhaps less affected by the fluctuating economic and political circumstances of Roman Britain. On its own terms, Stoke Hammond's rural but 'independent' subsistence economy continued to function during the first four centuries of the first millennium, and as such, lay the grounds for the subsequent likely Anglo-Saxon origins of the medieval village we see today.

Acknowledgements

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mears Group PLC for funding of the excavation and its publication and for their assistance during the project. AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr William Boismier and Mr Philip Markham of Buckinghamshire County Council. The Project Manager was Claire Halpin. The Site Supervisors were Samuel Thomelius and Keeley Diggons, supported by Assistant Site Supervisors Isak Ekberg and Eric Hägglund; other field team members for both areas of excavation were: Issica Baron, Laurin Bertling, Chelsea Budd, Ana Bordona Foz, Greer Jarrett, Adrian Lindberg, Patrik Meijer, and Kieran Sherlock. Post-excavation finds analysis was coordinated by Jennifer O'Toole (AS) and undertaken by Julie Curl (Sylvanus: animal bone), Andrew Newton (AS: metalworking residues), Andrew Peachey (AS: building materials, fired clay, flint, pottery), Rebecca Sillwood (Independent: metalwork, worked bone) and John Summers (AS: environmental samples). Thank you also to Suzanne Fletcher (AS) for proof reading the text and editorial suggestions.

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Appendices

The Struck Flint
by Andrew Peachey

The open-area excavations recovered four pieces (21g) of struck flint, limited to debitage in varying condition of indeterminate Neolithic to Bronze Age origin. The flint was found in Phase 2 early Roman ditch F1096. Segment A (L1097A) contained three heavily-patinated debitage flakes (12g) with broad-squat and slightly irregular profiles. Segment C (L1097C) included an unpatinated blade-like tertiary flake (9g) with multi-directional dorsal scars and a pronounced bulb of percussion that suggest it was removed with a hard hammer. These very limited traits are perhaps most consistent with reduction strategies in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age, but could have resulted from core or nodule trimming from the early Neolithic onwards.

The Pottery
by Andrew Peachey

Introduction
Excavation of Areas 1 and 2 recovered 977 sherds (10,190g) of pottery, predominantly of early Roman date, likely within the latter half of the 1st century AD but with material from Area 1 potentially spanning the early/mid-1st century to the early 2nd century. The bulk of the pottery within this period comprised a range of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware vessels and locally-produced shell-tempered ware

jars with lid-seated rims, supplemented by very low quantities of samian ware and oxidised fine ware. This material conforms to that retrieved from evaluation trenches in these areas (Cotswold Archaeology 2016). The only notable exception was the recovery from Trial Trench 17 (Cotswold Archaeology 2016, 11, 27) of four sherds of early medieval (12th to 14th century) pottery from the equivalent of Ditch F2009, Area 2.

In contrast to the predominately early Roman pottery from Areas 1 and 2, the evaluation recovered a rich assemblage of late Roman (2nd to 4th century) pottery from the southeast corner of the site (Area 3: Cotswold Archaeology 2016, Trenches 13-14, 16, 20-23). The limited later Roman pottery in Areas 1 and 2 includes regionally-traded fine wares and mortaria, as well as further shell-tempered wares, including a jar utilised as a cremation/votive offering vessel and deposited complete (F1100). This material appears to be peripheral to the main focus of activity in Area 3. Finds of isolated small sherds of modern ('China') pottery are thought to represent intrusive material in a post-Roman ditch (F1085) and are not discussed further.

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight (g), with fabrics analysed at x20 magnification and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive; in accordance with the *Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al* 2016), which complements the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004; Willis 2004). Where possible, fabric types have been cross-referenced with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). Form types of the 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares are referenced to the type series developed by Thompson (1982) with form codes italicised (*i.e. D1-1*).

Fabric Descriptions and Discussion

Eleven fabric types were recorded from the open area excavations (Tables A1, A2). A small, localised, assemblage of hand-made prehistoric late Iron Age pottery (Fabric, Q1) was present, but the majority was wheel-made grog- and shell-tempered 'Belgic' and Romano-British wares (SOB GT; ROB SH). Local and regional Roman fine wares and imports were limited to very small quantities of oxidised fine ware, black-surfaced grey ware and sandy grey wares, as well as occasional single sherds of Lower Nene Valley colour coated sherds, Oxfordshire mortaria and continental samian sherds.

Coarse-ware hand-made sand-tempered pottery (Q1)

The coarse wares include a limited percentage of hand-made 'native' vessels in fabric Q1 (Table A2), which would have been produced from the 3rd century BC to the mid-1st century AD, potentially continuing to supplement Belgic wares in limited quantity throughout the 1st century AD. A low quantity (14; 111g) of non-diagnostic body sherds of Q1 occur in isolation in ditch F2026 (L2027B, C), possibly indicative of a middle to late Iron Age date of deposition, while rare body sherds are associated with early Roman pottery in ditch F2017. However, the largest group of Q1 sherds (89; 516g) was contained in ditch F2047 (L2048D) in association with sparse Belgic (SOB GT) sherds, suggesting a date in the early to mid-1st century AD, possibly post-Roman-Conquest. At least four Q1 vessels are present in this deposit, possibly bowls or jars with short upright to slightly everted plain rims above a weak neck and rounded shoulder. Two vessels have a burnished exterior, one has vertical scoring on the body and the final vessel has no surface treatment. These vessels are extensively paralleled at the settlement at Hartigans, where late Iron Age occupation continues through the 1st century AD (Marney 1993, 236: fig. 98. 103, 106 & 114).

'Belgic' fabrics (SOB GT; ROB SH)

The bulk of the pottery assemblage from the excavation of Areas 1 and 2 is made up of grog-tempered 'Belgic' fabrics (SOB GT) and a related locally-produced shell-tempered fabric (ROB SH) (Table A2). These fabrics account for 52.6% of the assemblage by sherd count (63.6% by weight) and 23.5% (23.0%) respectively, although some of the ROB SH clearly represents a late Roman continuation of this fabric. Both fabrics were either manufactured or finished on a potter's wheel. Stoke Hammond is located towards the north-western periphery of the distribution zone of 'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery in south-eastern England (Thompson 1982, 16: Zone 8), and was probably made locally on a domestic scale, though mid-1st century AD chambered kilns serving an extensive settlement at Milton Keynes

TABLE A1 Pottery fabrics recorded in the open area excavation and trial trench evaluation. Number in **bold** is the fabric number corresponding with the Milton Keynes type series (Marney 1989)

Fabric Code	*Description*
Q1	Handmade sand-tempered ware. Dark red-black surfaces over a thick dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common-abundant sub-angular quartz (0.25-0.5mm), sparse shell and clay pellets (<2mm), and sparse mica.
SOB GT	'Belgic' grog-tempered reduced ware, wheel-made (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214; Thompson 1982, 20). Red-orange to dark red-brown surfaces over a mid-dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common grog (<1.5mm) and sparse quartz (<0.5mm). (**46a**)
ROB SH	Belgic/Roman shell-tempered ware (Marney 1993, 239). Black to dark red-brown. Inclusions of common-abundant plate-like shell (generally 0.5-3 mm, occasionally to 5mm). (**1a**)
OXF	Oxidised fine ware. Pale orange-pink surfaces fading to a mid-orange core. Inclusions comprise common quartz and sparse red/white clay pellets (all <0.25mm). A smooth/powdery fabric; probably from a Northamptonshire source. (**18a**)
BSW	Romanising/black-surfaced grey ware 1 (wheel-made). Black surfaces, oxidised margins and a mid-grey core. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse iron rich grains and grog (<1mm). (**9a**)
GRS	Sandy grey ware. Mid grey surfaces and core. Inclusions comprise common quartz and sparse black iron-rich grains (both <0.25mm), with common fine mica. Hard with a slightly powdery finish. (**3a**)
LGF SA	La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 28)
LEZ SA2	Lezoux samian ware 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 32)
LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118). (**6**)
OXF RS (M)	Oxfordshire red-slipped ware mortaria (Tomber & Dore 1998, 177). (**4b**)
OXF WH (M)	Oxfordshire white ware mortaria (Tomber & Dore 1998, 176). (**4a**)
Fabrics recorded in evaluation only (amended from Sommerville 2016):	
PNK GT	Soft pink grog-tempered ware (**2**)
UNS WH1	Unsourced white wares
GRF	Fine grey ware (**3**)
BAT AM	Baetican amphora (**22**)

have been recorded at Caldecotte, *c*.5km to the north (Marney 1989, 98). The pattern of grog- and shell-tempered Belgic fabrics is closely comparable with early to mid/late 1st century AD Groups 1-2 at Milton Keynes (*ibid.*, 7-12), although lesser quantities of these fabrics continue to be found at the Fenny Road site in pottery groups up to the early 2nd century, albeit supplemented by Romanised fabrics (e.g. BSW & GRS). Of the Romanised fabrics, BSW only occurs in low quantities in early Roman ditches, while GRS is rare still but in both early and late Roman pottery groups, with both fabrics represented only by non-diagnostic plain body sherds, probably from closed vessels (jars).

The most common SOB GT vessels are jars with lid-seated, channel rims (*C5-1*), including three examples from ditch F2013 and a further example from ditch F2039. These are supplemented by significantly larger, tall-necked jars from pit F2067 (=F2035) (*B1-4*) and ditch F2013 (*B3-6*).

TABLE A2 Quantification of pottery by fabric group from the excavation only

Fabric Code	*Sherd Count*	*Weight (g)*	*R.EVE*
Q1	105	654	0.30
SOB GT	514	6488	1.12
ROB SH	230	2344	1.59
OXF	50	180	0.37
BSW	33	173	–
GRS	32	183	–
LGF SA	1	6	0.07
LEZ SA2	3	3	0.05
LNV CC	4	84	0.14
OXF RS (M)	1	20	0.05
OXF WH (M)	1	50	–
(Modern)	(3)	(5)	–
Total	**977**	**10190**	**3.69**

The latter is possibly associated with non-cross-joining lower body and basal sherds where the wall has a triangular arrangement of three holes (each 8mm wide) drilled through from the exterior, which does not appear to represent repair but was more likely to enable a secondary function, possibly the draining of a commodity that was steeped in the jar, or possibly if the jar was inverted to allow the release of steam or smoke. A single storage jar (*C6-1*) was represented by fragments from pit/posthole F1110 (L1111); while two necked bowls (*D1-3*) were contained in ditch F2013 and sub-square enclosure ditch F2047; closely comparable to vessel types known to have been produced in kilns at Caldecotte. These SOB GT vessels are consistent with a date in the 1st century AD, primarily post-Conquest; however, while there are no Gallo-Belgic imports present, two SOB GT vessels with a finer burnished finish are more typical of a date in the early/mid-1st century AD. These comprise a necked cup (*E2-1*) from 'pit' F2030 (L2031) (= ditch F2017) that is very fragmentary, in part due to being very thin-walled; and a straight-walled platter (*G1-1*) contained in clay pit F2035 (L2036), which has surfaces well-burnished to an even glossy black.

Cooking pots in ROB SH are common in Belgic assemblages across the region (e.g. Marney 1989, 61: fig.24.8) and fairly typically are comprised of neckless jars with stubby lid seated (or channel) rims (*C5-1*), as present in ditches F1120, F2013 and F2017. These vessels vary little in size, with rim diameters between 16-20cm and were likely used predominantly as cooking pots, with sooty residues adhering to the exterior. Somewhat more variable in size and diffuse due to fragmentation are ROB SH jars with everted bead rims, which may have functioned as cooking pots or storage vessels. Rim sherds in ditches F1096, F1158 and F1162 are too small to allow further comparison, but an example in ditch F1112 has a small ridge on the neck comparable to late 1st/early 2nd-century vessels in the region (Brown 1994, 54: fig. 24.29), which appears consistent with this vessel's occurrence in early Roman pottery groups.

Late Romano-British shell-tempered jar

The only deviation from the predominately early date range (mid- to late 1st century AD) of grog- and shell-tempered pottery and mainly mid-1st to mid-2nd century early Roman pottery groups at the site (see below) is a single ROB SH jar that was deposited complete (and re-constructed) as a possible cremation container in cremation/votive

pit F1100 (Fig. 15). This jar has a plain everted rim with a virtually flat top, and a shouldered body with faint rilling/wheel marks on the exterior. Although a functional and long-lived type, this type of jar occurs primarily in groups in the Milton Keynes area spanning the mid-2nd to 4th centuries (Marney 1989, 62: fig. 25.14 & 16), and contemporary kiln groups at Harrold, Bedfordshire (Brown 1994, 58: fig. 26.73). Thus, this vessel appears to post-date the common early Roman deposition in Area 1, and may represent an isolated act peripheral to the late Roman activity in Area 3.

Local fine wares (OXF)
The most common fine ware from excavations in Areas 1 and 2 was a fine oxidised fabric (OXF), typically with pale pink-orange surfaces that occurred exclusively in early Roman groups, albeit represented by form types that emerged around the beginning of the 2nd century. They included a reed-rimmed bowl, a tall-necked flagon with a rouletted band in pit/posthole F1162 and a cornice rim beaker in (Phase 5, medieval) ditch F2009; all of which are paralleled in groups from Milton Keynes, notably at Caldecotte (Marney 1989: figs 43.17-18, 44.26 & 35, 51.9). It is postulated that the fabric was produced in kilns in Northamptonshire and traded throughout the region.

Regional fine wares (LNV CC)
The remaining fine ware is late Roman and limited to rare sherds of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (LNV CC). Body sherds were present in Ditch F1128, potentially from a jar or bowl; while pit/posthole F1168 contained the angular bead rim of a wide-mouth jar or bowl (Perrin 1999, 107: vessel 282), paralleled in groups at Bancroft dated to the latter half of the 4th century (Marney 1989, 119: fig. 45.1).

Mortaria (OXF WH (M; OXF RS (M)
Rare sherds of late Roman mortaria were found. Imported from kilns in and around Oxford, these comprise white (OXF WH (M)) and red-slipped (OXF RS (M)) variants that were commonly regionally-traded specialist wares in the 4th century. The OXF WH (M) is represented by a single body sherd in (Phase 5, medieval) ditch F1108 with moderately-worn trituration grits; while the OXF RS (M) in (Phase 6, post-medieval) ditch F1134 comprises a mortar with an angular flange and upright plain bead (Young 2000, 174: type C100) that occurs in 4th century groups at Stantonbury (Marney 1989, 134: fig. 49.9).

Samian
Samian ware is also rare in the assemblage and limited to single vessels from south Gaul (LGF SA) and central Gaul (LEZ SA2) respectively; both in early Roman deposits dating to the mid- to late 1st century AD. The LGF SA in pit F2067 (=F2035) comprised a Dr.15/17 platter with a slightly bulging wall above a characteristic quarter-moulded junction; while the LEZ SA2 in Ditch F1096 (Seg. G) is a Dr.18/31 shallow dish. The former was typically imported in the mid to late 1st century and is clearly contemporary with the post-conquest date of the bulk of the Belgic and related pottery in Area 2; however, the latter was probably imported in the early 2nd century and may be one of latest vessels in the early Roman groups; nonetheless adding credence to the continuation of the lid-seated ROB SH jars into the 2nd century, and the emergence of limited quantities of fully Romanised BSW1 and GRS.

The Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay
by Andrew Peachey

Introduction
Excavations in Areas 1 & 2 recovered a total of 40 fragments (784g) of ceramic building material (CBM) and 50 fragments (339g) of fired clay or daub characteristic of the late Iron Age and/or Roman periods (Table A3). The principal component of the assemblage is exceptionally highly fragmented and abraded Roman tile and fired clay/daub, including occasional probable fragments of tegula roof tile, but generally limited to a sparse scatter of undiagnostic small fragments that appear far removed from any significant structure in the vicinity. (In addition, 14 large CBM fragments (2649g) of post-medieval to Victorian peg tile and field drains associated with field boundaries were also recovered (Peachey *in* Lloyd-Smith *et al* 2019b).

Methodology
The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the

Table A3 Quantification of late Iron Age/Roman CBM and fired clay from the excavation

Period	*CBM type*	*Fragment Count*	*Weight (g)*
Roman	Tegulae roof tile (flat fragment)	11	539
	Miscellaneous tile/rubble	29	245
	Fired clay/daub	50	339
Total		**90**	**2649**

archive. Roman CBM forms were identified using the conventions defined by Brodribb (1987).

Discussion

The limited Roman CBM was manufactured in a pale to mid orange, well-fired fabric with inclusions of common fine silty quartz and sparse red/cream clay pellets (0.5-5mm, occasionally larger). Sparse fragments contained in ditch F2033 and clay pit backfill L2036 appear to represent flat tile with a thickness of 30-35mm, consistent with tegula roof tile in Roman Britain, but no other diagnostic or technological traits could be identified. The remaining sparse scatter of Roman CBM is perhaps best-regarded a 'crumbs' and 'small rubble' that has been repeatedly re-deposited and scattered a significant distance from its source, before eventual incorporation in the backfill of ditches and pits. The fired clay or daub exhibits a comparable pattern, but is distinguished by a softer pale orange silty fabric tempered with sparse rounded chalk (1-10mm). A small group of slightly larger fragments in clay pit F2035/2067 backfill deposits L2036 and L2068 exhibit a surface and possible edges that suggest they may be derived from a loom weight, but there are no indicators of size, shape or technology; while the remaining fragments may represent clay objects, daub or even hearth lining.

The Metal Finds

by Rebecca Sillwood

Introduction

Nineteen metal objects and fragments were recovered from the open area excavation; fifteen were iron and four were of copper alloy. The finds were mainly unstratified, with only four pieces from stratified contexts (all ditches) all of Roman date.

The Iron

The majority of the iron assemblage consisted of nails (13). With one exception, all were unstratified. The single nail (>36mm; 14.5g), recovered from pit/ditch segment F2023 (L2024), was incomplete, comprising only the shank of the object. Nails are a ubiquitous find from any period and cannot be closely dated, especially given that most were unstratified. Only two objects that were not nails were found (both unstratified); one was a possible hook and the other an unidentified fragment (SF2.4). The hook was U-shaped (54mm long; 22g) with a possible projecting tang at one end; the other object was an amorphous fragment, possibly a nail.

The Copper Alloy

Three objects of copper alloy were recovered, one in two pieces. The most unusual piece was a possible brooch (SF1.1; see Fig. 9) from early Roman droveway F1096 (L1097G). This object was in two non-joining pieces (total weight 1g), but it is likely that they were from the same brooch, given their patina and style. Although the identification of this object as a brooch is problematic, it does have the requisite features to be described as such. There was most certainly a hinge or possibly a tiny suspension loop present at one end, and a catch-plate at the other for the missing pin, but the middle part of the object was uncertain. One fragment consisted of an incomplete dome with a dark glass setting in the top centre, concave reverse, with a collar beneath and a knop. The reverse had a small catch-plate. The second fragment consisted of two tightly joining hemispheres with hollow reverses and dimples in

the top centre for possible missing settings. This was the piece which had an offset projection with a tiny perforation, presumably for a hinge-type set-up. The identification of this object is uncertain as no certain parallels have been located in the literature. The piece has some similarities with Iron Age brooches, but these very rarely seem to have glass settings. Roman brooches, on the other hand, can very often have glass settings, but no comparable types are known (Hattatt 2007).

An unstratified buckle of Roman or early Anglo-Saxon date was also found (SF2.3; Fig. 19) on the site. The buckle was oval in plan (length 26.5mm; width 28mm; weight 10g) with a very slightly flattened and narrower side which would likely have held the now-missing pin. The buckle was plain with a heavy-cast, oval-sectioned frame. This plain type of buckle is difficult to date closely; however, similar examples fall into Marzinzik's (2003) type group I.10d-ii, where they are dated to the 7th century. However, they can also date to the Roman period.

The final copper-alloy find was a post-medieval lace tag, from post-medieval ditch F1134 (L1135D). The object consisted of a slightly tapering cylindrical tube (length 54mm; diameter 6mm; weight 5g), with a seam down one side. Lace tags, also known as 'aiglets' were used to protect the ends of laces in clothing, such as for girdles or bodices where lacing was required; it also aided threading. This example fits into Margeson's (1993, 22) typology for Type 2, as a 'long' variant (*cf.* fig. 12, no. 122), dating to around the 15th to 16th century.

The Metal-working Residues
by Andrew Newton

Introduction
Twenty-one pieces (542g) of slag originating from five contexts were recovered from the excavations. The material was identified on morphological grounds by visual examination (Table A4) and with reference to the National Slag Reference Collection (Dungworth *et al* 2009).

Discussion
The entirety of the assemblage, although not always identifiable, clearly derived from high-temperature processes which were most likely associated with the production, refining, or smithing of iron. Those elements of the assemblage which appear most likely to be from the smelting of iron and can be identified either as fragments broken from larger accumulations of tap slag or as accumulations of slag from the base of a smelting furnace; a type of smelting technology consistent with the early Roman date assigned to the contexts. However, the quantity of material recovered is insufficient to conclusively determine that ironworking was being carried out at this location or in the immediate vicinity during the represented periods of activity. It may have occurred in the surrounding area although the purpose of transporting slag to this location, in these quantities, for deposition into these features, remains unclear.

The Worked Bone
by Rebecca Sillwood

A bone pin was recovered from sub-square enclosure ditch F2047 (L2048D). The pin (74mm long; weight 3g; Fig. 8) is probably not complete, missing the head (or with an unfinished head) and slightly chipped at the tip. The piece consists of a tapering circular-sectioned shaft, similar to a Roman example found at Colchester (Crummy 1981, 20, fig. 17), though the exact type is not certain as the head is missing. The bone pin from the Fenny Road site is almost certainly of early Roman date, but cannot be closely dated within that period.

The Animal Bone
by Julie Curl

Introduction
A total of 15,721g of animal bone, consisting of 1215 elements, was recovered from the excavation from all chronological phases and a range of feature types. Of this, 13,944g (1088 elements) derived from late Iron Age and Roman features.

Methodology
Assessment followed a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992), and Baker and Worley (2014). Where possible, bone measurements were taken following von den Driesch (1976). Teeth were recorded following Hillson (1996). Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications. Where possible, age at death was estimated along with

TABLE A4 Metal-working residue fragments from the excavations

Feature	*Context*	*Feature Type*	*Qty. / Wgt.*	*Observations*	*Residue Type*
F2017	L2018	Ditch	5; 278g	Very dark grey with occasional light grey and red-brown discolouration/ concretion. Glittery material suggesting crystalline inclusions. Fairly dense but broken surfaces reveal frequent air pockets of up to 3 mm diam. 'Upper' surface shows rippling/mammilation or flow-form morphology while 'lower' surface is more variable and slightly convex, indicating accumulation in a concave depression. Morphology suggests an accumulation of tap slag or a furnace bottom residue.	?Tap/?Furnace
F2017	L2018A	Ditch	6; 76g	Brown/red outer surfaces with light to dark grey interior. Pumice-like material with frequent very small air pockets and moderate larger ones (>1mm). Slight response to magnet; this, combined with appearance, suggests iron slag but there are no clear diagnostic characteristics.	?Furnace or otherwise indeterminate
F2019	L2020	Ditch	6; 62g	Light to mid-grey material. Very pumice-like in appearance. Light and fairly brittle. Frequent air pockets with some up to 10 mm in diameter. No response to magnet.	indeterminate
F2035	L2036	Pit	2; 60g	One piece: Light grey, pumice-like, light porous with frequent air pockets up to 5 mm in diam. No response to magnet. Similar to material from L2020. One piece: Dark grey, smooth, dense. No indication of interior air pockets. No response to magnet. Morphology suggests that it was molten material.	Indeterminate Indeterminate
F2067	L2068	Pit	2; 66g	One piece: Dark grey, smooth, dense. No indication of interior air pockets. No response to magnet. Although small, this fragment displays some indication of flow-form morphology. Therefore, possibly broken from a larger accumulation of tap slag. One piece. Dark brown to grey. Rough/ powdery surface; appears to have been subject to significant secondary corrosion. No response to magnet. Some indication of flow form morphology on 'upper' surface and slightly convex 'lower' surface. Morphology suggests an accumulation of tap slag or a furnace bottom residue.	?Tap ?Tap/?Furnace

any other relevant information, e.g. pathologies. Furthermore, where bone could not be identified to a species; they were grouped as 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'. Attempts were made, where possible, to refit possible fragments in the same bag and these were included in the counts of the Number of Identified Specimens (NSIP).

Quantification and Preservation

Total bone element counts and weights by late Iron Age and Roman features are presented in Table A5. The assemblage is in good condition, although many of the remains have been fragmented, some pieces showing signs of butchering. Erosion and cracking of bone surfaces was evident in some remains in ditch and pit fills, suggesting they were probably exposed for a time before complete burial. Some invertebrate damage from insects, snails, slugs and isopods (woodlice/millipedes) was also visible, further suggesting that waste was left uncovered or lightly covered for a while before being buried. Canid gnawing was seen on bones from ditches F1098 (L1099) and F2039 (L2040), enclosure ditch F2047 (L2048D), and clay pit F2035/2067 (L2036/L2068).

Species range and modifications and other observations

At least seven species were identified in the assemblage, along with two fragments of possible neonatal human bone (found with animal bone) from a ceramic vessel in pit F1100 (L1101).

Cattle

Cattle are the most frequently recorded species in this assemblage. The vast majority of the cattle bone was from adult animals; juvenile remains were only seen from possible clay pit F2035 (L2036), the butchered juvenile bones probably originating from a calf of a few months old (indicated by the wear of the Dp4 tooth). Overall in the assemblage, elements of cattle include a wide range of body parts, indicating processing and consumption of the bovids locally. Elements and associated butchering evidence suggest skinning, a range of meat production, possible removal of horn for working and one metatarsal that was split lengthways for marrow. Butchering evidence includes cuts on an inner cattle mandible that would suggest the tongue was removed for meat. Two cattle metapodials were measurable following von den Driesch (1976). One metatarsal from Phase 2 early Roman ditch F1098 (L1099A) indicates a shoulder height of *c.*1.20m, while a metacarpal from Phase 1 late Iron Age/early Roman sub-square enclosure ditch F2047 (2048D) indicates a shoulder height of *c.*1.07m. While it is possible that the size difference may reflect some breed improvement in Roman cattle, it may also be due to sexual dimorphism. Slight arthritis was recorded on the cattle metatarsal from ditch F1098 (L1099A), which might indicate a traction animal or a particularly elderly beast.

Sheep/Goat

Sheep/goat remains were found in 17 features; a third of the number (by element count) of cattle. Generally the ovicaprids were seen in small numbers of elements or with single fragments, or teeth. Most frequent were teeth and jaw fragments, which were seen in over half of the sheep/goat deposits, along with a few limb bones and a scapula which had been butchered. An attempt to distinguish sheep from goat (Albarella & Salvagno 2017), suggests that all remains in this assemblage are from sheep. A sheep mandible from Phase 2/3 ditch F2013 (L2014) showed a severe infection in the jaw.

Pig/Boar

Pig/boar bones were recovered from two features. Phase 1 enclosure ditch F2047 (L2048C, D) produced remains of mandibles and an isolated tooth, with chop marks on the jaw bone. 'Pit' F2067 (L2068; within clay pit backfill L2036) produced a scapula and isolated teeth; the scapula had been cut to remove the meat from the bone and there was some canid gnawing observed around the neck and articular end of the shoulder blade, which may have been scavenged or given to a dog.

Dog/Wolf

Dog/wolf remains were recovered from five features. One incomplete skeleton of a dog/wolf was found in early Roman Phase 2 posthole F1011 (L1012), which comprised a range of bones including two humeri, two femurs, tibias, radius, sacrum, two calcanei, two taluses, metapodials, phalanges, a range of vertebrae (including three tail vertebrae) and rib fragments. The skull was not present. Cut marks on a calcaneus, a talus and one metapodial suggest the animal was carefully

TABLE A5 Animal bone assemblage from the excavations from features assigned to late Iron Age (Phase 1) and Roman (Phases 2, 3) periods, ordered by feature group and by phase

Feature	*Context*	*Bone Qty*	*Bone Wgt (g)*	*Identified Species*	*NISP*	*Adult*	*Juvenile*	*Neonatal*	*MNI*	*Element range; butchering; comments*
1011	1012	135	680	Dog/wolf	135	135			1	skeleton; knife cuts
1043	1044	23	189	Cattle	1	1				femur fragment; flaking and wear
				Sheep/goat	1	1				MT shaft; flaking and wear
				Mammal	21					fragments; flaking and wear
1059	1060	14	4	Mammal	14					fragments; small fragments in poor condition
1089	1090H	3	15	Sheep/goat	3	1				femur fragments; chopped
1096	1097A	24	100	Mammal	24					fragments; large mammal
	1097C	24	345	Cattle	1	1				talus
				Equid	2	2				talus and axis vertebrae
				Mammal	21					
	1097F	1	1	Mammal	1					fragments
	1097G	31	48	Mammal	4					fragments; burnt grey to white colouring sheep/goat sized, ?MC
				Cattle	1	1				proximal phalange
				Sheep/goat	7		7			isolated lower molars; Incl. M3 with little wear and some fragments of tooth
				Mammal	19					fragments
1096	1097I	29	341	Cattle	7	7			1	proximal frag of humerus, proximal ulna, isolated teeth; chopped
				Mammal	22					fragments
	1097	10	63	Mammal	10					fragments; some erosion and wear
1098	1099A	81	2543	Cattle	21	21			2	mandibles, isolated teeth and jaw fragments; cut/chopped.
				Equid	5	5			1	pelvis, femur and frags; cut/chopped
				Mammal	18					fragments
				Cattle	2	2				teeth; upper molars
				Mammal	35					Fragments; many small fragments
	1099B	12	2	Mammal	12					Fragments; many small fragments
	1099C	6	23	Mammal	6					fragments
	1099F	35	55	Sheep/goat	11		11			isolated teeth and fragments of teeth
				Cattle	1	1				metapodial condyle fragment
				Mammal	23					Fragments; many small fragments
	1099G	26	698	Equid	4	4			1	radius; distal end and fragments of shaft; cut
				Mammal	22					fragments of vertebrae
	1099H	4	5	Mammal	4					fragments
1100	1101 (Jar)	35	6	SM (Hare / Mammal)	35	35				limb frags, teeth
	1101 (Pit)	16	271	Equid	1	1				tibia; cut on shaft
1100	1101			Dog/wolf	10					metapodials, proximal phalange, ulna, radius, rib
				Mammal	5					small fragments

Feature	*Context*	*Bone Qty*	*Bone Wgt (g)*	*Identified Species*	*NISP*	*Adult*	*Juvenile*	*Neonatal*	*MNI*	*Element range; butchering; comments*
1112	1113A	8	89	Mammal	8					
		27	896	Cattle	12	12			1	radius, teeth, mandible; cut/chopped
				Mammal	15					
	1113	24	349	Equid	6	6				pelvis, distal metatarsal
				Mammal	16	6				pelvis; fragments of large mammal
				Sheep/goat	1	1				upper molar
				SM – Hare	1	1				tibia/fibula; cut
1114	1115D	2	8	Mammal	2					
1118	1119A	3	75	Equid	1	1				
				Mammal	2					
1118	1119C	4	16	Mammal	4					fragments; large mammal
1120	1121	4	7	Mammal	4					
1126	1127C	1	4	Sheep/goat	1	1				lower molar
	1127D	3	7	Mammal	3					
1128	1129C	3	13	Cattle	3	3			1	lower molar, MP frag
1139	1140	1	1	Mammal	1					
1152	1153	9	86	Cattle	3	3				metapodial fragments; chopped
				Sheep/goat	1	1				tibia shaft; chopped
				Mammal	5					
1162	1163	24	109	Sheep/goat	4	4				lower molars, mandible frags
				Mammal	20					
1170	1171	16	157	Cattle	4	4				mandible and metacarpal fragments
				Mammal	12					
1173	1174	1	2	Mammal	1					
2005	2006B	1	2	Mammal	1					
	2006D	3	2	Mammal	3					
2007	2008B	6	35	Sheep/goat	1	1				lower molar
				Dog/wolf	5	5				mandible, teeth
2013	2014B	20	143	Sheep/goat	5	5				scapula, mandible, limb frags; chopped/cut
				Mammal	15					
2017	2018A	12	589	Cattle	12	12			1	humerus, femur, metacarpal, frags of limbs, tooth frags; chopped/cut
	2018B	1	4	Sheep/goat	1	1				radius
	2018C	3	6	Mammal	3					
	2018	9	289	Cattle	5	5			1	mandible, teeth; cut
				Mammal	4					
2019	2020A	17	129	Mammal	17					heavily fragmented skull remains
	2020B	2	25	Mammal	2					
2023	2024	25	207	Sheep/goat	4	4			1	scapula, lower molars, tibia; chopped
				Mammal	21					fragments; chopped
2030	2031	30	761	Cattle	13	13			1	talus, mandible, teeth; chopped
				Equid	2	2				molar and radius; pony sized
				Sheep/goat	1	1				upper molar
				Mammal	14					most probably cattle; butchered

Feature	Context	Bone Qty	Bone Wgt (g)	Identified Species	NISP	Adult	Juvenile	Neonatal	MNI	Element range; butchering; comments
		1	1	Mammal	1					burnt grey/black
2033	2034	3	74	Mammal	3	3				articular end, neck and part of blade
2035	2036	23	344	Cattle	7		5		1	humerus, calcaneus, metatarsal, mandible fragments, isolated molar; cut/chopped; gnawing on distal humerus, mandible condyle and calcaneus, Dp4 in mid wear
				Sheep/goat	5		5		1	tibia frags, MC, isolated lower molars; chopped
				Mammal	11					fragments
2039	2040	28	462	Cattle	9	9			1	ulna and fragments of same bone; chopped
				Cattle	4	4			1	tibia, isolated teeth, fragments; chopped; lower molars, some light gnawing on distal tibia
				Mammal	15					Fragments; many small fragments
2045	2046	3	27	Mammal	3					rib and fragments; cattle/equid size
2047	2048A	3	57	Cattle	2	2			1	upper molar, skull fragment; upper tooth and cheek bone
				Mammal	1					rib; small mammal rib (hare size)
	2048B	1	31	Cattle	1	1				metatarsal; split lengthways (for marrow?)
	2048C	27	812	Cattle	20	20			1	mandible fragments, isolated teeth, ulna, pelvis, metatarsal
				Pig/boar	2		2			mandible and isolated tooth fragment; chopped; little wear on M3; chopped
				Mammal	5					fragments
	2048D	118	1836	Cattle	28	28			1	horncore, scapula, metatarsals, proximal phalanges, isolated teeth, talus, femur, ulna, jaw frags; chop/cut
				Sheep/goat	6	6				two tibias, two mandibles, isolated molar and shaft frag; cut/chopped
				Pig/boar	1		1			mandible; chopped
				Deer – Red	5	5			1	antler fragments; sawn and chopped
				Mammal	78					fragments; butchered; med – large mammal frags
	2048G	24	39	Mammal	24					many small fragments
	2048	12	110	Mammal	12					
2052	2053	10	51	Mammal	10					
	2054	5	11	Mammal	5					fragments
2059	2060	18	156	Deer – Red	3		3			mandible and radius fragments; cut/chopped; female red deer?
				Mammal	15					fragments; probably fragments of deer
2067	2068	55	1068	Cattle	8	8			1	mandible, isolated teeth, distal humerus, distal femur; cut/chopped; gnawed humerus. humerus split lengthways.
				Equid	3	3			1	proximal phalange and intermediate phalange, axis vertebrae; cuts; cut proximal phalange, canid gnawing on intermediate phalange
				Sheep/goat	4	4			1	tibia shaft, calcaneus and two lower molars; cut calcaneus

Feature	*Context*	*Bone Qty*	*Bone Wgt (g)*	*Identified Species*	*NISP*	*Adult*	*Juvenile*	*Neonatal*	*MNI*	*Element range; butchering; comments*
				Pig/boar	4		4			scapula, isolated teeth; cuts; scapula gnawed around articular end
				Dog/wolf	5	5			1	tibias, femurs; large canid
				Mammal	31					fragments; butchered
2069	2070D	15	217	Cattle	1	1				radius; chopped
				Mammal	14					fragments

skinned, possibly with the head removed with the pelt. The animal's remains displayed slight arthritis on feet and vertebrae and small bony growths on metapodials, suggesting an older adult. Measurement of one humerus indicates a height of 580mm, which is in range for a large dog/wolf.

Other canid remains consisted of possibly one (?articulated) front leg from the late Roman Phase 3 cremation/votive offering F1100 (L1101), found with burnt bone in a complete deposited small jar. These bones consist of a radius, ulna, metapodials and a phalange from a fairly large dog/wolf. A mandible and isolated teeth from a large and robust canid were also found in Phase 2/3 Roman ditch F2007 (L2008B). Tibia and femur fragments from a large canid were also recovered from 'pit' F2067 (L2068; within clay pit F2035) where the measurements suggest an animal of *c.*480mm.

Horse

Equid remains were found in ten features. Many of these remains are small numerous incomplete bones, with pelvis, talus, vertebrae, metapodials and a phalange, some of which bore knife cuts or chop marks from skinning, dismemberment and meat removal. Some canid gnawing was seen on equid remains from 'pit' F2067 (L2068), which might suggest equid meat was used for feeding dogs, although scavenging cannot be ruled out.

Red Deer

Red deer remains were identified in two deposits. Enclosure ditch F2047 (L2048D) contained sawn and chopped antler tines, likely to be from working waste. A red deer mandible and radius were recovered from ditch F2059 (L2060), both of which come from quite a small adult individual indicating a probable female; both mandible and radius displayed butchery marks. These deer would have been common in the Roman period. Thus, they would have supplemented the diet, perhaps provided some sport and there was clearly an interest in the antler.

Hare

Two deposits produced remains of hare. Phase 3, late Roman ditch F1112 (L1113) produced a cut tibia/fibula of a hare, which suggests at least skinning, but is probably meat waste. Hares would have been relatively abundant in Roman Britain, with brown hares the most likely species in southern Britain and, from evidence from other Roman sites such as Caister-on-Sea (Harman 1993) and Brancaster (Jones 1985), hare were regularly caught and eaten. Phase 3 late Roman cremation/votive offering F1100 (L1101) contained fragmented remains, some burnt, of a hare (see below).

Elements Present and Butchering

Elements present in late Iron Age and Roman features and the associated butchering evidence suggest a range of animal processing activities including: skinning, dismemberment, a range of meat production activities, possible removal of cattle horn for working, and one metatarsal that was split lengthways, presumably for marrow extraction. Butchering evidence includes cuts on an inner cattle mandible, suggesting the tongue was removed for meat. Butchering was noted on wild species (deer, hare and pig/boar), and the (post-medieval) horse remains in the assemblage showed skinning and meat use.

Possible Bone/Antler/Horn working waste

The late Iron Age/early post-conquest sub-square enclosure ditch F2047 (L2048D) produced a cattle

horncore that had been chopped, probably to remove it from the skull with the intention of using the outer horn sheath for working. Also recovered from this same ditch fill were sawn and chopped antler tines from red deer, with rough sawing and chop marks on three pieces of tine; the disposal of these removed tines might suggest these were not intended for use and perhaps the more robust body of the antler was kept for producing comb plates or a handle?

Pathologies

The Phase 2 early Roman droveway ditch F1098 (L1099A) contained a cattle metatarsal with some arthritic growth around the proximal end of the bone, which might indicate a working (traction) animal. Further evidence of traction animals came with an equid pelvis which showed arthritic problems, recovered from a separate segment of the same ditch (L1099G).

A sheep mandible from Phase 2/3 Roman ditch F2013 (L2014) showed a severe infection in the jaw. The mandible had swollen, the mandibular bone was receding and teeth had been lost. The most severe swelling and opening of the sockets was under P4 to M2: these are the teeth that would wear to the gum line first in an elderly animal and heavy wear would result in infections accessing the gums.

Cremation/Votive Offering (F1100)

Thirty-five fragments of bone weighing 6g were found inside a 2nd to 4th-century ceramic vessel within pit F1100 (L1101). The bone inside the jar was heavily fragmented and just over half of the elements were burnt. Identifiable elements were from a hare, with teeth (including an incisor) and limb fragments. The remaining fragments inside the jar were identifiable as mammal, with two fragments possibly from a human neonatal or prenatal, although these are small and difficult to identify, so the identification remains tentative. The fill (L1101) surrounding the ceramic vessel also contained butchered remains of an equid tibia, radius, ulna, metapodials and a phalange from a fairly large dog/wolf, suggesting the presence of one front leg. The unusual collection of animals, with no standard food species such as cattle, sheep or pig present, might suggest a 'ritual' deposit.

The Environmental Samples

by John Summers

Introduction

Seventy bulk soil samples were taken and processed for the recovery of carbonised plant macrofossil remains from the excavations at Fenny Road. Nine samples are from features assigned to post-Roman (Phase 5, medieval; Phase 6, post-medieval) features and are not discussed here. The sampling strategy aimed to recover evidence of diet and economy associated with the Roman features excavated on the site. This was achieved through gathering widely distributed samples from a range of features. Features that were dateable (*i.e.* contained dateable artefactual material) or contained obviously burnt fills were preferentially targeted, but it was also ensured that the full range of features were represented in the bulk sample assemblage, in order to gain a cross-section of background levels of material across the site.

Methods

Samples were processed using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500μm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were sorted under a low-power stereomicroscope (x10 to x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney 1999; Kerney & Cameron 1979) and a reference collection of modern seeds.

Results

The full identification of carbonised plant macrofossils and the assessment of charcoal and molluscs from all samples taken during the excavation can be found in the Research Archive Report (Summers *in* Lloyd-Smith *et al* 2019) and a digital version is available in the Digital Archive. Table A6 presents the detailed identifications from the richest samples, containing >30 identified specimens from late Iron Age and Roman features (F2039, F1110, F11710, F1100, F2061). These are fully discussed below by site phase and set in the context of environmental information gained from the other 56 samples from late Iron Age and early/late Roman features.

TABLE A6 Environmental assemblages from the five richest samples from the excavations at Fenny Road, all from Phase 2 early Roman or Phase 3 late Roman features.

	Structure 1, Area 1		*Rectangular Enclosure, Area 1*	*Re-siting of LIA Ditch F2017, Area 1*	*Cremation/Votive offering, Area 1*
Feature number	**1110**	**1162**	**1170**	**2039**	**1100**
Context (fill) number	1111	1163	1171	2040	1101
Sample number	1.29	1.42	1.43	2.11	1.44
Phase	2	2	2/3	2/3	3
Sample volume (litres)	20	20	20	20	1
Cereal grains:					
Cereal NFI	38	18	4	5	17
Hordeum sp. – Barley	9	2	–	4	–
Hordeum sp. – Hulled barley	3	1	–	1	–
(*Hordeum vulgare* – twisted grain)	(2)	–	–	(1)	–
Triticum sp. – Wheat	25	12	2	3	14
(*Triticum* sp. – tail grain)	–	(1)	–	–	–
Triticum dicoccum/spelta – Emmer/spelt wheat	28	7	–	6	21
(*Triticum dicoccum/spelta* – germinated grain)	(5)	–	–	–	–
Triticum aestivum/ turgidum type – Free-threshing type wheat	–	–	–	–	2
Avena sp. – Oat	7	3	–	–	–
Cereal indet. sprout	1	–	–	–	–
Cereal chaff:					
Hordeum sp. – Barley rachis	1	–	–	–	–
Triticum spelta – Spelt wheat glume base	2	2	–	–	–
Triticum dicoccum/spelta – Emmer/spelt wheat glume base	23	9	1	–	2
Triticum dicoccum/spelta – Emmer/spelt wheat spikelet fork	7	–	–	–	–
Triticum aestivum/ turgidum type – Free-threshing type wheat rachis	–	–	–	–	–
Triticum sp. – Indet. wheat rachis	–	2	–	–	–
Cereal indet. culm	–	–	–	1	–
Wild taxa:					
Fumaria sp. L. – Fumitory	–	–	1	–	–
Ranunculus acris/ bulbosus L. – Meadow/ bulbous buttercup	–	–	5	–	–
Trifolium sp. type L. – Clover type	–	–	165	–	–

	Structure 1, Area 1		*Rectangular Enclosure, Area 1*	*Re-stating of LIA Ditch F2017, Area 1*	*Cremation/Votive offering, Area 1*
Fabaceae indet. – Pea family (medium)	1	–	–	3	–
Potentilla sp. L. – Cinquefoil	–	–	1	–	–
Agrimonia eupatoria L. – Agrimony	–	–	2	–	–
Urtica dioica L. – Common nettle	–	–	1	–	1
Viola sp. L. – Violet	–	–	1	–	–
Polygonum aviculare L. – Knotgrass	–	–	1	–	–
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A.Love – Black-bindweed	–	–	–	1	–
Rumex acetosella – Sheep's sorrel	–	–	1	–	–
Rumex sp. L. – Dock	1	1	67	1	1
Polygonaceae indet. – Knotweed family	–	–	1	–	–
Stellaria media L. – Common chickweed	–	–	1	–	–
Cerastium sp. L. – Mouse-ear	–	–	1	–	–
Caryophyllaceae indet. – Pink family	–	–	2	–	–
Chenopodium sp. L. – Goosefoot	2	–	1	1	–
Chenopodiaceae – Goosefoot family	–	–	3	–	–
Galium aparine L. – Cleavers	–	–	–	1	–
Plantago major L. – Greater plantain	–	–	1	–	–
Plantago lanceolata L. – Riwort plantain	–	–	4	–	–
Plantago sp. L. – Plantain	–	–	5	–	–
Euphrasia/ Odontites sp. L. – Eyebright/ bartsia	–	–	–	2	–
Odontites vernus (Bellardi) Dumort. – Red bartsia	–	–	–	2	–
Rhinanthus minor L. – Yellow rattle	–	–	2	–	–
Caduus/ Cirsium sp. – Thistle	–	–	1	–	–
Anthemis cotula L. – Stinking chamomile	–	–	–	–	–
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Sch. Bip. – Scentless mayweed	–	–	1	–	–
Asteraceae indet. – Daisy family	1	–	5	–	–
cf. *Daucus carota* L. – Wild carrot	–	–	1	–	–
Carex sp. L. – Sedge	–	–	4	–	–
Cyperaceae indet. – Sedge family	–	–	3	–	–
Festuca sp. L. – Fescues	–	–	2	–	–
Poa annua L. – Annual meadow-grass	1	1	4	–	–
Bromus secalinus type L. – Rye brome/ chess	1	1	–	–	–
Bromus sp. L. – Brome grass	5	–	5	–	–
Poaceae indet. – Grass (large)	3	2	15	–	1
Poaceae indet. – Grass (medium)	–	–	6	–	–
Poaceae indet. – Grass (small)	–	1	27	–	–

	Structure 1, Area 1		*Rectangular Enclosure, Area 1*	*Re-stating of LIA Ditch F2017, Area 1*	*Cremation/Votive offering, Area 1*
Charcoal:					
Charcoal >2mm	XX	X	XX	X	XX
Other carbonised:					
Monocot. culm	X	–	X	–	–
Dicot. Stem/ root	–	–	X	–	–
Indet. carbonised organic	–	–	–	–	144; 3.189g
Other:					
Bone (burnt)	–	–	X	–	–
Fuel ash slag	X	–	–	–	–
Silica-rich ash	–	–	–	–	–
Indet. Silica skeletons	–	–	–	–	–
Silicified awns	–	–	–	–	–
Molluscs:					
Oxychilus sp.	X	–	–	–	–
Punctum pygmaeum	–	–	–	X	–
Pupilla muscorum	–	–	–	–	X
Trichia hispida group	–	–	–	X	X
Vallonia sp.	X	X	X	X	X
Vertigo sp.	X	–	–	–	–
Contaminants:					
Modern roots	XXX	XX	XXX	XX	X
Modern mollusc	X	–	–	X	–
Modern seeds	–	–	–	–	X
Modern insect	–	–	–	–	–
Earthworm egg capsules	–	–	–	–	–

Phase 1: Late Iron Age

Sixteen samples were taken from contexts attributed to Phase 1. Of these, 56.25% contained remains of cereals. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) was present in 25% of samples, barley (*Hordeum* sp.) in 18.75% and oat (*Avena* sp.) in 12.5%. A single pea/bean seed was present in pit F2035 (L2036), giving pulses a ubiquity of 6.25%. Where identifiable, barley grains were identifiable as a hulled variety and wheat grains were identified as glume wheat (*T. dicoccum/spelta*). The small number of glume bases was not well-enough preserved to determine whether emmer or spelt wheat was present, although spelt is most likely for this period.

In Phase 1 samples, knotweed (*Persicaria* sp.), medick type (*Medicago* sp. type), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) were also recorded. The majority of the non-cereal taxa commonly occur as arable weeds. Goosefoot, dock and knotweed are more common in more fertile soils, although the hemiparasitic red bartsia may represent the opposite. Stinking chamomile is characteristic of heavy loam and clay soils, and cleavers is often associated with autumn sown crops, both of which may be associated with the wheat crop.

Mollusc remains in the Phase 1 samples were relatively few. Grassland taxa were represented by *Vallonia* sp., and those of ground litter and taller vegetation were represented by *Carychium* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group. Shells of *Anisus leucostoma* were also present in enclosure ditch fill L2048D (F2047), indicating standing water, at least on a seasonal basis.

Phase 2: Early Roman

Thirty-three samples were taken and processed from Phase 2 deposits. However, only eight samples (24.24%) contained carbonised cereal remains. Wheat and barley were each present in four of the samples (12.12% of all samples of Phase 2 deposits), while oat was recorded in one sample. Three samples from Phase 2 produced >30 identifiable specimens: Sample 1.29 (pit/posthole F1110); Sample 1.42 (pit/posthole F1162); and Sample 1.43 ('pit' F1170). Sample 2.11 (ditch F2039), was assignable to either Phase 2 or the beginning of Phase 3, producing 31 specimens in 20 litres of sediment.

Sample 1.29 from pit/posthole F1110 (L1111) in Structure 1 was dominated by cereal remains and had a density of 7.95 items per litre. Cereal grains, including hulled barley, glume wheat and oat were dominant (69.18%). Among these, wheat grains were most numerous, followed by barley and then oat. Also present were wheat glume bases, including two identifiable as spelt wheat (*T. spelta*). Using corrected totals of glume wheat grains and glume bases, a ratio of 2.05:1 was calculated. The ratio of grains is higher than the 1:1 expected in an un-threshed ear of glume wheat but chaff has a lower rate of survival in carbonised assemblages than cereal grains, which can lead to under-representation (Boardman & Jones 1990). This would either suggest the presence of whole spikelets, or the intermixing of grain and processing by-products. Storage of grain in spikelets is quite likely for prehistoric assemblages, while bulk processing of cereals tends to be a feature of Roman assemblages. Five of the glume wheat grains were germinated and a single coleoptile (sprout) was also identified. Such a proportion of germinated grain is relatively low for deliberate malting activity but could represent spoilage of grain in storage, with carbonisation occurring as a means of disposal for spoiled grain, or that generated by the cleaning of grain storage structures. Carbonisation of spikelets can also occur during parching carried out to aid the removal of the glumes by pounding. A probable cereal drying kiln was identified during the evaluation, although this likely dates to the late Roman period (2nd to 4th century) (Cobain 2016).

Sample 1.42 from pit/posthole F1162 (L1163) in Structure 1 was less rich (3.1 items per litre) but provided similar results to those from F1110 (L1111). The sample was dominated by cereal grains (69.35%), with wheat, including glume wheat, dominating, followed by barley and oat. A ratio of 3:1 was calculated for glume wheat grains to glume bases and similarly to L1111, these could represent whole spikelets, taking account of differential preservation. Unlike L1111, no germinated grains were noted, although the lower number of remains in the sample may have contributed to this.

Sample 1.43 from Phase 2/3 pit/ditch fill F1170 (L1171) was the richest (17.35 items per litre) and presented a different picture. Few cereal remains were present in this sample, which was dominated by the seeds of non-cereal taxa (97.98%). Furthermore, a wide range of taxa were represented. Most prevalent were seeds of small legumes morpholog-

ically comparable to clover (*Trifolium* sp.), which made up 48.53% of the non-cereal taxa. Also significant were dock (*Rumex* sp.; 19.71%) and wild grasses (Poaceae; 17.35%). The latter category included fescue (*Festuca* sp.), annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) and brome grass (*Bromus* sp.). Other grassland taxa included meadow/bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/ bulbosus*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). A number of the other taxa recorded can occur in grassy habitats, as well as other waste ground and cultivated habitats. This includes docks, which are common in arable and non-arable habitats. However, the range of taxa could represent a clover-rich meadow or pasture. Although tentative, it is possible that this sample represents a store of fodder for stalled animals. A similar deposit, composed predominantly of probable lucerne (*Medicago* cf. *sativa*) was recovered from a mid-2nd to 3rd-century deposit at Fordham Road, Soham (Summers 2015). Remains of hay were interpreted in a number of samples of mid/ late Roman date at Stansted (Carruthers 2008, 34.10-34.11). Foddering of animals on site would have been significant, such as for over-wintering cattle, improving the diet of dairy animals, or for feeding draft animals. The faunal remains from this feature included horse pelvic bones on which arthritic changes were present, possibly indicating the use of horses for traction (Curl, *Animal Bone* report). The presence of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and Cyperaceae in the sample may also indicate some wetness in the soils, which could suggest a location of pasture/meadows close to the river to the east. However, local soils are heavy loams and clays that naturally retain water, which could also account for these plants.

In Area 2, Sample 2.11 from Phase 2/3 ditch F2039 (L2040) contained 31 specimens in 20 litres of sediment (1.55 items per litre). Cereal grains dominated this sample, with wheat being most numerous. Non-cereal taxa included medium Fabaceae (vetch/ tare), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*).

Mollusc remains from the Phase 2 samples included a range of grassland taxa (*Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.), as well as those that prefer ground litter and taller vegetation (*Carychium* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group). Also common were slum aquatic species *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula*. These are tolerant of desiccation and are likely to reflect standing water in the ditch features, most likely on a seasonal basis.

Phase 3: Late Roman Cremation/Votive Offering (F1100)

Two related samples were taken from Phase 3 cremation/votive offering F1100; one sample from the pit's backfill L1110, and a second from fill of vessel SF1.2, the latter being most interesting. The sample from this deposit was rich in carbonised remains, with some 59 specimens identified in the single litre of sediment. Remains were dominated by cereal grains, largely in the form of glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), although two grains morphologically comparable to free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum/ turgidum* type) were also present. Two indeterminate glume bases were also identified, along with single seeds of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and large grass (Poaceae). These only represent a small proportion of the identified specimens (8.47%) and the grain dominated sample is likely to represent fully processed grain product, the majority of which is likely to have been spelt (*T. spelta*). That this material was specifically deposited within a ceramic vessel is demonstrated by Sample 1.21 from pit fill L1101 surrounding the vessel, which was devoid of carbonised macrofossil remains.

A total of 0.912g of charcoal >2mm was present in the light fractions. Identification of suitable fragments indicates that only Maloideae (*Crataegus/ Malus/Pyrus/Sorbus* sp. type) was present (total 0.477g). Three pieces (0.384g) represented parts of a twig/twigs with 3-4 growth rings. However, most fragments (total 0.435g) were too small to be identified.

Fragments of a carbonised, organic 'bubbled' material were also encountered. These might represent fragments of a burnt food product. Considering the association of the carbonised remains within a probable structured deposit containing burnt and unburnt animal and possibly human pre/neonatal remains (see Curl, *Animal Bones*), it seems likely that the amorphous carbonised organic material is significant. Since it was not vitrified but had a bubbled texture, it is possible that the material is the remnant of a plant-based food, with bread being a likely candidate. No recognisable plant tissues were identified in frag-

mented pieces under a metallurgical microscope at up to x400 magnification. However, identification of fragments as the remains of cereal-based food products requires the use of very high magnifications under an SEM to clearly identify plant tissues, and the identification of plant tissues in amorphous masses with 'bubbles' has to date proved problematic (Valamoti *et al* 2019, 108–110). In the present context of a probable offering including a range of plant and animal remains, the possibility that bread, or another cereal/plant-based food product, was included as part of the rite is quite high.