

# Contents

<b>List of Figures.....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>List of Tables.....</b>	<b>xiv</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Circumstances of the project.....	1
The Site.....	4
Topography, Geology and Soils.....	4
The known archaeology and history of the surrounding area.....	4
Prehistory.....	4
Iron Age.....	4
Romano-British.....	5
Anglo-Saxon.....	5
Medieval and later.....	7
The Field 2 Excavation.....	7
The Excavation.....	8
Introduction.....	8
Chronological Phasing.....	8
<b>2. Neolithic Material: The Earliest Evidence for Human Occupation at Polwell Lane.....</b>	<b>11</b>
Introduction.....	11
The Struck Flint.....	11
<i>Andrew Peachey</i>	
<b>3. Iron Age and Romano-British occupation at Polwell Lane Field 3.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Phase 1: Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British Transition (1 <sup>st</sup> Century BC to 1 <sup>st</sup> Century AD).....	13
Introduction.....	13
The Phase 1 linear features.....	14
The Phase 1 Pits.....	19
The Semi-Subterranean Structure (S2338).....	44
Catalogue of Querns.....	53
Evidence for further structures.....	55
Phase 2: Early Romano-British (Mid/Late 1 <sup>st</sup> to Early/Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Century AD).....	56
Introduction.....	56
The Phase 2 Enclosures.....	56
Other aspects of the Phase 2 site.....	64
The Phase 2 wells.....	68
The Phase 2 Environmental and Animal Bone Evidence.....	77
The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery.....	77
<i>Andrew Peachey</i>	
Methodology.....	78
The Prehistoric Pottery.....	79
The Late Iron Age to Roman Pottery.....	79
Late Iron Age/Roman fabric codes and descriptions.....	79
Discussion of fabric groups.....	81
Patterns of Supply and Consumption.....	92
Distribution.....	97
The assemblage in context.....	104
The Ceramic Building Materials.....	106
<i>Andrew Peachey</i>	
The Romano-British Small Finds.....	106
<i>Nicholas J. Cooper</i>	
Introduction.....	106
Finds of Roman Date.....	107

The Slag .....	108
<i>Andrew A.S. Newton</i>	
Introduction .....	108
Results .....	109
Discussion .....	110
<b>4. Later Occupation at Polwell Lane Field 3 .....</b>	<b>111</b>
Phase 3: Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon (mid 5 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> /early 7 <sup>th</sup> century) .....	111
Introduction .....	111
The Sunken-Featured Buildings .....	112
The Post-Roman Pottery .....	116
<i>Peter Thompson</i>	
Introduction .....	116
Methodology .....	116
Fabrics .....	116
Forms (Table 45) .....	118
Decoration .....	118
The Archaeological Contexts (Table 46) .....	119
Discussion .....	119
Illustrations .....	120
The Anglo-Saxon Small Finds .....	120
<i>Nicholas J. Cooper</i>	
Introduction .....	120
The Anglo-Saxon quernstone .....	122
<i>Ruth Shaffrey</i>	
Later activity and undated features .....	123
Late medieval to post-medieval .....	123
Undated features .....	124
<b>5. Ecofactual and Environmental Reports and Analysis .....</b>	<b>125</b>
The Animal Bone .....	125
<i>Julia E. M. Cussans and Mark S. Blagg-Newsome</i>	
Introduction .....	125
Methodology .....	125
Results .....	125
Summary and Discussion .....	140
The Environmental Samples .....	143
<i>John R. Summers</i>	
Introduction .....	143
Methods .....	143
Results .....	143
Discussion .....	149
Conclusions .....	151
<b>6. Discussion .....</b>	<b>153</b>
A summary of the results of the excavation .....	153
The Geographical and Topographical context of the excavation site .....	154
Settlement and enclosures in the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British Transitional period .....	154
Settlement Location, Layout and Morphology .....	154
Structure S2338 .....	155
Further evidence for structures .....	157
Economic Evidence .....	157
Possible Ritual or Symbolic Activity .....	161
The Romano-British (Mid/Late 1 <sup>st</sup> to Early/Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Century AD) enclosure system .....	163
Settlement Location, Layout and Morphology .....	163
Economic Evidence .....	163
Iron Age-Roman transition .....	167
Possible Symbolic or Ritual Activity .....	167

Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon (c. mid-5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>/early 7<sup>th</sup> century) settlement activity..... 168

    Settlement Location, Layout and Morphology..... 168

    The sunken-featured buildings ..... 168

    Economic Evidence..... 170

**7. Conclusions..... 173**

    The Iron Age and Romano-British Site..... 173

    The Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon Period ..... 174

    Field 3 Polwell Lane, Barton Seagrave: an overview ..... 175

**Bibliography ..... 177**