

WILLINGTON TO STEPPINGLEY 900 mm GAS PIPELINE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF 2002

Volume 1: Report

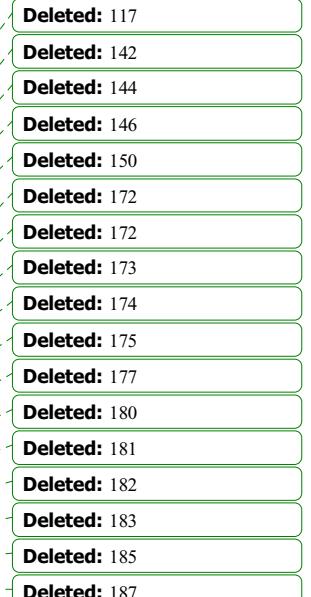
Report No. 182

**Prepared by
NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd
For
MURPHYS PIPELINES LTD
On behalf of
TRANSCO**

CONTENTS

VOLUME 1: REPORT

1	SUMMARY.....	1
	General.....	1
	Results	1
2	INTRODUCTION.....	6
	General.....	6
	Requirements of the Brief	6
	Pipeline Assessments	6
	Results of the Desk-Based Assessment.....	7
	Results of the Fieldwalking and Geophysical Surveys	7
	Additional Field Survey	8
	Objectives of the Evaluations, Excavations and Watching Brief	8
3	PHYSICAL BACKGROUND	9
	Pipeline Location and Topography	9
	Geology.....	9
	Soils and Land Use	9
4	METHODOLOGY	11
	General.....	11
	Pipeline Construction.....	11
	Field Records and Methodology.....	13
	Evaluation.....	16
	Excavation.....	17
	Watching Brief	17
5	RESULTS	18
	General Archaeological Background	18
	Archaeologically Insignificant Evaluation Sites.....	18
	Site 1	19
	Site 5	49
	Site 8	67
	Site 13	69
	Site 23	118
	Site 28	143
	Site 29	145
	Site 32	147
	Site 52	151
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS	173
	Site 15	173
	Site 19	174
	Site 21	175
	Site 37	176
	Site 43	178
	Site 54	181
	Site 59	182
	Site 64	183
	Site 67	184
	Site 69	186
	Site 72	188



Site 76	<u>189</u>	Deleted: 188
Site 82	<u>191</u>	Deleted: 190
7 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS	<u>193</u>	Deleted: 192
8 REPORT, FINDS AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION	<u>194</u>	Deleted: 193
9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	<u>195</u>	Deleted: 194
Transco and Murphy Pipelines Personnel	<u>195</u>	Deleted: 194
Specialists	<u>195</u>	Deleted: 194
Network Archaeology Ltd Personnel	<u>196</u>	Deleted: 195
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY	<u>197</u>	Deleted: 196
11 ADDENDUM	<u>199</u>	Deleted: 198
Sites 28, 29, 32, 37 and 67 Plans	<u>199</u>	Deleted: 198

VOLUME 2: APPENDICES

1. Pottery Report	Anna Slowikowski
2. Samian Ware Report	Felicity Wild
3. Ceramic Building Material	Anna Slowikowski
4. Characterisation Studies of the Iron Age and Late Medieval Pottery	Alan Vince
5. Worked Flint Report	Jim Rylott
6. Querns Report	Liz Wright
7. Vessel Glass Report	Hugh Willmott
8. Metal Finds, Crucibles and Metal-Working Debris Report	Jane Cowgill and Brian Gilmour

VOLUME 3: APPENDICES

9. Human Skeletal Remains Report	Jo Higgins
10. Animal Bone Report	Andy Hammon
11. Insect Remains Report	Sarah Clark
12. Archaeobotanical Report	Wendy Carruthers
13. Pollen Report	Robert Scaife
14. Wood Report	Rowena Gale
15. Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Dating Report	Tomasz Goslar
16. Unstratified Finds	
17. Context Gazetteer	
18. Explanation of Phased Approach to Mitigation	

Tables

Table 1: Gazetteer of Sites.....	5
Table 2: Evaluation trench numbers per site	16

Figures: Volume 1

Figure 1: Location of pipeline (Scale 1:100 000)	3
Figure 2: Location of sites, areas of archaeological importance (pre-excavation assessment and survey) and unstratified finds (Scale 1:10 000).....	4
Figure 3: Geology of pipeline route	10
Figures 4a to 4h: Site 1 plan (scale 1:200)	26
Figure 5: Site 1, sections (a)-(d), Group 184 outer enclosure ditch terminus.....	34
Figure 6: Site 1, sections (e)-(i), Group 192 inner enclosure ditch.....	35
Figure 7: Site 1, sections (j)-(n), pits [233], [257] and [158], and gullies from Groups 306 and 351.....	36
Figure 8: Site 5, Long Blade from palaeo-deposit beneath gravel terrace.....	37
Figures 9a to 9c: Site 1, Phases 4 to 6 (scale 1:750)	42
Figures 10a to 10c: Site 5, plan (scale 1:200).....	54
Figure 11: Site 5, sections (a)-(c), Saxo-Norman pits [1342], [1218] and [1303]	57
Figure 12: Site 5, sections (d)-(f), Saxo-Norman pits [1315], [1234] and [1305]	58
Figure 13: Site 5, sections (g)-(i), Iron Age features [1119], [1113] and [1362].....	59
Figure 14: Site 5, plan of Phases 3 to 5 (scale 1:500)	62
Figure 15: Site 8, section of pit [1115].....	68
Figure 16: Site 13, plan (scale 1:200).....	<u>84</u> Deleted: 84
Figure 17: Site 13, plan of roundhouse and adjacent spread (scale 1:100).....	<u>85</u> Deleted: 85
Figure 18: Site 13, sections (a)-(h), ditch [1660] and roundhouse features.....	<u>86</u> Deleted: 85
Figure 19: Site 13, sections (i)-(n), Phase 6 roundhouse features, ditches [1670] and [1431], and ditch/pit intersection [1536], [1544], [1538], [1542] and [1540]	<u>87</u> Deleted: 86
Figure 20: Site 13, sections (o)-(r), ditch terminus [1270], ditches [1256], [1258], [1299], [1615] and [1609], gulley [1611], and pit [1297].....	<u>88</u> Deleted: 87

Figure 21: Site 13, brooch from roundhouse gulley 1686	<u>89</u>	Deleted: 88
Figure 22: Site 13, plan of Phases 3 to 6 (scale 1:500)	<u>94</u>	Deleted: 93
Figure 23: Site 14, plan (scale 1:200).....	<u>105</u>	Deleted: 104
Figure 24: Site 14, sections (a)-(d), enclosure ditch termini [2067] and [2105], ditch [2018], and pit/posthole [2108].....	<u>106</u>	Deleted: 105
Figure 25: Site 14, sections (e)-(f), ditches [2059], [2047], [2060] and [2071].....	<u>107</u>	Deleted: 106
Figure 26: Site 14, sections (g)-(j), ditches [2080], [2139], [2142], [2145] and [2154], gully [2117] and postholes [2078], [2076] and [2119].....	<u>108</u>	Deleted: 107
Figure 27a & 27b: Site 14, plan of Phases 3 to 9 (scale 1:500).....	<u>112</u>	Deleted: 111
Figure 28a to 28c: Site 23, plan (scale 1:200)	<u>128</u>	Deleted: 127
Figure 29: Site 23, sections (a)-(h), ditches and gullies [3273], [3032], [3260], [3258], [3282], [3283], [3177] and [3088], grave [3061], and pit [3247]	<u>131</u>	Deleted: 130
Figure 30: Site 23, sections (i)-(l), ditch [3019], [3157] and [3226], and pit [3005] and [3003]	<u>132</u>	Deleted: 131
Figure 31: Site 23, sections (m)-(w), roundhouse Groups 3521 and 3519 features, gully [3016], [3238], [3236] and [3090], cremation pit [3154], and ditch [3341], [3340] and [3338].....	<u>133</u>	Deleted: 132
Figure 32: Site 23, sections (x)-(y), well-pit [3324]	<u>134</u>	Deleted: 133
Figure 33a to 33c: Site 23, plan of Phases 2 to 6 (scale 1:500)	<u>138</u>	Deleted: 137
Figure 34a & 34b: Site 52, plan (scale 1:200)	<u>161</u>	Deleted: 160
Figure 35: Site 52, sections (a)-(f), pit [10107], gully [10220], [10197], [10193] and [10050], and ditch [10077] and [10100].....	<u>163</u>	Deleted: 162
Figure 36: Site 52, sections (g)-(o), gullies [10205], [10207], [10227], [10311] and [10306], and roundhouse 10224, and ring ditch 10225 gullies.....	<u>164</u>	Deleted: 163
Figure 37a & 37b: Site 52, plan of Phases 2 to 5 (scale 1:500)	<u>167</u>	Deleted: 166
Figure 55: Site 28, Trench 58 plan (scale 1:200).....	199	
Figure 56: Site 29, Trenches 62, 63 and 65 plans (scale 1:200).....	200	
Figure 57: Site 32 plan (scale 1:200).....	201	
Figure 58: Site 37 plan (scale 1:200).....	202	
Figure 59: Site 67 plan (scale 1:200).....	203	

Figures: Volume 2

Figure 38: Site 1, pottery illustration (Scale: 1/4)	65
Figure 39: Site 5, pottery illustrations (Scale: 1/4)	66
Figure 40: Site 13, pottery illustrations (Scale: 1/4)	67
Figure 41: Site 14, pottery illustrations (Scale: 1/4)	68
Figure 42: Site 23, pottery illustrations (Scale: 1/4)	69
Figure 43: Site 37, pottery illustration (Scale: 1/4)	70
Figure 44: Site 52, pottery illustrations (Scale: 1/4)	71
Figure 45: Site 13, decorated samian illustration (Scale: 1/1)	78
Figure 46 (a to b): Site 14, hearth/kiln floor fragment illustration, and Site 37, Loom weight fragment illustration (Scale: 1/2)	90
Figure 47 (a - f): flint illustrations (Scale: 1/1)	110
Figure 48 (g - i): flint illustrations (Scale: 1/1)	111
Figure 49: Site 13, quernstone from context 1419 (Scale: 1/2)	124
Figure 50: Site 13, quernstone from context 1419 (Scale: 1/2)	125
Figure 51: Site 13, quernstone from context 1510 (Scale: 1/2)	126
Figure 52: Site 23, quernstone from context 3028 (Scale: 1/2)	127
Figure 53: (a - b): whetstone illustrations (Scale: 1/2)	128
Figure 54: (a - f): metal finds illustrations (Scale: various)	147

Plates

Plate 1: Site 1, ditch terminal [228] of ring ditch 184	47
Plate 2: Site 1, slot [174] through ring ditch 192	47
Plate 3: Site 1, slot [165] through ring ditch 192	47
Plate 4: Site 1, palaeochannel beneath gravel terraces	48
Plate 5: Site 5, pit [1234].....	65
Plate 6: Site 5, pit [1305].....	65
Plate 7: Site 5, pit [1315].....	65
Plate 8: Site 5, square pit [1218].....	66
Plate 9: Site 5, square pit [1227], re-cut of [1342].....	66
Plate 10: Excavation on Site 5	66
Plate 11: Site 13, ditch [1613] and various intercutting features	<u>97</u>
Plate 12: Site 13, ditch terminal [1609] and various intercutting features.....	<u>97</u>
Plate 13: Site 13, roundhouse 1686 showing working hollow 1414	<u>97</u>
Plate 14: Site 14, ditch terminal [2060] showing cobbled surface.....	<u>116</u>
Plate 15: Site 14, ditch terminal [2060] during excavation	<u>116</u>
Plate 16: Site 14, ditch terminal [2067].....	<u>117</u>
Plate 17: Site 14, large pit or posthole [2108]	<u>117</u>
Plate 18: Site 14, section through ditch [2060].....	<u>117</u>
Plate 19: Site 52, section through gully of roundhouse 10224	<u>172</u>
Plate 20: Site 52, section through gully of ring ditch 10225	<u>172</u>
Plate 21: Site 52, ring ditch 10225 and roundhouse 10224	<u>172</u>
Plate 22: Site 59, pipe trench cut through Ampthill railway tunnel.....	<u>192</u>

Deleted: 96

Deleted: 96

Deleted: 96

Deleted: 115

Deleted: 115

Deleted: 116

Deleted: 116

Deleted: 116

Deleted: 116

Deleted: 116

Deleted: 171

Deleted: 171

Deleted: 171

Deleted: 191

1 SUMMARY

General

Archaeological investigations were undertaken in the Spring and Summer of 2002 along the route of the Willington to Steppingley gas pipeline, Bedfordshire. The route runs for a distance of 20.7km from the Willington Above Ground Installation (AGI) and terminates at the Steppingley AGI.

During mitigation, the pipeline was re-routed to avoid areas with a high concentration of archaeology revealed during the 2001 field-survey. Those sites which were unavoidable were investigated by a series of evaluation trenches, 109 in total.

In all twenty seven sites were investigated via evaluations, excavation and a watching brief during construction. A total of fourteen sites revealed the presence of archaeology and six were extended to become open area excavation.

Results

The investigations have provided a fascinating glimpse into ancient and more recent human activity in the Great Ouse Valley. Chronologically, the archaeology spans from the Upper Palaeolithic / Early Mesolithic to the mid nineteenth century, a period of more than thirty thousand years.

The Upper Palaeolithic / Early Mesolithic periods (30,000 to 10,000 BC / 10,000 to 6,500 BC) are witnessed by a flint long blade recovered from silts beneath the gravel terraces at Willington. This early date is supported by pollen evidence indicating a late Devensian tundra / steppe environment. Radio-carbon dating puts the deposits beneath the gravel terraces at older than 48,000 years old, a period that corresponds with the Devensian epoch.

Mesolithic (10,000 to 3,200 BC) activity is attested along the pipeline by flint tools such as characteristic microliths. Other flint tools in particularly scrapers and blades have been attributed to the late Mesolithic / early Neolithic.

Worked flint is also the sole representative for the Neolithic (3,500 to 2000 BC) and Bronze Age (2000 to 750 BC), similarly spread along the pipeline route. Flint scatters bridging these periods are evident, for example at Site 28, c. 2 km south of Wilstead.

Crossover from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age is additionally apparent through lithic evidence. The Iron Age is defined by the largest overall number of sites and artefacts with a number of roundhouses / ring ditches, and several enclosures including one double ditched enclosure close to the Willington AGI. Deforestation during the Iron Age is suggested at Site 5, near Cople.

The Romano-British period (43 to 410 AD) is represented along the route by a large roundhouse and evidence for industrial activity at Site 13, part of a possible cobbled trackway at Site 43, and numerous sherds of Roman pottery and other finds throughout the route.

Saxon-Norman archaeology (850 to 1150 AD) is suggested by a number of large pits and possible enclosures at Site 5, c. 2km south-west of Cople, and is probably associated with a series of enclosures to the west highlighted through crop marks. It is here that the Saxon-Norman features apparently supersede evidence of early woodland clearance.

Later Mediaeval archaeology is predominately represented by ridge and furrow and includes a furrow / trackway at Site 29 tentatively dated by an Elizabethan coin.

Post-Mediaeval activity is represented by several parish and enclosure boundaries, recorded prior to the insertion of flume pipes to facilitate drainage. Industrial activity in the form of the disused railway tunnel at Ampthill was also recorded.

Figure 1: Location of pipeline (Scale 1:100 000)

Figure 2: Location of sites, areas of archaeological importance (pre-excavation assessment and survey) and unstratified finds (Scale 1:10 000)

Site Number	Construction Section / Plot	NGR	Evaluation	Excavation	Watching Brief	Description	Period
Site 1	0/1	511860 249040 to 511889 248456	Yes	Yes	Yes	Iron Age enclosure and field system, Romano-British field system and Mediaeval ridge and furrow.	Prehistoric/Roman/ Medieval
Site 5	1/6	511490 246980 to 511480 246970	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sporadic Iron Age features, Saxon-Norman pits and gully.	Prehistoric/ Saxon-Norman.
Site 8	1/8	511170 245330 to 510256 245290	Yes	No	No	Sporadic early Mediaeval pits and ditches.	Mediaeval .
Site 13	1/12	510307 245560 to 510470 245510	Yes	Yes	Yes	Romano-British roundhouse, working area, pits and enclosure ditches.	Roman.
Site 14	2/13	510270 245290 to 510230 245250	Yes	Yes	Yes	Early to late Iron Age possible palisade enclosure, enclosure ditches and pits.	Prehistoric.
Site 15	2/15	509990 244950	No	No	Yes	Gully and pit.	Unknown
Site 16	2/16	509800 244770 to 509480 244480	Yes	No	No	No archaeology revealed.	
Site 19	3/19	508970 243910	No	No	Yes	One east-west ditch	Unknown
Site 21	3/21	508750 243700	No	No	Yes	Two east-west ditches	Unknown
Site 23	3/22	508340 243430 to 508130 243360	Yes	Yes	Yes	Early to middle Iron Age roundhouses, ditches, gullies and well.	Prehistoric.
Site 26	3/31 & 32	506680 242190 to 506490 241890	Yes	No	No	No archaeology revealed.	
Site 28	4/35 & 36	505990 241430 to 505860 241330	Yes	No	No	Gully and small pit revealed in evaluation. Flint scatter.	Undated.
Site 29	5/38 & 41	505360 240918 to 504968 240925	Yes	No	No	Possible Elizabethan track way, and ridge and furrow.	Mediaeval .
Site 32	6/49 & 50	503700 240350 to 503630 240310	Yes	Yes	Yes	Truncated pits, ditches and gullies.	Prehistoric / Roman / Mediaeval .
Site 36	7/55 & 8/57	502150 239020 to 502200 238850	Yes	No	No	No archaeology revealed.	
Site 37	4/36	505600 241150 to 505590 241140	No	No	Yes	Iron Age gully, pit and postholes.	Prehistoric.
Site 43	5/43	504710 241000 to 504620 241010	No	No	Yes	Romano-British cobbled track way, ditches and pits.	Roman.
Site 52	10/75	501790 236310 to 501750 236170	Yes	Yes	Yes	Early to middle Iron Age roundhouse, ring ditch enclosure, enclosure ditch and field systems.	Prehistoric.
Site 53	10/77	501640 235600 to 501560 235480	Yes	No	No	No archaeology revealed.	
Site 54	7/54	502283 239476	No	No	Yes	North-west by south-east ditch and former hedge row	Unknown
Site 59	8/59	502060 238430	No	No	Yes	Amphill Railway Tunnel	Early Modern
Site 64	9/64	502002 237921	No	No	Yes	Possible curvilinear ditch	Unknown
Site 67	9/66 & 67	502010 237370 to 502010 237350	No	No	Yes	Early to middle Iron Age curvilinear ditch with associated pits.	Prehistoric.
Site 69	9/69	501880 236820 to 501880 236860	No	No	Yes	Sporadic gullies, pits and postholes.	Mediaeval
Site 72	9/72	501870 236596	No	No	Yes	North-west by south-east ditch and parish boundary	Unknown
Site 76	10/76	501700 235700	No	No	Yes	Minimal concentration of pits, postholes, gullies and ditches.	Roman / Mediaeval / Post-Mediaeval .
Site 82	11/82	501230 234450	No	No	Yes	Single east-west ditch and parish boundary	Unknown

Table 1: Gazetteer of Sites

2 INTRODUCTION

General

This report presents the results of archaeological investigations along the route of the Willington to Steppingley 900 mm diameter gas pipeline, carried out between February and June of 2002. The route of the pipeline runs roughly north-east to south-west for 20.7 km, beginning at Willington AGI (TL 119 491), east of Bedford. From here it runs south-west crossing the A600 and A6 to the south of Wilstead village and continuing in a south-westerly direction north of Ampthill until it crosses the railway line and turns southwards, west of Flitwick, before terminating at Steppingley AGI (TL 009 340) (Figures 1 and 2).

Network Archaeology Limited (NAL) was employed by Murphy Pipelines Limited (MPL) on behalf of Transco plc to carry out archaeological fieldwork prior to, and during, construction. Post-excavation analysis was conducted between June 2002 and October 2003.

Previous archaeological investigations in the form of an archaeological desk-based assessment (ADBA) (Stage 2) and non-intrusive field survey (Stage 3) had been commissioned by Transco in order to quantify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within the original pipeline corridor. The ADBA was commissioned by MPL in September 2001, and was submitted in October 2001 (NAL Report No.165). The ADBA was conducted according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (1997) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (1999).

The field surveys were carried out in September, November and December, 2001 and the report submitted in January 2002 (NAL Report No. 167). The findings of the field survey are summarised below (Section 2.5).

NAL was commissioned to undertake the trench evaluation along the route in February 2002. In addition, a permanent presence watching brief was instigated to monitor all ground works along the route during construction. The evaluation trenches were located in areas of known archaeological potential and which could not be avoided. In all, a total of 109 evaluation trenches were dug, and as a result six substantial sites were identified that were subject to open area excavation. The watching brief also produced thirteen smaller sites of which five required open area excavation, and eight were isolated features (Figure 2).

Requirements of the Brief

As part of the Invitation to Tender (date??) MPL issued NAL with Tranco's general briefs for undertaking archaeological works at Stages 4 to 7 (see Appendix 18). Following the award of contract for Stages 4 to 7 to NAL, Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) were produced for all stages, and copies supplied to the County Archaeological Officers for Bedfordshire.

Formatted: Highlight

All fieldwork conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct (1997) and the IFA's code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (1997). The work was managed in accordance with the methods and practice described in The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition (English Heritage, 1991).

Pipeline Assessments

Similar to other linear developments, the Willington to Steppingley gas pipeline had the potential to cause irreparable damage and irretrievable loss to the archaeological resource. In

order to mitigate such potential impacts careful route selection, taking into account the location of known archaeological sites highlighted by the ADBA programme of field survey, allowed further sensitive areas to be identified. Where avoidance was not possible, mitigation strategies (evaluation / excavation / construction restraints) were implemented in advance of construction.

The construction of the pipeline can be seen to have had a positive value in providing the opportunity to examine a variety of archaeological remains within a continuous transect through the Bedfordshire landscape. The archaeological field work identified a number of new regionally and locally important sites, thereby contributing to the body of knowledge in areas of previously uncertain archaeological potential and increasing regional understanding within the national framework.

Close cooperation between the pipeline engineers and NAL at all stages of the project ensured that damage to the archaeological resource was minimized and benefits realized without causing delays in the construction programme. This report represents the final stage in what has been a detailed investigative programme of mitigation from the initial planning stages of the pipeline to its construction.

Results of the Desk-Based Assessment

Having been commissioned in September 2001 by MPL to conduct a Stage 2 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Network Archaeology Limited submitted the document in October 2001 (NAL Report No.165). The assessment was conducted according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (1997) and Standard and Guidelines for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (1999). The study recorded a total of 204 archaeological sites within a 1 km corridor of the proposed pipeline route but also included sites that may be beyond this corridor, such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). Forty six sites were located on the route of the proposed pipeline and a further four were of unknown impact. Each site was placed into one of five categories (A to E), ranging from SAMs to single spot finds, respectively. No Category A sites were directly affected by the pipeline although three sites were located in proximity. One Category B site and sixteen Category C sites lay on the route of the pipeline. These categories were considered to be of sufficient archaeological importance to be avoided prior to any initial field survey although many of the sites could not be avoided. Twenty three Category D and seven Category E sites were crossed by the pipeline route. These categories did not warrant avoidance but various degrees of observation were recommended.

Results of the Fieldwalking and Geophysical Surveys

The areas highlighted by the ADBA were considered during a Stage 3 programme of non-intrusive field survey that comprised of field walking, aerial reconnaissance survey and geophysical survey. The surveys identified fifty one areas of potential. These included sites that were identified previously in the DBA and also a number of new sites. One category B site was identified: Site 1, a substantial area of probable Iron Age or Romano-British settlements, field systems, enclosures and trackways. Total avoidance was impossible and although a re-route was implemented, a programme of evaluation and possible excavation was recommended.

Five category C sites were recorded along the pipeline route, with two not affected. The remaining three sites (14, 23 and 32) were recommended for evaluation and provision for excavation or mitigation as required. These sites were described respectively as a late prehistoric or Romano-British rectilinear enclosure, an undated enclosure, and a possible D-shaped enclosure with associated anomalies. Forty two Category D sites were identified during the field surveys and of these eleven were recommended for trench evaluation: Sites 5,

8, 13, 16, 26, 28, 29, 36, 40, 42 and 43. The remaining category D sites were flagged-up for detailed monitoring and recording during construction with provision for mitigation if required. Of the category E sites only four were revealed during the survey. These were recommended for monitoring and recording as part of the construction programme.

Additional Field Survey

Throughout the field survey phase consultations between NAL and MPL resulted in modifications to the proposed route based on a combination of the findings of the ADBA and the preliminary results of the field survey. Additional fieldwalking, field reconnaissance and geophysical survey of these modified route areas were undertaken during November and December 2001. As the result of engineering changes, further field survey was conducted during February and March 2002 in Sections 9 and 10.

Objectives of the Evaluations, Excavations and Watching Brief

In brief, the purpose of the fieldwork Stages 4 to 6 is described below:

Evaluation (Stage 4)

- to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains at selected sites along the proposed pipeline route;
- to assess the overall value and importance of any such archaeological sites;
- to assess the potential impact of the pipeline on each site;
- to provide information for the design of site-specific mitigatory measures;
- to provide sufficient information to determine the need for open area excavation at each site, for which avoidance was not possible or desirable at this stage.

Excavation (Stage 5)

- to record all features of archaeological significance that would be damaged / destroyed by the construction of the pipeline;
- to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains at sites along the proposed pipeline route;
- to assess the overall archaeological value and importance of any archaeological sites.

Watching Brief (Stage 6)

- to locate, recover, identify and conserve (as appropriate) any archaeological artefacts exposed during the pipeline's construction;
- to locate, sample, interpret and record any archaeological deposits exposed during the pipeline's construction;
- to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains at sites along the pipeline route;
- to recommend mitigatory measures for preservation in situ of any archaeological deposits (where feasible and desirable);
- to sample (and submit for analysis) any deposit with the potential to yield palaeo-environmental data.

3 PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

Pipeline Location and Topography

(Figures 1 and 2)

The route of the pipeline runs roughly north-east to south-west for 20.7 km, beginning at the AGI on the outskirts of the village of Willington (TL 119 491), 4km east of Bedford. From here it runs south-west through the parish district of Cople, crossing the A600 and A6 to the south of Wilstead village and continuing in a south-westerly direction. The pipeline crosses the railway line north of Ampthill and turns southwards, west of Flitwick, and continues until terminating at the Steppingley AGI (TL 009 340), c. 15km south of Bedford.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

The northern portion of the route is low lying and fairly flat (30m - 80m AOD). The ground rises to 80m AOD in the central part of the route where it lies adjacent to the 'Woburn Ridge'. The south section of the route, around Ampthill and Flitwick, possesses a series of hills rising up to 100m AOD.

Geology

(Figure 3)

Ordnance Survey Geology

The solid geology along the proposed pipeline route is dominated by Oxford Clay Formation and Kellaway Beds laid down in the Jurassic period. A band of Lower Greensand is crossed by the pipeline route close to Millbrook.

Towards the southern end of the route are West Walton and Ampthill Clay Formations of Jurassic Age, outcropping close to Ampthill. Further south, where the proposed route passes close to Flitwick, a band of Woburn Sand Formation is crossed.

Drift deposits of Second Terrace River Gravels cover the northern end of the pipeline route, close to Willington.

Further drift deposits occur at the southern end of the route. A narrow band of alluvium, comprised of laminated silts, clays and fine-grained sands occurs at the southern end of the proposed pipeline route where a tributary of the River Flit is crossed. Glacial Till and Head deposits are also encountered close to Ampthill.

Soils and Land Use

The soils covering the proposed pipeline route reflect the underlying solid geology and can be broadly categorised into three main geographical areas.

The soils covering the northern section of the route, between Willington AGI and as far as Cardington, are well-drained loamy soils of Efford 1 series. These have developed over drift deposits of Second Terrace River Gravels. Land use here tends to be cereal crops, rotated with grassland.

The majority of the route is covered by clayey soils of the Hanslope and Evesham 3 series which have developed over the Boulder Clay and Jurassic Clays of the Oxford Clay Formation and Kellaway Beds. These are seasonally wet and generally used for winter cereals, with areas of grassland particularly across moist lowlands.

At the southern end of the route, pockets of Frilford soils overlie the Lower Greensand close to Millbrook and the band of Woburn Sand Formation near Steppingley. This is a deep, well drained sandy soil; cereals, potatoes and horticultural crops are grown on this type of soil.

Figure 3: Geology of pipeline route

4 METHODOLOGY

General

Different methods were employed for different stages of the archaeological investigations. Overall methodologies used during the watching brief, for both during topsoil stripping and pipe trenching, were more influenced by engineering scheduling, whereas open area excavation and trenching was equipped with the benefit of foresight and planning, and a timescale to work within.

More specifically, the methods employed were dependant on a number of factors: the nature and extent of the archaeology, the location of the archaeology within the easement, the likely significance of the archaeology, and the effect of any future post drainage excavations in the area. Also to be considered is the construction timeframe within which we had to work.

Once the archaeology had been ascertained and a strategy decided upon, the features were planned, excavated and recorded in accordance with the method statement produced by Network Archaeology Ltd.

Pipeline Construction

The route of the pipeline between was divided into twelve Construction Sections (0-11) and 83 Plots (1-83). Construction Sections were defined by road crossings, a road crossing normally being located at the point where the pipeline route crosses a road or carriageway. For example, Willington was in construction section 0 and Steppingly at construction section 11, there being 11 road crossings between them.

Each Construction Plot was an area of land defined by boundaries, mostly agricultural fields. Plot 1 was located at Willington AGI and Plot 83 at Steppingly AGI. Using these criteria, locations along the pipeline are described in the text in terms of plot / construction section; e.g. 2/14, where 2 is the construction section and 14 is the plot.

The orientation of the route is denoted as being ‘positive’ to the south and ‘negative’ to the north. During excavation, grid North was always given as the negative axis referred to above. During post-excavation analysis grid North was changed to true North so that inter-site and landscape analyses were comparable.

The overall width of the pipeline construction area was 36 metres. This corridor, known as the ‘easement’, was marked out by fencing, taking into account public rights of way. The easement was broader in places to accommodate features such as roads and overhead power cables. Along its length, the easement was divided into four sections. The most western eight metres was used to store topsoil. This left a 28 metre wide area roughly along the centre of which was a four metre wide area set-aside for the pipe trench. To the west of this was a twelve metre wide running track used for vehicular access and construction. At the eastern extent was a twelve metre wide area used for storage of sub-soils and natural soils excavated from the pipe trench.

Archaeological excavation accommodated for the need of space along the easement by excavating the running track area before vehicle access. The topsoil below the topsoil bund is not stripped so as not to mix the soils. Subsequently, the area beneath the topsoil was not excavated because damage to potential archaeology is unlikely to occur.

The types of heavy excavation machinery employed were 360° back-acters, bulldozers, graders and, occasionally JCBs. Back-acting excavators using smooth-faced ditching buckets

were used for digging evaluation trenches and top soil stripping throughout. Typically, during construction, top soil was removed from approximately one third of the easement by the back-acters from the eastern extent; the rest was stripped by D6 and D8 bulldozers by pushing the topsoil to the western extent of the easement. Grading machines were then employed after to remove loose material and over-burden, and to create a smooth and level working surface.

The excavation of the pipe trench was conducted by two purpose-built trenching machines, one being larger than the other. The initial cut for the trench was made by a small ‘Cleveland’ with a larger and slower ‘Jetco’ following behind, and exploiting the initial cut into a wider, deeper trench. The width of this trench was 1.5-2m and approximately 2.3m deep. In the case of the trench encountering unstable geology, e.g. soft / loose sands and gravels prone to collapse, then excavation was conducted by a back-actor using toothed buckets. The same principle applied to corners which the trenching machines could not negotiate. A number of ‘bell’ pits were dug where there were significant bends. These measured approximately 6m wide and 4m deep.

Thrust bores were used to negotiate roads and other obstructions where excavation was impossible. This process involved the excavation of a pit on either side of the obstruction, the larger pit being negative of the obstruction and the smaller reception pit being positive. The size of the pit varied in size depending on the size of the obstruction.

‘Bog’ matting (timber planking) was laid down on the positive and negative sides of each road crossing. The matting allowed easier access to vehicles and plant while protecting the surface from erosion. Matting was also used when crossing areas of wet ground. Certain conditions demanded protection by ‘bog’ matting when archaeology was in jeopardy. Other areas which could not be stripped, due to the location of underground and overhead services, were also protected by ‘bog’ matting.

Hedges were removed at field boundaries, and pipes were put into drainage ditches to allow the flow of ground waters.

Plastic land drains were sunk both pre- and post-construction. In both cases, the drains measured approximately 0.2m to 0.3m wide, and 0.5m deep. The pre-construction drainage was non-continuous and ran either parallel or at right angles to the easement. The post-construction drainage consisted of two parallel ditches located approximately 5m either side of the pipe itself.

Once the pipe had been laid in the ground, the pipe trench was backfilled and compacted using back-acters with toothed buckets.

Before reinstatement of the topsoil, the subsoil was ‘ripped’ to a depth of 0.3m in order to loosen the compacted surface, and break apart any panning of minerals that might impede drainage.

Field Records and Methodology

All recording procedures and excavation methodology were followed in accordance with NAL's recording manual and WSI.

The following descriptions apply to evaluations, excavation and watching brief procedures.

Project code and museum accession number

The project code for the Willington to Steppingley project is WIS01. The Bedford Museum accession number is 2001/268.

Written records

All written records were recorded on NAL's own pro-forma record sheets, which are in a format acceptable to the IFA.

Site numbers

All sites were given a unique number ranging from 1 to 76 based on the number allocated during the DBA. Those sites which were located during the watching brief were also given site numbers based on the plot number, or where that wasn't suitable, on the next consecutive number. It is important to note that the site numbers are only labels and have no numerical significance.

Sites located during the evaluations and watching brief were given a reference number based on the construction section and plot number, e.g. Site 13 was given the reference 1/12, namely construction section 1, plot 12 (See Section4, Pipeline Construction).

Excavation of archaeological features

A minimum of ten percent of all linear features were excavated and all discrete features were half-sectioned. Excavation was conducted by hand using mattocks, shovels, spades and trowels.

Context number allocation

Each Construction Section was allocated a unique block of context numbers for recording purposes. The initial digits of these blocks coincided with the construction number in which the sites were located. Each archaeological site within a construction section was sub-allocated a block of numbers: for example, Sites 13, 8 and 5 in construction section 1 were each issued with number blocks starting from 1000 onwards. During the watching brief further blocks of contexts numbers were allocated on the same basis.

Three types of context numbers were allocated throughout; i.e. for cuts, fills/deposits and for groups (see below). For identification purposes, cut numbers were parenthesised by square brackets, and fill and deposits numbers to round brackets. Group numbers were written without any brackets. For example, [1000], (1001) and 1002.

Context numbers were also allocated to exploratory slots dug by archaeologists on site. These were predominately cut numbers but in cases of sole deposits fill numbers were assigned. Where features were investigated using several slots but group numbers were not suitable, the feature would have a series of different cut and fill numbers. For convenience, only one of these cut numbers was used to describe the feature unless different slots warranted individual discussion. This was a common practise when dealing with features such as ditches and gullies.

Group numbers were context numbers assigned to unite various archaeological features that appeared to share a common purpose, for example, a round house gully and associated postholes, hearth and any re-cuts would have their own separate cut numbers but would be given a single unifying group number.

Finds

All artefacts found in stratified contexts were allocated the respective context fill number, unstratified find number or special find number, and stored in a safe and appropriate environment.

Unstratified finds

Unstratified artefacts were allocated the block numbers 12000. These are presented in Appendix 16 and Figure 2. Only the briefest of description is given for each of these finds in the appendices. More information can be gleaned from the appropriate specialist report or site report.

Special finds

Special finds were allocated a special finds number starting at 1. They were also recorded with their relevant context number or unstratified number.

Samples

A sampling strategy was established in consultation with environmental specialist Wendy Carruthers who subsequently processed, analysed and reported on the samples. Soil samples each had a sample number starting at 1. These were allocated to the various sites in blocks; for example Sites 5 and 8 were allocated the block 1-19, Site 1 20-52 etc. Numbers were also allocated to watching brief samples when required. Site, contextual and any additional information was recorded for each sample.

Drawings

Drawing numbers were allocated to sites in blocks starting at number 1. Both sections and plans were given numbers from this number block. Each sheet containing sections or plans was allocated a sheet number starting at 1. The drawings recorded on site and used in this document are as follows:

- 1:10 000 and 1:100 000 scale plans revealing the location of excavated areas, based on the contractor's 1:25 000 engineering strip maps and Ordnance Survey background mapping.
- Excavation area plans were made on site at 1:50 scale or as appropriate, detailing all archaeological and relevant natural features. These are reproduced here at 1:200 and 1:100. Phase plans are presented at 1:500 and 1:750.
- Section drawings at 1:10 or 1:20 scale of all excavated features.

All plans are nominally referenced with the headings of features or groups while sections are referred to within the text. In cases where a site is illustrated on a single plan the drawing will be cited at the start of the text.

Location of archaeological features

The locations of the evaluation trenches were determined before excavation through the data located by the ADBA and in particularly the field survey. The trenches themselves (delete) were located by MPL surveyors using GPS.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

All site plans were recorded on an arbitrary site grid and levels taken from a temporary bench mark (TBM). Three dimensional co-ordinates of the grids and TBMs were taken later by MPL surveyors. This allowed for the calculation of AOD levels for sections and planned features, and for the accurate location of the site plans within the ordnance survey grid.

Archaeological deposits discovered during pipe-trenching were located and recorded via the weld marks situated on the pipes. The 3-d coordinates of these welds, provided by MPL enabled the features to be located.

Photographic record

Monochrome and colour slide photographs were taken in 35mm format. These included pre-excavation shots, shots of excavated features in section, general plan shots of the site and working shots of staff and plant engaged in excavation. A full written record was made of all photographs taken.

Archive

All records and artefacts from evaluations, excavations and watching brief will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

Publication

Through consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Bedford, the report or significant aspects will be published in the Bedford Archaeological Journal thus affording access through the public domain. Publications such as this will contribute to regional and local archaeological investigations and benefit the county and regional research frameworks as a whole.

Evaluation

Initially twelve sites were identified for evaluation with 81 trenches, in accordance with the WSI for archaeological evaluation (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2001c). As a result of engineering re-routes and preliminary results during the evaluation, an additional 28 trenches and two sites were added. Extra trenches assigned due to increased archaeological potential were labelled with the number of the trench to its north (see Table 2, below) and also given an alphabetical suffix; e.g. Trench 1, Trench 1a, Trench 1b etc.

Trenches that were added at a later stage due to re-routes were simply given a number continuing on from the last trench. This occurred specifically to sites 52 and 53 in Construction Section 10 (see Table 2). In total, 14 sites were evaluated with 109 trenches.

Site	Trench Nos.	Additional Trench Nos.
1	1 - 21	1a, 1b, 2a, 3a, 3b, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a, 16a, 17a, 19a, 19b
5	22 - 26	25a, 26a
8	27 - 29	27a
13	30 - 34	
14	34 - 38	
16	39 - 45	
23	46 - 50	
26	51 - 57	
28	58 - 61	
29	62 - 66	
32	67 - 75	
36	76 - 81	
52	82 - 88	Added after re-route
53	89 - 92	Added after re-route

Table 2: Evaluation trench numbers per site

Some of the original trenches were moved slightly just before being opened as a result of minor re-routes for engineering purposes. All of the trenches were located using GPS before excavation and are correctly located on Figure 2.

The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The majority of the trenches were approximately 30m in length and two bucket widths wide at 2.5m. The topsoil was removed in spits until the subsoil was revealed. This was subsequently cleaned by hand or taken down further by machine in the case of disturbed or contaminated subsoil. Deeper excavations were made at one or both ends of all the trenches to ensure that re-deposited soils were not obscuring archaeological deposits and to gain a greater understanding of the soil matrix and underlying geology.

All features were excavated by hand and records made on proforma context sheets. For each trench, ‘trench record sheets’ were completed to record basic details such as location, dimensions, geology and main archaeological deposits.

Excavation

After evaluation, six sites (1, 5, 13, 14, 23 and 52) were identified for to become (~~delete~~) open area excavations due to the archaeology revealed during the evaluation(~~delete~~). Site 32 was also fully exposed after evaluation showed the presence of archaeology and finds but very little else was revealed when fully stripped, and area excavation was not necessary.

Full stripping of the topsoil and overburden was carried out by tracked 360° excavators using toothless buckets. For each site, stripping occurred between those trenches which contained significant amounts of archaeology, and also to pursue the archaeology to establish its full extent.

The topsoil and subsoil were deposited in distinct bunds along one side of the easement to avoid contamination. In a few cases, subsoil had to be moved more than once to avoid contamination with topsoil where there was no room for storage.

Access was always provided down one side of the working width to facilitate the movement of vehicles and plant. The running track area was always excavated in advance.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Watching Brief

During construction, a permanent presence watching brief of two archaeologists was employed to observe all ground disturbing activities along the route of the pipeline. Both topsoil stripping and pipe-trenching were carefully monitored, and all archaeological remains investigated and recorded. Where archaeology was located, one of the following was employed:

- Machine and/or hand cleaning of areas to determine extent of archaeology.
- Excavation and recording of small features.
- Excavation and recording of more extensive sites by a small team of archaeologists after mitigation.
- Preservation of sites by the use of bog matting or geo-textile.

Pipe trenching operations were also monitored for any archaeology revealed in the trench sections.

Due to health and safety constraints, archaeologists were not allowed to enter the pipe trench and all recording had to be carried out on the adjacent trench edge.

5 RESULTS

General Archaeological Background

The concentration and significance of archaeological sites ~~varies varied~~ considerably along the route of the pipeline. There is a higher density to the north around Willington and Cardington situated as it is along the rich argillic brown earths of the Great Ouse flood plain. Occupation appears sparse towards the centre of the pipeline with further major occupation not appearing until we reach the southern end of the site and the tributaries of the River Flit, approximately 1.5km north of Steppingley AGI.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Archaeologically Insignificant Evaluation Sites

Site 16

2/16, NGR 509800 244770 to 509480 244480.

Site 16 was evaluated with the excavation of seven trenches, 39 to 45. The results of this evaluation proved negative with the trenches devoid of any archaeology.

Site 26

3/31 & 32, NGR 506680 242190 to 506490 241890.

Site 26 was evaluated by the excavation of six trenches, 51-56. Initially the trenches were thought to contain large pits containing burnt material. Upon excavation they were revealed as tree boles, the burning indicating a phase of woodland clearance. An unstratified crudely struck flint flake was recovered from the site with diagnostic characteristics indicative of the Mesolithic to early Neolithic period 8,300 to 4,000 BC.

Site 36

7/55 & 8/57, NGR 502150 239020 to 502200 238850.

Site 36 was investigated with six evaluation trenches, 76-81. The results of this evaluation proved negative, the trenches yielding no archaeology. However, a Parish boundary between Ampthill and Millbrook was recorded located at the intersection of plots 7/55 & 56. The boundary ditch measured 1.6m in width, with the northern bank at a depth of 0.9m from base of ditch to top of bank, and the Southern bank deeper at 1.5m.

Site 53

10/77, NGR 501640 235600 to 501560 235480.

Site 53 was evaluated by four evaluation trenches, 89, 90, 91 and 92 but proved negative ~~with the trenches devoid of any archaeology.~~

Deleted: .

Site 1

Summary

Area excavation at Site 1 revealed a double ditched enclosure at the northern end of the site, dating from the middle to late Iron Age with evidence of possible activity in the earlier Iron Age. A number of field systems were located towards the centre of the site dating from the middle Iron Age to Romano-British along with sporadic shallow pits and gullies. Dominating the site were three groups of Mediaeval ridge and furrow, orientated south-west to north-east and north-west to south-east, truncating the majority of the earlier archaeology. Six struck flakes and a blade made up the residual lithic artefacts retrieved from the site indicating, possible habitation in the area from the upper Palaeolithic to the late Bronze / early Iron Age. Information provided in the form of datable artefacts and the clear stratigraphical relationships between archaeological features have resulted in six phases of activity on Site 1.

- Phase 1 Upper Palaeolithic (30,000 to 10,000 BC)
- Phase 2 Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2,700 to 1,400 BC)
- Phase 3 Late Bronze to early Iron Age (1,000 to 650 BC)
- Phase 4 Middle Iron Age to late Iron Age (650 to 350 BC)
- Phase 5 Late Iron Age to early Romano-British (100 BC to AD 50)
- Phase 6 High Mediaeval to Post Mediaeval (1250 to 1750 AD)

Introduction

The identification of possible archaeological features during field reconnaissance, field walking and geophysics resulted in an evaluation which yielded ceramics and residual worked lithics, and a series of linear and discrete features. These results prompted an area approximately 22m by 600m to be stripped of topsoil and any archaeological features within to be excavated by hand.

Location and Topography

Site 1 is located 4km east of Bedford in construction plot 0/1, NGR 511860 249040 to 511889 248456. The site itself resides on the low lying flood plain of the Great Ouse.

Geology and Soils

The local geology consists of a mixture of argillic brown earths of Efford 1 typology overlying second terrace river gravels, and Oxford Clay laid down in the Jurassic.

Pre-construction Background

Archaeological desk-based pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed through geophysical survey at NGR 511800 248800 a possible settlement and an extensive area of cropmarks. This was substantiated by field reconnaissance and field walking which recorded soilmarks within an area of anomalies, and collected a number of Romano-British ceramics along with tile and flint.

Evaluation

In all, thirty five trenches were opened up for evaluation in plots 0/1, 0/2, 0/3 and 0/4. Of all the trenches only seventeen yielded any significant amounts of archaeology, these being 1, 1a, 1b, 2, 2a, 3, 3a, 3b, 4, 4a, 5, 5a, 6, 6a, 7, 7a and 8. Upon evaluation these trenches were taken to excavation.

Notable archaeology worth mentioning is an irregular curvilinear gully [009] in Trench 4, approximately 0.77m in width with irregular steep sides descending to an undulating base at a depth of 0.3m. Within its single fill (010), a light blue-grey organic sandy silt, an Upper Palaeolithic / Early Mesolithic long blade was retrieved (Figure 8).

Two flint flakes were retrieved from a large shallow pit located in Trench 17. The full dimensions of the pit were not ascertained due to the confines of the trench although the western section revealed in plan a width of 9.72m and 8m in the recorded eastern section. The profile was gradual, descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.6m and contained a firm mid grey brown sandy clay with frequent small (0.03m) sub-rounded flint gravels.

The majority of the 17 trenches with archaeology contained linear features orientated north-west by south-east and south-west by north-east. Of the remaining 18 trenches, those within plot 0/3 revealed the most archaeology, but these were not consistent or significant enough to warrant open area excavation.

Excavation

After evaluation it was decided to strip the area between Trenches 1 and 8, an area of approximately 600m in length. The most significant feature revealed was a double ring ditch enclosure at the northern extent of the site, Groups 184 and 192 (Figure 4b). From the centre to the southern end of the site were a series of Iron Age ditches and pits from varying phases, while by far the most extensive archaeology was three groups of Mediaeval furrows, 164, 303 and 304 (Figures 4a to 4h), which were present across the entire stripped area and beyond.

Group 184 [183], [185], [195], [207], [223], [228], [299] (Figure 4b)

The outer ring ditch, Group 184, was investigated by the excavation of nine slots. The dimensions were approximately 2.3 to 2.4m wide and 0.9m in depth, cut at 45° to a rounded base. The diameter of the outer enclosure ditch measured 45m from north to south. The east-west dimension was measured as 16m though its full extent was indeterminable due to the west end of the enclosure extending out of the easement.

The ditch contained on average three to four fills with [195] (Figure 5c) containing three fills. Of these, the primary and secondary fills (196) and (197) contained environmental remains of various aquatic and grassland plants. The primary fill (196) produced a black organic silt clay deposit. This deposit was located in the primary fills throughout the whole ditch although material varied in colour from dark grey through to black. The depth of the organic silts also varied and was consistently deeper on the northern ditch sections to an average depth of 0.24m as opposed to the southern ditch sections where an average depth of 0.05m to 0.15m was observed.

The termini forming the 2m wide east facing entrance varied in size with the northern terminus [183] (Figure 5a) cut at a shallower gradient to a flat base with a depth of 0.9m and a width of 2.4m. Terminus [183] produced three fills of which the primary fill (182) had a very high organic content, almost black in colour containing degraded twigs, occasional animal bone and one fragment of early Iron Age ceramic. The primary fill also contained a high proportion of beetles with species indicative of aquatic, grassland, disturbed arable and compost habitats.

The southern terminus [228] (Figure 5b) was larger, cut at 45° to a flat base with a depth of 0.99m and a width of 2.97m (Plate 1). It contained five fills which contained small amounts of middle Iron Age ceramics with the exception of the primary fill. The secondary fill (229), a black brown firm clay silt with an organic content, also revealed a number of beetle species favouring the same habitat as (182).

Group 192 [165], [168], [174], [179], [190], [200] (Figure 4b: Plate 174)

The inner ditch, Group 192, was located between 1.3m to 3m within the outer ditch and was investigated by the excavation of six slots including the two termini forming the inner entrance. The dimensions of the ditch varied between 0.9 to 1.34m in width and 0.4 to 0.67m in depth, with the greater width and depth prevalent at the southern extent, similar to the outer ring ditch. The profiles remained consistent with a steep gradient down to a rounded base. The majority of the sections contained single fills apart from [165] and [179] at the southern arc of the ditch (Figures 6g & 6h: Plate 165); these contained two and three fills respectively.

Para

The two termini [168] and [190] (Figures 6e & 6f) varied in dimensions. The southern terminus [190] was the largest measuring 1.25m in width and 0.54m in depth, cut steeply to a flat base and containing two fills. The primary fill (141) contained pottery dated from the late Bronze Age to the late pre-Belgic periods (Figure 38.1). This deposit also yielded environmental data in the form of *Montia* (Blinks) and *Chen album* (Fat hen) a flowering annual favouring acid grassland and a type of Goosefoot common on cultivated land and disturbed soil. Cut [168] measured 1.34m in width and 0.67m in depth with a similar profile to [190] with a slightly rounded base containing an unremarkable single fill. Both [168] and [190] formed the internal entrance to the enclosure with a width of approximately 4m compared to Group 184 at 2m.

Pits [221], [233], [254], [261], [264] (Figure 4b)

Within the enclosure and located around the entrance were situated five small shallow pits. Pit [233] (Figure 7j) was truncated by the inner ditch terminus [190], therefore possibly indicating that these features represent an earlier sub phase. The pits varied in size from 0.44 to 1.02m in width and 0.15m to 0.36m in depth. The smallest pit [233] cut by terminus [190], was also the deepest at 0.36m. Its profile recorded in the western edge of [190] revealed a near vertical cut to a flat base containing a single fill. The largest pit [264] measured 0.78m by 0.5m and a depth of 0.32m. It contained two sterile fills of which the primary (265) appeared to consist of a slump deposit of loose orange gravel on the north-east end of the feature.

Of the remaining features investigated within the enclosure the majority were revealed as tree boles with the exception of two features located to the south and west of the interior, a single isolated posthole [257] (Figure 7k) and a narrow shallow gully with terminus [171] orientated south-west to north-east.

Gully [171] (Figure 4b)

Gully [171] contained a single fill of dark brown/grey silt clay from which was yielded a moderate amount of abraded middle to late Iron Age ceramics, all from the same vessel. Other finds included burnt animal bone and flint. The profile of [171] was a gradual gradient to a depth of 0.2m and a width of 0.4m. The base was slightly rounded and cut into natural gravel. Only 1.65m of this feature was revealed, the remainder was sealed under the western easement.

Irregular Pit [212] and Gully [215] (Figure 4e)

Within the series of furrows 303 were located shallow pit [212] and gully [215] towards the edge of the eastern easement. Cut [212] was revealed as an irregular sub ovoid feature derived from possible animal activity, and contained two sterile fills. Truncated by a furrow from Group 303 was a shallow gully [215], also located towards the eastern easement and adjacent to pit [212]. The known length of this feature is 2m, incorporating a shallow terminus orientated north-east to south-west. The dimensions of [215] were recorded at 0.7m in width and 0.3m in depth, the profile being steeper on the south-western edge at approximately 60° down to a concave base. Cut [215] contained a single fill (216) from which was retrieved a small quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics.

Group 305 [235], [237], [241], [242], [243], [270], [280], [296], [307], [309], [327], [328]
(Figures 4f & 4g)

Group 305 consisted of a concentration of five linear ditches of various orientation, and investigated by the excavation of ten slot trenches, two per linear.

Ditches [307] and [309] were orientated north-west to south-east. Both contained single fills (308) and (310). Small quantities of late Iron Age ceramics were retrieved from [307] and late Iron Age (Belgic) ceramics from [309]. Ditch [307] contained possible daub although this feature is not thought to be associated with any possible structures

South of [307] and [309] were two linears orientated east-west across the site, [280], [237] and [296], [242]. Both are approximately 1.1m to 1.15m in width although [296] did become wider to the east at 1.4m. Both had an average depth of around 0.48m and steep sided profiles with [280] having a rounded base compared to [296] narrow flat base. Late Iron Age Belgic ceramics were retrieved from the single fill (272) of [242]. Ditch [280] produced no datable artefacts with animal bone being the only archaeological inclusion within its single fill (279).

Cut by [280] and [296] was [235], a south-west by north-east gully containing a single fill in a steep sided cut, down to a rounded or flat base. The dimensions of this truncated linear were 0.7m wide and a depth of between 0.16m and 0.2m. The width reflected the excavation of the feature by half section, the full width in plan being 0.8m to 0.9m.

To the south of ditch [242] was ditch [241]. In plan it appeared that [241] truncated [270], however this relationship was unclear as this intersection was not excavated due to the time restrictions. Cut [243], the second investigation through [241], revealed a 1m wide section with a steep sided profile down to a rounded base. Its single fill (244) yielded middle Iron Age ceramics, possibly from the same vessel. Other inclusions included animal bone, charcoal and a small piece of worked flint, possibly from tool manufacture. Although not chronologically diagnostic, this piece bears a resemblance to other struck lithics of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date.

Postholes [217], [219] (Figure 4g)

Situated at the extreme eastern end of [273], [276] (Figure 7m) were the remains of two shallow truncated possible postholes [217] and [219]. Both contained single sandy fills, yielding no datable evidence or environmental inclusions.

Pits [158], [193] (Figure 4g)

Further south, situated amongst Group 303 ridge and furrow were two isolated pits [193] and [158] (Figure 7n). A third pit, [172] upon investigation was revealed as a tree bole.

The largest of the pits [193] measured approximately 2.1m by 1.4m with a shallow profile to a slightly rounded base. The cut contained five fills of which the main secondary fill (210) produced frequent charcoal in its clay matrix. A lense of possibly burnt orange sand was present in the upper tertiary layer of the fill, perhaps representing the presence of burning *in situ*.

The second, smaller pit [158] contained a single fill of grey/orange sandy silt (159) which yielded a large amount of domestic material including Bronze Age to Romano-British ceramics, animal bone, burnt flint and frequent charcoal. Despite the presence of burnt flint and charcoal, the ceramics and animal bone exhibited no evidence of having been burned themselves, indicating that this deposit was not burnt *in situ* but probably represents redeposited refuse. All the pottery was highly fragmented and abraded which furthers suggests that this material was redeposited. This is particularly the case for the Bronze Age / early Iron Age and late Iron Age / Romano-British material. The cut itself had dimensions of 1m by 0.77m and a depth of 0.27m. The profile was near vertical on the western edge and shallower on the eastern edge, down to a flat, slightly raised base.

Group 351 [245], [281], [273], [276] (Figure 4g)

Orientated east-west was two linear ditches [245] and [273] located 12m apart and running parallel with each other. Both linears contained two fills within cuts of a similar profile, being steep sided, down to a rounded base. The primary fill (246) of cut [245] produced a moderate amount of ceramics of a late Iron Age to early Romano-British date. These two linears measured 0.35m deep with linear [245] being slightly larger at a width of 0.96m to 1.05m, compared to 0.8m for [273].

Group 306 [284], [287], [295], [311], [314], [315], [317], [319], [321], [323] (Figure 4h)

Group 306 consisted of three south-west by north-east orientated linears. The northernmost, [295] was investigated by the excavation of three slots across its width, [295], [287] and [314].

All three profiles differed with [314] and [287] having rounded and flat bases respectively. Cut [295] revealed the largest section with a width of 2.06m to a depth of 0.5m. The profile was stepped on the western edge after a near vertical descent to a rounded base. The three slots all revealed single fills with the fill of [295] being the most productive. Fill (294) contained animal bone and a small amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics within its matrix of mid grey clay/silt. The other fills proved sterile and yielded no further information.

Located approximately 30m south of [295] was a second south-west by north-east orientated linear [323] (Figure 7l). Investigation revealed a steep sided profile, becoming shallow towards the base which consisted of a narrow slot. Of the two sections [323] was the most substantial with a width of 1.63m and a depth of 0.7m. Both cuts contained two fills, an orange brown sand/silt primary fill and a mid grey brown silt clay. Of these fills, only the secondary fill (324) of [323] produced any finds: these were a small amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics.

Two gullies [321] and [319] were revealed at the most southern extent of Site 1. These were thin gullies, separated by a thin band of natural gravel that merged together to form a single gully [317]. Further north, the gully split into two, forming [311] and [315].

Cut [321] was the smaller of the two gullies at a width of 0.25m and a depth of 0.08m, while [319] was substantially larger at 0.56m in width and 0.2m in depth. Both cuts had shallow sloping sides down to a rounded base containing a single fill.

Gullies [321] and [319] merged together, revealing a single cut [317] at a width of 0.54m and a depth of 0.16m. The profile, however, remained the same with shallow sides and a rounded base containing a single fill.

The final excavated segment revealed two adjacent gullies with single fills, [311] and [315]. The profiles were again shallow with [311] being the wider of the two at 0.44m but also the shallower of the two at 0.07m, as opposed to [315] at a width of 0.38m and a depth of 0.15m. No relationship could be ascertained regarding this linear, the feature was heavily truncated by land drains and ridge and furrow from group 304. The assumption that [311] and [321] were the same linear, and that [315] was the same as [319] cannot be corroborated. All the gullies contained the same fill matrix of a firm plastic mid grey/brown silt sandy clay, except for the southern gully [321] and [319] which both contained orange brown silt sand clay. All the fills were sterile and provided no dating or environmental evidence.

Pit [332] (Figure 4h)

Pit [332] was situated 18m south of linear [295]. It contained three fills within a steeply sloping gradient. The base and edge ran into the western easement so the full profile and depth were not ascertained. What was revealed was a pit approximately 4.1m in length, 1.7m in width and excavated to a depth of 0.83m. The primary fill (331) was a soft mid brown grey silt clay containing occasional charcoal, snail shells and burnt flint within its matrix. This context was never fully excavated due to the encroachment of the water table and the restrictions of the working environment; it reached an arbitrary depth of 0.6m.

Ridge and Furrow Groups 164, 303, 304 (Figures 4g)

At the negative end of Site 1 was a series of south-west by north-east ridge and furrow. They were given the group number 164 and investigated by slot trenches [161] and [163]. Both revealed a shallow cut of between 1.67m to 2.26m in width and 0.15m to 0.18m in depth respectively, and each had a slightly rounded base. The distance between the furrows was around 6m to 8m.

Towards the centre of Site 1 and south of the double ditch enclosure was a second concentration of ridge and furrow, Group 303, orientated south-west to north-east. This group consisted of approximately 15 furrows of between 1.75m to 2.1m in width. The distance between each furrow was around 2.1m to 2.5m apart except where truncation had removed some of them. Linears [328] and [327] were orientated south-west to north-east and may have been part of ridge and furrow Group 303. Both were unremarkable being between 0.92m to 1m in width and 0.24m to 0.4m in depth with flat bases. The single fills contained within both sterile.

A third larger concentration of ridge and furrow, Group 304, was located at the southern end of the site. Approximately 16 furrows were identified orientated north-west to south-east, and situated between 5m to 11m apart. The furrows themselves were between 2m and 2.1m in width and truncated two groups of linears, 305 and 306.

Watching Brief

The watching brief during top-soiling and pipe trenching revealed the following information.

Palaeo-channel (400)

A series of palaeo-channels were located at the northern end of Plot 0/1, in close proximity to Willington AGI (Figure 7o & Plate 4). These were revealed during the pipe trenching phase of operations at a depth of approximately 1.5m. The palaeo-channel comprised various lenses of silt, silt gravel, sandy gravel and grey silty gravels. Located between the lenses of sand gravel and grey silt gravel was a rich black humic deposit (400).

Ridge and Furrow Groups 405, 406

During topsoiling in plots 0/2 and 0/3 the remains of ridge and furrow became visible. Those in plot 0/2 were given the group number 405 and those on plot 0/3 the number 406. Group 405 may possibly be a continuation of Group 304 located on plot 0/1, discovered during excavation. Both share similarities in orientation, north-west by south-east, and in the width and distance between each furrow. Group 406 was orientated west north-west by east south-east, and despite the slight deviation in orientation, may possibly be part of the same system as Group 405.

Other activity was recorded during the pipe trenching phase of the pipeline. Two possible pits and a linear terminus were also recorded. The two pits were situated at the northern end of plot 0/1 and the gully to the south. The two pits were not visible in plan due to the disturbed ground caused by vehicle tracking.

Pit [401]

Pit [401] contained a single fill within a cut 1m in width and 0.5m in depth. The profile was near vertical, with a shallow break of slope to a rounded base.

Pit [402]

Pit [402] was considerably larger at 2.4m in width and 1.05m in depth, and contained a single fill. The profile was vertical on the southern edge and near vertical, becoming shallow to a flat base on the northern edge.

Gully Terminus [408]

At the southern end of plot 0/1 was located a shallow gully [408], its terminus truncated by the pipe trench. It contained a single fill within a cut 1.5m in width and 0.3m in depth.

Figures 4a to 4h: Site 1 plan (scale 1:200)

8 pages

Site 1 Plan, sheet 2 of 8 (scale 1:200)

Figure 5: Site 1, sections (a)-(d), Group 184 outer enclosure ditch terminus

Figure 6: Site 1, sections (e)-(i), Group 192 inner enclosure ditch

Figure 7: Site 1, sections (j)-(n), pits [233], [257] and [158], and gullies from Groups 306 and 351

Interpretation

Site 1 revealed six phases of activity dating from the Upper Palaeolithic to Post-Mediaeval / Early Modern periods. [\(Figure 9a to 9b\)](#)

Phase 1

This phase was represented by pre-Holocene activities reflected by cultural and environmental evidence.

A flint blade (Figure 8) from fill (010) of an irregular gully [009] (from evaluation Trench 4) is dated as upper Palaeolithic / early Mesolithic. The blade was complete, of black glassy flint with a retouched point and little damage but heavily patinated measuring 0.1m in length and 0.02m in width. The fresh condition of this blade indicates that it may have been derived from a stratified context and was incorporated into the fill of the feature relatively quickly.

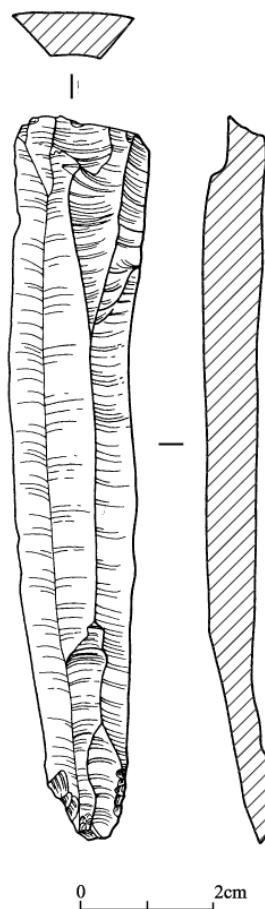


Figure 8: Site 5, Long Blade from palaeo-deposit beneath gravel terrace

The palaeo-channel [400] contained a rich blue-black organic fill (401). A bulk sample <280> was taken of this material and the pollen assemblages recorded. The results revealed an assemblage dominated by *Poaceae* (Grasses), *Artemisia* (Mugworts) and *Apiaceae*

(Umbellifers). Also present were several wetland taxa such as sedges and *Uniflora* (Shoreweed).

Trees were poorly represented by the presence of *Betula* (Birch), *Pinus* (Pine), and the occasional *Quercus* (Oak), *Carpinus betula* (Hornbeam), *Ulmus* (Elm) and *Salix* (Willow).

The environmental assemblage suggests a late Devensian (pre 10,000 BP) tundra/steppe environment based on the higher values of pine and birch pollen, the openness of the environment, the presence of high values of *Artemisia* (mugworts), and the presence of certain other taxa not seen in later assemblages. *Artemisia* (mugwort) is especially diagnostic of the late Devensian being a tundra/steppe taxon.

AMS dating of terrestrial *Ranunculus* seeds from the sample gave a result of greater than 48,000 BP (Poz-3889), a late Middle Palaeolithic date and also towards the late Devensian epoch.

Phase 2

Phase 2 is also represented by the retrieval of residual flints from later features. Two flakes were retrieved from the single fill of [83] a large shallow pit recorded in Trench 17 plot 0/3 during the evaluation and not incorporated into the full excavated area. One flake, with a possible retouch on one lateral edge has been dated to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. The second flake belongs to Phase 3. The outer enclosure ditch [228] yielded a single flake dated to this period from its tertiary fill (231). This flake had suffered some post deposition damage and was not in good condition.

Phase 3

This was represented by two artefacts from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. One is a single flake retrieved from pit [83]. The flake was particularly crude with two insipient cones of percussion making it comparable with other pieces of late Bronze to early Iron Age date. A residual shard of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was retrieved from pit [158] in the central area of the site and is almost certainly residual. This at least strengthens the credibility of late Bronze Age domestic or even ritual activity on or near to the site.

Phase 4 (Figure 9a)

Phase 4 was dominated by the double ditch enclosure and associated pits and postholes (Groups 184 and 192) at the northern end of the site dated from the middle to late Iron Age. Also included are Groups 305 and 306 at the southern extent, and isolated features [158] and [193] to the south, and [212] and [215] in the centre of the site. The majority of the ceramic materials were pottery types F28 and F37. These were common in Groups 192 and 184, in particular from the primary fills of the southern inner ring ditch terminus [190] (Figure 38.1), and the northern outer ring ditch terminal [183]. The southern outer ring ditch terminal [228] contains pottery type F37 in the second, third and fourth fills.

Type F28 is described as having late Bronze Age/early Iron Age parallels, for example at Salford (Dawson, forthcoming). However, later classification includes decorated forms that are attributed to the middle Iron Age. This includes those from Phase 4, and from the Huntingdon to Willington pipeline ([Sloweskowski, forthcoming \(a\)](#)). The forms types are generally interpreted as jars, with bowls/open vessels occurring rarely. The other most common pottery form is type F37, generally described as storage jars with bowls/open vessels also uncommon.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

The presence of an organic primary fill in the outer ditch, Group 184, may imply standing water in the ditch and the gradual breakdown of organic material deposited within it. The remains of aquatic plants may indicate that the ditch was not cleaned out on a regular basis, or was allowed to fill with standing water, allowing the growth of such flora to proceed

unhindered. Being primary deposits, suggest that this would have occurred during the ditches use when the base was exposed.

Both the primary fill (182), of northern ditch terminus [183] and the secondary fill (229), of the southern ditch terminus [228] contained a large variety of beetle species. A small number of aquatic species such as *Agabus bipustulatus*, *Ochthebius bicolor* and *Ochthebius minimus* were present, indicative of transient pool dwellers and slow moving water.

Each termini yielded two different groups of species favouring fetid and dry compost. The primary fill (182) of the northern terminus [183] contained 70% of beetle species favouring fresh herbivore dung, their members including *Micropeplus porcatus*, *Platystethus arenarius*, *Philothis fimetarius*, *Sphaeridium scarabaeoides*, *Gertrupes spiniger*, *Aphodius contaminatus* and *Aphodius ater*. The retrieval of a single beetle *Onthophagus taurus* appears to have been more common in the past especially during the Bronze Age. The presence of such a wide range of dung-associated species suggests that the dung was reasonably fresh when deposited in the ditch. There could have been large numbers of herbivores grazing in the area or it might have been stockpiled for use as fertiliser or fuel. The complete lack of species associated with dry “sweet” compost appears to preclude the possibility that this deposit is stable manure cleared from animal stalls.

In contrast, the beetles retrieved from the secondary fill (229) of the southern terminus [228] consisted solely of dry compost species such as Cryptophagidae and Lathrididae. Only 14% of aquatic species occurred, those all being typical of standing water. The dry compost species are commonly found in haystacks but could not be considered as exclusive to this environment. There are less dung beetles in this sample but they are present in sufficient numbers to suggest fresh herbivore dung was accumulating. Although a few components of stable manure such as hay meadow species and stored hay decomposers are present, the lack of other key indicator species suggests that this deposit cannot be associated with stalled animals.

The second most prolific species present favoured a clay substrate, pasture and disturbed ground, and was represented by ground beetles (Carabidae), leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae) and weevils (Curculionidae). These findings corroborated the results of the pollen samples taken through the southern ditch terminus of the outer enclosure. The pollen results indicated that the local environment consisted of sporadic woodland populated by *Betula* (Birch), *Pinus* (Pine), *Acer* (field Maple), *Quercus* (Oak) and *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) and dominated by grasses (Poaceae) and occasional Lactucoideae (Dandelion type), and *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort plantain).

Very little charred plant material (either charcoal or seeds) was recovered from the twenty-seven dry bulk samples from this site. The only charred evidence for cereal crops was a couple of Emmer/Spelt grains (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and a chess caryopsis (a common arable weed; *Bromus* sect. *Bromus*) from linear [171] within the ring ditch enclosure, and in linear [270] at the southern extent of the site.

A sample from the primary fill of the southern outer enclosure ditch terminus [228] produced a charred and a waterlogged Emmer/Spelt glume base. This material may represent crop processing waste that was being fed to livestock, being present either as spilled fodder or in dung. Some of the grassland species recovered could have been present in hay, particularly plants such as fairy flax (*Linum catharticum*) which prefer drier soils than would have been present around the ditches.

Surprisingly, the main components from the outer ring ditch [195] were fruits and seeds of aquatic plants such as aquatic buttercups (*Ranunculus* subg. *Batrachium*), water-starwort (*Callitricha* sp.) and horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*). These three taxa contributed

82% of the plant remains, indicating that the ditch contained standing water for long enough for an aquatic ditch flora to become established during the period that the deposits were being formed.

High nutrient botanical indicators such as Chenopodiaceae (fat hen, many seeded goosefoot, orache), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), nettles (*Urtica dioica* and *U. urens*) and henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) were particularly frequent in both the northern and southern ring-ditch terminal. This supports the beetle evidence for organic waste or dung around the ditches.

The concentration of high-nutrient, wasteground plant and insect remains in the ring-ditch terminals compares well with the type of habitat often found around field gateways today, where the soil becomes more trampled and dung-rich. Plants such as silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) and greater plantain (*Plantago major*) are typical of open, trampled soils.

It is likely that a thorn hedge was growing around the enclosure, since twigs and leaf fragments were frequent in some of the samples from the ditch termini, and a few seeds/fruit stones from hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), sloe (*Prunus spinosa*), bramble (*Rubus sect. Glandulosus*) and rose (*Rosa sp.*) were present.

One plant taxon of interest recovered as seeds from the ditch terminal samples was opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*). Archaeobotanical records in Britain date back to the Early Neolithic although it is more frequently found on Roman and later sites. The presence of opium poppy seeds in four of the seven waterlogged ring-ditch samples on Site 1 suggests that it may have been grown close to arable crops and had become established as an arable weed, since the four samples producing this taxon were also the only ones to contain cereal remains. Alternatively, faecal or domestic waste containing poppy seeds may have found its way into the ditch.

Animal bones from the ditch fills were identified as cattle, horse, pig and sheep. The poor preservational quality of the burial environment tended to favour the larger animals. Therefore, husbandry patterns cannot be concluded, other than the presence of those animals.

No human remains were discovered during excavations.

A fragment of burnt quern stone was recovered from the upper fill (227) of the outer enclosure ditch [223]. This piece may possibly have had a secondary function as a large pot boiler due to the discolouration and fragmentation caused by intense heat.

Also within Phase 4 are Iron Age field systems represented by three groups of linear ditches and gullies. Group 305 was located towards the southern end of the site and comprised five ditches, two orientated north-west by south-east, one south-north-east by south-west and two east by west. The latter two ditches appear to be later and have been considered as sub-phase 4a. Group 306 was situated at the southern limits of the site and consisted of two linear, orientated south-west by north-east and running adjacent to each other. The southernmost linear were comprised of two shallow gullies, the relationship of which is uncertain.

Possibly associated with this group was pit [332] located 4m to the north of 306. The remaining features were isolated and scattered such as the two pits [193] and [158] situated between groups 305 and 306, a shallow linear [215], and a possible irregular pit [212] located amongst much later ridge and furrow group 303.

Pottery from Groups 305 and 306 was dated from the mid to late Iron Age. A small amount of Belgic wares were retrieved but have been considered as intrusive.

Phase 5 (Figure 9b)

Phase 5 relates to Group 351, two east-west ditches containing ceramics dating from the late Iron Age to early Roman period.

Phase 6 (Figure 9c)

Phase 6 is comprised of three field systems, groups 164, 303 and 304. These linear features are located across the entire site and represent a comprehensive system of probable Mediaeval ridge and furrow.

Figures 9a to 9c: Site 1, Phases 4 to 6 (scale 1:750)

3 pages

Page 1

page 2

Discussion

The earliest evidence of human activity on Site 1 is represented by the retrieval of a number of residual flints from various later features during the evaluation and excavation. The most significant of these was the long blade retrieved from the fill of a gully bearing similarities to the nearby palaeo-channel beneath the gravel terraces. It is notable that recent research comments that no Upper Palaeolithic material has been found in Bedfordshire (Luke, Forthcoming). The condition of the flint certainly suggests that it was dropped or deposited soon after manufacture and remained there until discovery. This find, therefore, represents activity during the upper Palaeolithic almost certainly in close vicinity.

A late Devensian palaeo-channel [400] was revealed at the northern end of the site, although providing a comprehensive pollen assemblage it failed to provide any information on human activity but did reveal an informative insight into the local environment during the late Middle Palaeolithic. Palynology and palaeobotanical evidence is complimentary in proposing a tundra/steppe like environment. Dating by accelerator mass spectrometry dates this deposit to during the middle to late Devensian.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

This is interesting in light of the Upper Palaeolithic flint found in the irregular gully [009]. This deposit was reasonably organic and assumed to be a natural feature. The fill was similar to that from the palaeo-channel [400] and may share a similar formation. If re-deposition is discounted, the flint probably dates the deposit at its earliest as late Devensian / Upper Palaeolithic, a date close to that from the palaeo-channel.

Similar radiocarbon dates to the palaeo-channel have been obtained from Radwell, 9km north of Bedford (Rogerson *et al*, 1992), and at Earith, 16 km west of Huntingdon (Bell, 1970). These sampled deposits derive from Devensian cold-spell deposits, generally silt and sand fills of channels within the sands and gravels of the first gravel terrace. Contention exists over whether the material sampled for dating from Radwell and Earith is derived from the earlier temperate Ipswichian interglacial (Green, 2000), and it may be that the material from Site 1 is similarly provenanced. Nevertheless, the proximity of the dates is close enough to propose a shared event or process, and work and research such as this can only help to further developments in local Quaternary research.

Late Neolithic to Bronze Age activity was provided by more residual flint flakes, the majority crudely struck and indicative of the latter Bronze Age.

The most dominant feature on the site was the double ditched enclosure, Groups 184 and 192, located at the northern end of the site, and probably originating in the middle Iron Age. This is quite a substantial enclosure with a projected exterior diameter of at least 45 m.

The outer ditch was fairly substantial and would have presented either a physical or liminal barrier, depending on the constructors' intent. The presence of standing water indicates localised flooding caused by a breach in the local water table. Palaeobotanical evidence suggests that the ditch held water long enough for aquatic flora to colonise. Environmental evidence retrieved from the inner ditch suggests that it may have remained dry.

The environmental evidence from the ditches is complimentary in implying that the surrounding landscape was dominated by an open grassland habitat with infrequent woodland. The environmental evidence also jointly suggests that the area around the outer ring ditch was disturbed ground. This would not be out of the question considering the need of spoil disposal from the ditch constructions. It is possible that it was dispersed by ploughing or by hand over the surrounding fields though it would require less effort to leave the spoil close to where digging was taking place. No evidence of a bank or rampart was noted during

excavation even though the volume of spoil produced must have been immense. This suggests that the spoil may have been of no great distance from the ditch implying that a bank may have been constructed. Further environmental analysis proposes that a thorn hedge was local enough for leaves, twigs and seeds to be deposited within the ditch. Those plants in question also favour disturbed ground.

It is possible that a small bank existed between the inner and outer ditches, with a larger bank on the outside of the outer ring ditch crowned with a hedge of thorn bushes. It is tempting to believe that such a construction would either have served as a kraal intending to keep livestock in. Alternatively, keeping animals out is also viable. Palaeobotanical and coleopteran analysis indicate that herbivore dung was present in the samples from the outer ring ditch, specifically the termini, but adheres to it being fresh, rather than dried. This invites the notion that dried dung was not present in sufficient quantities to infer stalling, or stored for fuel, as manure, or as building material.

It is likely that herbivores were free to wander in and out of the enclosure at will, probably shortly after abandonment. This would explain why insufficient beetle indicators of dried dung, fodder and hay were present. Furthermore, the collection of organic material, the accumulation of water, aquatic plants and aquatic beetles suggests that the ring ditch became disused and fell into ruin. This also presupposes that before abandonment, the ditches were maintained. It is often the case in archaeological investigations that the excavated sites reflect the abandonment and variety of natural (and cultural) site formation processes, such as those highlighted here.

Within the enclosure are six small pits and possible post holes along with the remains of a shallow gully and terminus. The rest disappears under the running track to the west. No direct dating evidence was retrieved from these features and purely associated with the ring ditch on the basis of proximity.

The area around Willington and Cardington on the Great Ouse flood plain is well known for crop marks and a few excavations have revealed these features to date from the Neolithic e.g. Plantation Quarry (Pinder, 1986) to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods e.g. Riverside Meadows (BCAS 1994/6). Although no Bronze Age sites were discovered, there are known sites nearby such as the rectangular enclosures at Octagon Farm, Willington, interpreted as late Bronze Age or early Iron Age field systems (BCAS 95/14 pt4, 13). A double ditched enclosure interpreted as a Bronze Age funery monument is also known from Willington (Pinder, 1986). The inner ditch measured 19m by 16.5m and the outer was approximately 30m in diameter. Only the inner ring ditch had an entrance way. Another Bronze Age ring ditch measuring 23m east by west and 21m north to south was excavated at Plantation Quarry, Willington (Dawson, 1986). Iron Age structures such as this are not known in this area. A comparison could be made with the enclosure at Blackthorn, Northamptonshire (Williams & Mc Carthy 1972, 1973). This was a similarly sized double ditched enclosure that contained pits and postholes along with a small habitable structure.

No human remains or features interpreted as funerary were discovered from the ring ditch at Site 1. There is certainly a pastoral emphasis at the site but insufficient evidence to state that that was the primary function. The only evidence of domestic activity was the pottery which was in fairly good condition suggesting that it was deposited close to an area of use. This suggests that a domestic area may have been nearby but the excavations have not proved this conclusively.

The site also revealed a system of agrarian boundary ditches, possibly established some time during the middle Iron Age and continuing into the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The middle Iron Age field systems are probably associated with the people who built the ring ditch and perhaps lived, or worshipped there.

Plate 1: Site 1, ditch terminal [228] of ring ditch 184

Plate 2: Site 1, slot [174] through ring ditch 192

Plate 3: Site 1, slot [165] through ring ditch 192

Plate 4: Site 1, palaeochannel beneath gravel terraces

Site 5 Figures???

Summary

Site 5 consisted of a concentration of probable domestic refuse pits and possible clay pits/wells dating to the Saxon-Norman period located towards the northern end of the site. At the southern limits of the site a series of shallow linear gullies were recorded truncating numerous tree boles some of which contained early to middle Iron Age ceramics indicating a possible early phase of woodland clearance. Several residual flint artefacts were also retrieved suggesting activity in the area from the Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age. From the retrieval of datable artefacts and the stratigraphical relationships between the archaeological features, four phases of activity have been identified on site 5.

- Phase 1 Mesolithic to early Neolithic (10,000 to 2,700 BC)
- Phase 2 Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2,700 to 1,400 BC)
- Phase 3 Early to middle Iron Age (650 to 350 BC)
- Phase 4 Saxon-Norman (850 to 1150 AD)

Introduction

The identification of archaeological features yielding ceramics and residual worked lithics during evaluation prompted an area 119m by 21m to be stripped of topsoil and any archaeological features within to be excavated by hand.

Location and Topography

Site 5 is located at construction plot 1/6, NGR 511490 246980 to 511480 246970, approximately 1.5km south east of the village of Cople and 2km south of Willington.

Geology and soils

The local geology consists of a mixture of Argillic brown earths of Efford 1 typology and Calcareous pelosols, overlying second terrace river gravels and Oxford clay laid down in the Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

Archaeological desk-based pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted a number of pit-like anomalies through geophysical survey at grid reference 511440 246840. Also present were areas of enhanced magnetic variation.

Evaluation

A total of seven trenches were opened for evaluation (trenches 22, 23, 24, 25, 25a, 26 and 26a). Trench 22 contained four shallow south-west to north-east linear gullies and a possible small pit. Of these the only feature of any consequence was linear [1015], a possible Saxon-Norman furrow, substantiated by the retrieval of a moderate quantity of ceramics from its single fill (1016). Trenches 24, 25, 25a, 26 and 26a all contained numerous tree boles and root disturbance, along with occasional natural features in sub-circular or linear form.

Only Trench 23 revealed significant concentrations of archaeology, containing five small pits/post holes and two very shallow gullies. Pit [1031] yielded a small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics within its single fill (1032) and a residual flint blade dated from the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic. This feature was 1.6m in length and 1m in width with a gradual sloping gradient to a flat base of a depth of 0.25m. Located either side of, and possibly associated with [1031], were two shallow pits or scoops, [1033] and [1041]. These features measured approximately 0.5m in width and 0.12m in depth. Both contained the same fill matrix, a friable, mid yellow brown clay silt.

Trench 23 was originally 30m by 2.5m and orientated north-south on the pipeline route. Due to the presence of archaeology, the trench was extended westwards at right angles from both ends. The northern end was extended by 10m and the southern end by 12m, and 4m in width.

As a result of evaluation it was decided to expose the full area of archaeological potential. A total area of 119m by 21m was stripped for excavation with the addition of a narrow area, approximately 2.5m wide and 26m long. A further extension was added at a right angle measuring 11m by 7m, orientated to the east (Figure 10c). This additional stripped area was employed to investigate possible features immediately positive of Trench 22 which revealed several pits and linear features, one of which yielded sherds of Saxon-Norman St. Neots ware (AD 850 to 1100). The results however proved negative and the only features revealed were a tree bole and a furrow.

Excavation

The excavation revealed a series of pits located at the negative end of the site;

Pit [1303] [1315] (Figure 10b)

The primary focus of the site were two large pits interpreted as possible wells or clay pits. The largest of these [1303] was located approximately in the centre of the site. It measured over 10m in length and 5m in width. Due to health and safety concerns the true depth of this feature was never fully ascertained, and further excavation was abandoned after reaching a depth of 2m. Excavation was conducted using a quadrant with two large quads removed ([1303] (Figure 11c) and [1315] (Figure 12d: Plate 7)) and a smaller slot excavated at the western corner of feature [1345]. The results indicated an irregular pattern of excavation with four main cuts ([1303] same as [1345] and [1304] same as [1315]). All of the fills contained St. Neots ware dated as Saxon-Norman.

Feature [1345] was located at the west of pit and appeared to be associated with the initial pit cut. The sides were steep and irregular, and the base flat, descending into the pit at approximately 30 degrees. The fill was similar to the clayey upper fills of the main pit and also contained St. Neots ware.

Two of the cuts contained good environmental data from their relevant fills. Of these, (1328) was a waterlogged primary deposit containing seeds from species of Bramble, Nettle, Sedge and Ribwort Plantain, indicative of calcareous grassland as well as aquatic, leaf and compost species of beetle, complementing the pollen record.

Pit [1234] [1305] (Figure 10b)

Approximately 8m negative of pit [1303] was a smaller and possibly conjoined feature similar to [1303]. In plan the feature appears as a figure of eight. Excavation was conducted by quadrants, excavating two opposing sections at either end of the feature. This revealed an irregular shaped pit [1305] (Figure 12f) and [1234] (Figure 12e: Plate 5) approximately 3.5m in length and 2.5m in width. [1305] contained a re-cut [1385] and was substantially deeper than [1234] at 1.6m (Plate 6).

Pit [1234] contained three fills. The primary fill (1233) contained evidence of Ostracods which favour brackish water with a high organic content. Two fills were present within [1305]. The primary fill (1306) yielded two Oak heartwood fragments (SF 3&4), possibly from planks associated with the excavation of local clay. This feature also contained St. Neots ware.

Pits [1218] and [1226] (Figure 10a)

These two pits were located immediately south-west of pit [1303], pit [1218] cutting [1226]. Pit [1226] was circular with a diameter of 0.9m and a depth of 0.5m with gradual sloping sides (Figure 11b). There was, however, no dating material.

Pit [1218] was sub-square in plan, 2.14m in width and cut at a moderately steep gradient to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.68m (Figure 11b; Plate 9). Two fills were present within [1218] with the primary fill (1230) containing bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*-type), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wild grasses all of which are typical of Mediaeval sites. The upper fill (1217) contained St. Neots ware and a goat horncore.

Pit [1342] (Figure 10b)

[1342] was sub-square in plan and approximately 1.57m in width with near vertical sides descending to a slightly undulating base at a depth of 0.76m (Figure 11a).

It contained two re-cuts, [1352] and [1227]. The two earlier cuts revealed very little evidence for either chronology, industry, diet or environment. The later re-cut [1227], however, was dated as between (AD 850 to 1100) from St. Neots ware from the primary fill (1228) (Figures 39.2, 3 & 4). This deposit was exceptionally rich in environmental data including fish, bird and larger domestic animals. In descending order of frequency these included remains of cyprinids (Cyprinidae) (carp family), common eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), cattle (*Bos taurus*), equid (Equidae), pig (*Sus domesticus*), possible gasterosteids (Gasterosteidae?) (sticklebacks), songbirds (Passeriformes), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), rodents (Rodentia), salmonids (Salmonidae), perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), dog (*Canis familiaris*), probable pygmy shrew (*Sorex cf. minutes*), vole (Microtinae) and mouse (*Apodemus/Mus* sp.). The cyprinids were generally in the chub (*Leuciscus cephalus*)/dace (*Leuciscus leuciscus*) size category. The song birds were in the size range of either skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) or blue tit (*Parus caeruleus*). The size of the salmonid remains could indicate trout (*Salmo trutta*), rather than salmon (*Salmo salar*). Also included was a goat horn core, and a dog skull from the upper fill (1229).

The palaeobotanical remains were equally as abundant and interesting. These included bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*-type), rye (*Secale cereale*), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). Also included but showing the only signs of mineralisation from any of the sites were seeds from bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) and apple (*Malus sylvestris*), pea (*Pisum sativum*) and field bean (*Vicia faba* var. *minor*). Exotic species were also evident comprising both fennel (cf. *Foeniculum vulgare*) and dill (*Anethum graveolens*). These are generally viewed as luxury imported goods and are also known from Saxon Hamwic (Southampton).

Group 1178 [1113], [1156], [1164], [1172], [1199] (Figure 10a)

To the south of the site was an area concentrated by shallow pits/scoops and a linear gully orientated south-west by north-east, and approximately 11m in length. The width varied between 0.4m to 0.9m and the depth similarly between 0.21m to 0.4m. The gully was observed in plan to extend to the north-east and return to the south-east possibly forming an enclosure.

This area, like the site in general, is also dominated by frequent tree boles which may indicate possible de-forestation. This is illustrated by group 1178 which quite clearly cuts numerous tree boles (Figures 13g & 13h). Slot [1113] located towards the terminus of the gully, revealed a shallow feature with gradual sloping sides to a flat base. Both fills contained St. Neots ware judged as possibly pre-Conquest. The secondary fill (1114) also contained Mayweed seeds, typical indicators of agrarian activity on heavy clay soils.

Watching Brief

During the top soiling phase several features dated to the early to middle Iron Age were identified and recorded on plot 1/7 to the south of the open area excavation.

Ditch [1362], [1353]

A linear, emerging from the eastern easement, orientated north-east to south-west was investigated. [1362] was excavated across the width of the linear which measured 1.7m. The cut was steeply sloping at 60° down to a narrow flat base and incorporated five fills to a depth of 1.2m (Figure 13i). Three of the fills yielded early to middle Iron Age ceramics, poor to fair in condition and quality. The primary fill (1367) of [1362] was made up of a firm, bright orange/brown sandy clay to a depth of 0.4m with lenses of blue grey sand clay. Within its matrix were occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal, and frequent sherds of early Iron Age ceramics.

A residual late Neolithic to early Bronze Age core fragment was retrieved from the secondary fill (1366). The core revealed evidence of a controlled hard hammer technique that would have produced broad flakes.

Slot [1353] was excavated via a half section along the length of the terminus, truncating post hole [1360] (see below) in the process. The profile declined at approximately 60° to a depth of 1m with a rounded base and contained six fills. The upper (1354) and the secondary fill (1358) contained early to middle Iron Age ceramics. Deposit (1358) differed from the others, being a dark brown grey in colour as opposed to the orange brown of the rest. This may be in part to do with the frequent inclusion of charcoal within this context.

Posthole [1360]

Situated approximately two thirds of the way north-east along the section of [1353] was a small post hole [1360] with dimensions of 0.26m width and depth. This feature consisted of a near vertical sides, cut down to a flat base and contained dark orange brown grey firm sandy silt. No archaeological inclusions were present apart from occasional charcoal flecks.

Irregular Pit [1368]

This feature was an irregular pit 3.5m in length along its north-west by south-east axis and 3m in width. The profile consisted of gradual sloping sides down to an irregular flat base.

The main upper tertiary fill (1369) had a matrix consisting of firm dark grey brown sand silt. Frequent artefacts were retrieved from this context including animal bone, frequent early to middle Iron Age ceramics, burnt clay, charcoal and five flint flakes. The flakes themselves are probably residual; four of the assemblage bare characteristics of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age working while one may be earlier, dating to the Mesolithic or early Neolithic. The remaining two fills, although containing occasional charcoal flecks may be the result of the silting up of hollows caused by animal or root activity due to their isolation and irregularity.

The remaining features were all located during the pipe trenching phase and consisted of one pit [1372] situated at the Northern end of plot 1/6 and a shallow gully [1375] in plot 1/7.

Pit [1372]

Pit [1372] was quite substantial with a width of 5m and a depth of 2.1m. In plan it appears to be circular with a fairly steep gradient at 50° down to a round, slightly pointed base. Two fills were present; the main fill (1373) comprised of a friable pale brown/grey silt clay and a thin lense of dark grey silt clay (1374) situated on the southern edge and base. No archaeological inclusions were retrieved from either fill, with the primary fill (1374) appearing very sterile and possibly representing a slump of material rather than a deliberate deposit. Deposit (1373) contained a moderate amount of small sub angular stone and occasional larger stone inclusions.

Gully [1375]

Shallow gully [1375] was located on plot 1/6 in the west facing section of the pipe trench. The profile revealed a cut, 0.6m in width, with a gradient of 45° down to a rounded base at a depth of 0.3m. It contained a single sterile silt clay fill with no inclusions natural or otherwise.

Figures 10a to 10c: Site 5, plan (scale 1:200)

Page 1

Figure 11: Site 5, sections (a)-(c), Saxo-Norman pits [1342], [1218] and [1303]

Figure 12: Site 5, sections (d)-(f), Saxo-Norman pits [1315], [1234] and [1305]

Figure 13: Site 5, sections (g)-(i), Iron Age features [1119], [1113] and [1362]

Interpretation

Five phases of activity have been identified.

Phases 1 and 2

This phase is represented by five residual flints recovered from the fills of pits [1031] and [1368] dated as Mesolithic/early Neolithic. Six residual flints were retrieved from ditch [1362] and pit [1368]. These are dated to the late Neolithic-early Bronze Age and attributed to Phase 2. All the worked lithics were from early to middle Iron Age features and offer a palimpsest view of possible early activity within the area prior to the Iron Age.

Phase 3

This consisted of a small group of possible pits located at the positive end of the site and revealed in evaluation Trench 23. Pit [1031] yielded a moderate amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics as did the likely tree bole [1086] adjacent to linear Group 1178.

Phase 4

Phase 4 was characterised by evidence of most activity and is dated to the late pre-Conquest but probably overlaps into the 12th century.

The majority of features were situated at the south end of the site and are comprised of seventeen sporadic shallow pits, scoops and possible postholes and two shallow truncated gullies. The high concentration of tree boles located in this area hindered identification of many of the features. Also present is group 1178, a shallow linear possibly representing a drainage gully. Only [1179] and [1113] provided any dating evidence in the form of a small amount of ceramics, dated as Saxo-Norman (AD 850 to 1100).

Deleted:

The smaller pit, [1234] and [1305], although appearing as two features in plan and in some respects section too, were in all probability one feature.

The ceramics from the two large pits are identified as St. Neots ware, dated as Saxo-Norman. The two large pits [1234] [1305] and [1303] [1315] may be interpreted as possible well/clay extraction pits.

The primary fills of both pits [1303] [1315] and [1234] [1305] consisted of silt clays with a high organic content. The primary fill (1328) of pit [1303] contained abundant environmental evidence of calcareous grassland flora in a waterlogged dark grey brown silt clay. Striations of orange silt may indicate the decay *in situ* of organic material within the pit. The presence of this decaying organic matter is complemented by various species of beetle, four of which favour dung and rotting vegetation, and one that feeds exclusively on damp fetid decomposing material. These species made up 37% of the sample present, the remaining 35% and 28% consisted of outdoor leaf species and aquatic species respectively. No indicators species of standing water were found in the pollen data. Other pollen data retrieved complemented the above with the presence of grasses, *Quercus* (Oak), arable weeds and occasional marsh taxa. In contrast the organic primary deposits, (1306) and (1233) of pits [1305] and [1234] respectively were less waterlogged. This is due in part to the depth of the excavation, with [1303] terminating 0.4m deeper than that of [1305] and [1234], and therefore possibly penetrating the local water table. The fills (1306) and (1233) also appear more unsorted than (1328) with the orange mottling of (1233) dispersed throughout the context.

Pits 1342, 1218 and 1226 produced pottery from their upper fills of pre-Conquest St. Neot's ware and also pottery from the 12th century which suggests that the site was in use before the Conquest, and possibly the initial use of these features themselves. However, due to the

mixed nature of the ceramic assemblage and the likelihood of intrusive residual material it may be wise to assign these features to Phase 4 rather than an earlier period.

Para

The two goat horn cores from the upper fills of [1218] and [1342] bare butchery marks and suggest either horn or leather working in the vicinity. It is the case that horns are removed when removing the skin from a carcass and the horns processed as a by-product of leather production. There is no evidence to suggest that both pits were part of an industrial process. However, the primary fill of re-cut [1227] into pit [1342] contained a matrix that was of a green hue and produced mineralised botanical remains (calcium phosphate replaced) and small fish bones, all of which are typical of cess deposits. It could be suggested that an accumulation of faeces in the context of evidence of skin processing is itself evidence of leather working. However, one would expect more bones with specific cut marks and a concentrated number of those bones, particularly metatarsals and metacarpals. Typically on urban site large quantities of such bone with cut marks are found in association tanning pits. The more recent pits tend to lined with oak bark and the earlier examples often with clay. Excrement was used as a. The preservation is often excellent with frequent water-logging and thus produces quantities of leather itself. In the case of pits [1227] and [1342], there was no discernable lining or water logging. It is, therefore, more probable that this feature was a latrine but that leather processing and/or horn was taking place on site though at a small scale possibly utilising the corrosive qualities of any available substances, such as cess.

The foodstuff evidence from the primary fill of [1227] provided an excellent insight into the dietary habits of the residents. Both cultivated and wild plants were exploited and also included fennel and dill which could be considered as exotic species. These are good for the digestion & could be grown in back gardens once the seed was obtained, rather than imported each time. This could discount any form of status inferred by import plants. The absence of other rare plant species and high class goods also supports this view.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

The range of cattle, sheep/goat and pig body parts recovered would suggest the presence of live animals and/or whole carcasses at the site. Cranial and lower-limb fragments may indicate that the remains represent primary butchery waste. The exploitation of wild species is also attested by the presence of fish and wild birds.

The dog skull in the upper fill of [1227] was from an old individual suggesting that the final deposit into the pit may have formed some significance between the owner and the dead dog.

Phase 5

This phase is represented by Post-Mediaeval ridge and furrow located at the extension negative to the main site and also at the positive end.

Figure 14: Site 5, plan of Phases 3 to 5 (scale 1:500)

1 page

Discussion

The earliest activity is attested by a residual assemblage of worked flint including a small blade recovered from the fill of an early Iron Age pit [1031] and a flake from tree bole [1134]. The majority of the lithic assemblage was from pit [1368] which contained four residual flakes and a blade within its main fill (1369). In summary, the assemblage is residual indicating activity dating from the late Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age 8,300-1,400 BC.

From the evidence it would appear that this area at one point consisted of a habitat of open woodland dominated by Oak and occasional Hazel. It is possible that at some point during the early to middle Iron Age (600-100 BC) de-forestation occurred and the land converted to pasture for livestock and/or arable use. The dating is supported by the presence of ceramics retrieved from pit [1032] and tree bole [1086] located towards the Southern end of the site, and suggested from the other natural features truncated by later archaeology.

The Saxo-Norman period (AD 850-1150) attests the greatest degree of activity on the site. Most of the features are concentrated towards the south but with few but far more revealing to the north.

The southern area was dominated by pits, tree boles (see above) and gully Group 1178. Although verification was not made through excavation, the gully appeared in plan to extend to the north-east and return south-westwards, possibly forming a rectangular or square enclosure (Figure 10a). This could be interpreted as a co-axial field often associated with Anglo-Saxon field systems (Welch, 1992). Co-axial fields are commonly referred to as Celtic fields whose origins lie in the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age. The gully may have also helped to facilitate drainage of the land which may have become waterlogged. Evidence for this was derived from the retrieval of various species of seeds. Three species of grasses were encountered, *Poaceae*, *Carex* (Sedge) and *Gallium* (Bedstraw). All thrive in Calcareous wet lowlands along with *Fallopia* (Bindweed) and *Anthemis* (Mayweed). *Anthemis* is also a good indicator of the cultivation of heavy clay soils. At excavations on the Romano British site of Ashville (M. Jones, 1978) this plant was associated with artificial field drainage in an attempt to lower the local water table.

The two large irregular pits, [1234] [1305], and [1303] [1315] may have been excavated for the extraction of the local Oxford clay. This is suggested by the irregularity of their construction, especially the largest of the pits [1303]. Furthermore, the small extension [1345] to the largest of the pits descends gradually into the thus allowing easy access.

Once their primary function was complete these pits may have served as water catchment features to assist in the drainage of the land. The habitat associated with these features suggests this to be the case with the presence of grasses such as *Carex* and *Poaceae*, species adapted to favour wet grassland. The presence of four species of leaf beetle, *Leptura* sp., *Chaetocnema hortensis*, *Rhynchaenus salcis* and *Phyllotreta* were retrieved from well pit [1303] and also corroborate the existence of an open environment with the sporadic open woodland.

The function of these pits as possible wells cannot be stated with any certainty. The presence of *Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus* (Brambles) and *Urtica* (Common Nettle) within their fills, indicates the growth of such vegetation around the vicinity of these features, and making it unlikely that they were in frequent use as wells. Prior to their backfilling some of these features certainly contained water, a factor supported by the presence of *Agabus bipustulatus* and *Helophorus aequalis/aquaticus*, two aquatic beetle species that favour ponds and pools, although *Agabus bipustulatus* is an excellent flier and can appear in any deposition of

standing water. The last species *Ochthebius bicolon* favours slow running water perhaps indicating deliberate drainage into [1303] at some point during its life. Pit [1234] contained Ostracods within its primary fill (1233) which may represent natural silting. These bi-valve crustaceans favour brackish water with a high organic content, this could certainly be provided by the general leaf litter and debris blown into the pit.

It appears that the larger of the two pits, [1303] may have initially remained open longer and been allowed to silt up, as observed by the laminations within the primary fill (1328) and the high concentration of organic matter which was consumed by four species of compost beetle, *Anonylus rugosus*, *Platystethus cornutus*, *Monotoma* sp., *Acritus* sp., and a single dung beetle *Aphodius* sp.. This last species indicates that a damp and fetid decomposing vegetable matter was the main component of this organic material. The beetle species present also discount livestock using the pit as a watering hole where one would have expected a higher abundance of species preferring fresh manure such as at Site 1.

In contrast pit [1234] [1305] may have been backfilled relatively quickly, with the primary fills (1233) and (1306) containing less organic matter than (1328) and unsorted in their composition. Towards the end of their use, these features were probably utilised as convenient refuse pits, containing ceramics, animal bone, oyster shells and quern fragments. The retrieval of two oak heartwood fragments from pit [1305] may represent the degraded remains of planks. Their presence within the primary fill (1306) may indicate a possible function in the initial ‘workings’ of the pit, possibly as shoring or platforms, or even digging implements. However, they are quite degraded and shapeless and their use as plough boards should not be ruled out.

Pit [1242] contained two re-cuts and a vast quantity of material providing good evidence into the diet of the individuals at Site 5. It is apparent that the food stuff would have been locally grown, harvested and hunted. Status could be inferred from the presence of dill and fennel although corroborating evidence would be needed to strengthen the case. If the site is treated as typically rural then at least this evidence illustrates the liberal availability of such goods.

Plate 5: Site 5, pit [1234]

Plate 6: Site 5, pit [1305]

Plate 7: Site 5, pit [1315]

Plate 8: Site 5, square pit [1218]

Plate 9: Site 5, square pit [1227], re-cut of [1342]

Plate 10: Excavation on Site 5

Site 8

Summary

Site 8 consisted of four evaluation trenches containing the remains of a posthole, three linears, and a pit, the latter yielding early Mediaeval ceramics. A number of unstratified worked lithics were recovered across the site, indicative of industries dating from the late Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age. Three phases of activity could be identified.

- Late Mesolithic to early Neolithic (6,500 to 2,700 BC)
- Late Neolithic to Bronze Age (2,700 to 1,400 BC)
- Early Mediaeval (1150 to 1250 AD)

5.1.1 Introduction

The identification of various pit-like anomalies and a possible trackway during geophysical survey was corroborated by the field reconnaissance, which also revealed the presence of a potential trackway. These results prompted the evaluation of the area by initially three, increasing to four trenches, and the hand excavation of any archaeology within. Due to the sporadic nature of the archaeology, area excavation was not felt necessary.

Location and Topography

Site 8 is located within construction plots 1/8 & 10, NGR 511170 245330 to 510256 245290, approximately 2km south-east of the village of Cardington and 4.5km south-east of Bedford. The site itself is situated at the base of a series of gradual undulating terrain emanating from the Greensand Ridge to the south and above the floodplain of the River Great Ouse.

Geology and Soils

The local geology consists of a mixture of argillic brown earths of Efford 1 typology and calcareous pelosols overlying Oxford Clay laid down in the Upper Jurassic.

Pre-construction Background

The archaeological pre-construction works (geophysical survey and field reconnaissance) (RSK, 2001) revealed a number of potential archaeological features at NGR 511990 246110. These findings led to the recommendation for three evaluation trenches, with the provision for excavation and/or other mitigation as required.

Evaluation

Four trenches were opened up for evaluation: 27, 27a, 28 and 29. A 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was employed to remove the topsoil and subsoil in spits until either archaeology and/or natural deposits were located. The trenches revealed low densities of minor archaeology, and only Trenches 28 and 29 yielded any datable finds.

Hand-Excavation during Evaluation

A total of six archaeological features were investigated and recorded within the evaluation trenches, a further seven were interpreted as tree boles and natural ‘scoops’. Trench 27 contained a shallow gully [1121], possibly the remains of ridge and furrow, and a shallow posthole [1128]. Trench 27a contained one heavily truncated gully [1095] orientated east west and one pit [1099] which truncated tree bole 1105. Trench 28 revealed a shallow ditch [1107], yielding burnt clay and the degraded fragments of an undated pottery sherd. Trench 29 contained a shallow pit [1115] measuring 0.66m by 0.5m in length and width respectively, and which had a gradually sloping profile and rounded base. It contained two fills (1116) and

(1117), both of which yielded ceramic sherds from the same vessel along with burnt clay from the lower fill (1117).

Watching Brief

Gully [1377]

Only one archaeological feature was located on the watching brief. This was an east-west gully revealed during the pipe trenching phase, the terminus of which was located in plan on the western side of the trench. Gully [1377] was 1.95m in width and 0.32m in depth, with a shallow sloping gradient to a rounded base. A single fill (1378) was retained within the cut. This friable olive brown silt clay contained occasional charcoal flecks and ceramics of an unsubstantiated date.

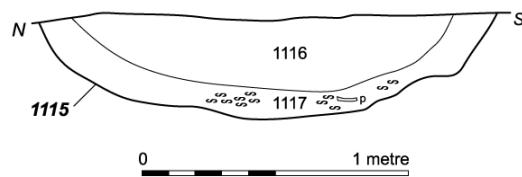


Figure 15: Site 8, section of pit [1115]

Interpretation

Three phases of activity have been identified, due to the unsubstantiated dates for ceramics retrieved from [1107] and [1378], and the lack of any stratigraphic relationships between archaeological features.

Phase 1 belongs to the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic and is represented by an unstratified lithic blade. Phase 2 is substantiated by the further retrieval of lithics dating to the late Neolithic to Bronze Age. A total of seven flints were recovered including five struck flakes, utilised flake with a retouched edge and a possible notch and a crude thumbnail scraper. Phase 3 can be allocated to the early Mediaeval period 1150-1250 AD, from ceramics retrieved from pit [1115] in Trench 29. These ceramics were located in the two upper fills (1116) and (1117) and have been identified as belonging to the same vessel.

Discussion

The small number, and minor nature of the ditches and pits, means little can be said as to their function or relationship with each other. The presence of the worked lithics on the site indicates earlier activity, possibly even occupation, substantiated by the retouched flake. However, the infrequency of these finds indicates that the central focus of activity was probably not on the site itself but more within the surrounding vicinity. The nearest site of any consequence is Site 5, approximately 320m negative of Site 8. Site 5 yielded mainly Saxon-Norman features, overlying occasional Early Iron Age ones. Also in common with Site 5 was the presence of tree boles at Site 8. These may, like at Site 5, represent an earlier phase of deforestation.

Site 13 Figures ????

Summary

A complex of features dating from the 1st-4th Centuries AD, Site 13 consisted of numerous enclosure and boundary ditches respecting a central roundhouse structure that appears to have been in use for around 200 years, perhaps initially housing peasant workers for a villa within the local environs. Local industry is represented by frequent rubbish pits and spreads containing a frequent amount of domestic and industrial waste in the form of slag and burnt clay, possibly indicative of metal working off site. Numerous fragments of worked stone, possibly querns, were present, indicating a busy agrarian economy. Early activity consists of residual finds of worked flints, offering a palimpsest view of possibly transient activity during the Mesolithic-Early Bronze Age. From the finds retrieved, and the relationships between the excavated features, twelve phases of activity have been identified.

- Phase 1 Mesolithic-early Neolithic (10,000 – 2,700 BC)
- Phase 2 Late Neolithic-early Bronze Age (2,700 – 1,400 BC)
- Phase 3 Romano-British (1st-2nd century AD)
- Phase 4 & 4a Romano-British (2nd-3rd century AD)
- Phase 5 & 5a Romano-British (2nd-3rd century AD)
- Phase 6 & 6a Romano-British (3rd-4th century AD)
- Phase 7 Modern

Introduction

A series of possible enclosures and associated pits revealed during the geophysical survey on plot 2/13 were to be investigated initially by trench evaluation, later to be expanded upon into an open area excavation.

Location and Topography

Site 13 is located within construction plot 1/12, NGR 510307 245560 to 510470 245510, adjacent to road crossing 2. It is approximately 3km south east of the village of Cardington and 6km south-east of Bedford situated on gentle gradients originating from the Greensand Ridge to the east.

Geology and Soils

Site 13 resides upon colluvium and calcareous pelosols overlying Oxford Clay laid down in the Upper Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the archaeological potential of the area. A series of linear enclosures and pit-like anomalies were revealed during the geophysical survey, and fieldwalking carried out across plot 1/12 resulting in the recovery of a single sherd of post-Mediaeval pottery and several fragment of undated brick and tile. Several ponds of uncertain date were recorded within the area, including (DBA.AG), ([BSMR HER 5239](#)), and, situated in close proximity to the site, ([BSMR HER 5240](#)). Approximately 0.5 km to the north-west lays the moated site of Manor farm (SAM 20401), dating to the Mediaeval /Post-Mediaeval period. The recommendations were for a trench evaluation to be carried out prior to construction, with the provision for excavation and/or other mitigation as required.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green
Formatted: Font color: Bright Green
Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Evaluation

A total of five Trenches, 30 to 34, were opened up for evaluation. Two of these yielded significant concentrations of archaeology, Trenches 32 and 33. After evaluation, it was decided to extend these trenches both positive and negative in order to ascertain the full extent of the archaeology present. The resulting open area measured 23m by 67m.

Excavation

Ditch [1252], [1266], [1660] (Figure 16)

Orientated east-west across the northern limits of the site, this feature had a total length of 22m. The profile and depth of the linear varied along its length. The profile of [1252] consisted of a cut 1.25m in width with a steep-sided descent to a rounded base at a depth of 0.58m. A single fill (1251) a dark grey friable silt clay, contained a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics, burnt clay and animal bone. Cut [1266] was a steep sided cut at a width of 1.15m, descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.48m. Two fills were present, a primary fill (1265) revealed a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics dated to the 3rd-4th centuries. The upper fill (1264) yielded a moderate amount of ceramics of the 3rd-4th centuries, as well as burnt clay, slag, animal bone and frequent charcoal. Cut [1660] was revealed as a steep sided and stepped profile, 1.45m in width, descending to a pointed base at a depth of 0.63m (Figure 18a). Its primary fill (1662) contained a copper-alloy sestertius depicting Septimus Severus dated to the late 2nd/early 3rd centuries.

Linear/Trackway [1656], [1654], [1652], [1625], [1520] (Figures 16 & 17)

Approximately 30m in length and orientated north-east to south-west were the remains of a linear or possible trackway. Its width varied between 0.38m and 0.75m, and it had shallow sides descending to a flat base at a depth of between 0.1 and 0.15m. A single fill was present throughout the length of the linear, a compact dark brown silt clay with occasional small stone and flint inclusions. The fill, (1626) of [1625], contained a fragment of slag, being the only find retrieved along the length of the feature.

Spread (1694) (Figure 16 & 17)

Running adjacent to possible trackway (1656) was a 1m-wide spread of compact light grey brown silt clay containing SF 14, a possible slag hearth bottom.

Pit [1658] (Figure 16)

This was an oval pit 1.9m in length and 0.55m wide, orientated east-west with an irregular profile and base descending to a depth of 0.12m.

Pit [1663] (Figure 16)

This was a small sub-circular pit, 0.84m in length and 0.7m in width with irregular sides and base at a depth of 0.12m. A single fill (1664) comprised a dark orange grey/brown compact silt clay, and yielded SF 50, an iron strip.

Pit [1667] (Figure 16)

This was a small oval pit, 0.8m in length and 0.46m wide, with a shallow gradient on its southern edge, becoming steeper towards its north, and descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.11m. A small amount of Romano-British ceramics was retrieved from its single fill (1668), a dark, mottled orange brown compact silt clay.

Truncated Scoop [1294] (Figure 16)

Orientated north-south, approximately 0.5m in length and 0.3m in width with steep sides this feature descended to a flat base at a depth of 0.08m. A single fill (1293), a grey brown clay

silt, contained a small quantity of Romano-British ceramics and a slag fragment. This possible archaeological feature was cut on its southern limits by a recent land drain.

Roundhouse and associated features

Roundhouse Group 1686 [1418], [1421], [1446], [1451], [1454], [1463], [1465], [1467], [1478], [1480], [1482], [1507], [1503], [1516], [1524], [1533], [1550], [1558], [1560], [1599], [1601] and [1693] (Figures 16 & 17: Plate 13)

Located at the centre of the site was a single roundhouse, Group 1686. This comprised a multi-phased structure with associated internal features. The diameter of Group 1686 was recorded at 15m and the internal diameter at 13m. An east-facing entrance measured approximately 5.5m in width and incorporated a right-angled gully and associated postholes. A second possible entrance was located to the west and opposite the eastern point of access.

The main roundhouse outer ditch measured between 1.15m to 0.37m in width, with a gradual sloping gradient descending to a rounded base at a depth of between 0.45m to 0.11m, the shallower points represented by a series of re-cuts along the southern arc of the structure.

Fill content within the ditch varied between one and three distinguishable deposits, with the majority consisting of a mid to dark brown silt clay of firm compaction containing various items of domestic refuse. The single fill of terminus [1418] (Figure 18f) consisted of a rich dark brown clay (1417), containing a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics dating to the 3rd-4th centuries, along with a residual sherd of Samian dating to the reign of Antonine, 138-161 AD. Also present were fragments of animal bone and a copper alloy coin, SF 16. A moderate amount of 3rd-4th century ceramics was also retrieved from the single fill of [1421] (Figure 19i), a dark, olive brown compact clay (1422).

The secondary fill (1448) of [1446] (Figure 18c) contained a small quantity of Romano-British 3rd-4th century ceramics, animal bone and a copper alloy Roman Dolphin brooch, SF 8 (Figure 54d), with possible silver plating. The single fill of [1551] comprised a mid brown firm silt clay (1552), and contained a small quantity of Romano-British 3rd-4th century ceramics, burnt clay, CBM, animal bone and slag.

The single fill of [1454], a possible posthole situated inside the roundhouse and cut by [1451] (Figure 18h), consisted of a light red brown sand silt containing a small amount of Romano-British ceramics of the 3rd-4th centuries.

Terminus [1463] contained a single fill (1464), a dark olive orange/brown clay silt yielding a small amount of Romano-British ceramics. A dark grey brown soft sand silt comprised the secondary fill (1468) of [1467], and contained a small amount of Romano-British 3rd-4th century ceramics (Figure 40.8). The single fill, (1479) of [1478] contained a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics, burnt clay and an animal tooth.

The single fill of [1482], a re-cut of [1451], yielded a moderate amount of Romano-British 3rd-4th century ceramics, along with burnt clay and animal bone along with a residual fragment of Samian dated to 138-161 AD. A small amount of Romano-British ceramics was retrieved from the single fill of [1507] (Figure 18d), a dark, grey brown silt clay (1508). The primary fill (1504) of [1503] contained a small amount of 2nd-3rd century Romano-British ceramics. Single fill (1517) of [1516] produced a small quantity of Romano-British ceramics.

[1533], a re-cut of [1524] (Figure 19k), contained a moderate quantity of Romano-British ceramics, possibly 2nd century, and animal bone within a black brown firm sand silt (1534).

A stamped sherd of Samian ware was also retrieved, an example of Form 31 in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre and dated to AD 160-200.

Eastern terminus [1550] contained a small amount of Romano-British ceramics and animal bone in a single fill (1551), a dark brown silt clay.

A re-cut of [1558] was made by [1560], which produced a moderate amount of Romano-British RB ceramics, animal bone and burnt clay within a single fill (1561), a dark brown orange silt clay. The single fill (1600) of [1599] (Figure 18g) contained a small amount of Romano-British ceramics within a mid yellow grey firm sand clay. Cutting [1599] was re-cut [1601] which contained a single fill (1602), a dark grey brown firm sand silt containing a moderate amount of Romano-British 3rd-4th century ceramics, burnt flint, slag, animal bone and several special finds: SF 54 an iron hobnail, SF 55 an iron sheet fragment, SF 79 an iron object, and SF 80 a second iron sheet fragment.

A shallow part of the roundhouse, [1693], located to the east of the structure, contained a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics in (1694), a friable light grey brown silt clay.

Internal features within the roundhouse consisted of the following:

Hearth [1616], [1687] (Figures 16 & 17)

The central hearth [1616] was oval in plan and approximately 1.4m in length and 1m in width, with moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.25m (Figure 18e). Two fills were present in [1616] of which the primary fill (1618), a light blue yellow firm silt clay with occasional small stones, yielded a small amount of Romano-British, possibly 1st -2nd century, ceramics. A small re-cut [1687] truncated the above to a depth of 0.14m and a width of 0.57m, with the north-east edge cut at a near vertical gradient down to a rounded, sloping base rising at approximately 45° to the top of the cut. Three fills were present, with the primary fill (1621) consisting of a mid red brown firm clay sand, approximately 0.01m thick. The secondary and main fill (1617) was composed of a black grey firm sand silt with occasional sub-angular stones and a small quantity of Romano-British 1st-2nd century ceramics. The upper fill (1622) consisted of mid red brown firm silt sand, 0.01m in depth with no inclusions.

Posthole [1556] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was sub-circular in plan, approximately 0.42m in diameter with steep sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.26m (Figure 18b). Two fills were present, of which the upper fill (1555), a dark grey friable sand clay, contained a small amount of Romano-British 3rd-4th century ceramics along with animal bone.

Posthole [1532] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was a sub-circular feature in plan, approximately 0.58m in diameter with steep sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.12m.

Shallow Pit [1530] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was oval in plan and orientated east-west, approximately 1.28m in length and 0.6m in width with shallow sides descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.07m. A single fill (1529), a friable brown silt sand, yielded a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics and a small amount of slag.

Posthole [1603] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was circular in plan, approximately 0.7m in diameter and 0.1m in depth with shallow sides descending to a rounded base. This feature cut roundhouse gully [1599].

Posthole [1518] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was a small circular feature, approximately 0.44m in diameter with moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.15m.

Small Pit/Posthole [1458] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was sub-circular in plan, approximately 0.3m in width with partially visible sides descending to a rounded base to a depth of 0.18m. A small quantity of Romano-British ceramics were retrieved from a single fill (1459), a mid dark olive grey/brown compact silt clay. This feature was heavily truncated by linear [1460] and a modern land drain.

Linear Slot [1500] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was orientated north-south at the east facing entrance of roundhouse group 1686, and was 1m in length and 0.37m in width, with moderately steep sides, stepped on the western edge, descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.13m. A single fill (1499) produced a small quantity of Romano-British ceramics, burnt flint and animal bone.

Linear Slot [1512] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was orientated east-west, forming a right angle with Slot [1500] at the entrance to roundhouse Group 1686. It was approximately 0.83m in length and 0.53m in width with gradual sides descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.12m.

Posthole [1498] (Figures 16 & 17)

Located at the southern terminus of Slot [1500] was a small circular posthole, 0.53m in diameter with shallow sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.12m.

Posthole [1514] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was located at the right-angled intersection between Slots [1500] and [1512], and was sub-circular in plan with moderately steep sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.26m. Two fills were present, of which upper fill (1513), a red black friable silt with occasional stone/flint/chalk inclusions, contained a small amount of Romano-British ceramics dating to the 3rd-4th centuries (Figure 40.9).

Slot [1501] (Figures 16 & 17)

Situated approximately 0.4m west of Slot [1500] were the shallow remains of a linear terminus orientated east-west into roundhouse Group 1686. Approximately 4.2m in length, with a width of 0.9m, this feature tapered in towards the west, with a gradual gradient descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.15m. A small amount of Romano-British 3rd-4th century ceramics was retrieved from a single fill (1502), a light brown clay.

Linear [1423], [1444], [1460], [1470] (Figures 16 & 17)

Orientated north-south, within and cutting roundhouse Group 1686, was a gully slot approximately 6.5m in length with a variable width between 0.6m and 0.8m. The profile consisted of a shallow gradient descending to a flat base at a depth recorded between 0.16m and 0.27m. A single fill (1424) was present within [1423], and consisted of a mid olive orange/brown compact silt clay, containing a moderate amount of 3rd-4th century Romano-British ceramics. A moderate amount of similarly dated ceramics (Figure 40.12) was retrieved from (1445), the single fill of [1444] (Figure 19i), along with slag fragments and a Mesolithic-early Neolithic flint flake.

Two fills were present in terminus [1460], of which upper fill (1462), a mid olive brown compact silt clay, yielded a small amount of Roamno-British ceramics, animal bone, and SF 13, an iron slag fragment. This feature forms a possible right angled alignment with Slot [1501].

Linear [1649] (Figure 16)

Orientated north-south, this feature was possibly related to gully [1423]. It was 2m long, 0.95m wide, and its profile was moderately steep, descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.3m.

Gully [1565], [1607], [1677], [1692] (Figures 16 & 17)

Orientated east-west, and cutting roundhouse Group 1686, was this shallow, slightly curvilinear gully. It was around 9m long with a variable width of between 0.57m and 1.2m. The profile consisted of a shallow sided cut descending to a flat base, except for [1607] which descended to a rounded base. Its single fill (1606), a soft mid brown grey sand silt, contained burnt clay, ceramic building material, and moderate charcoal inclusions. Two fills were present within [1677]. Both fills (1571) and (157) contained small amounts of Romano-British ceramics and charcoal.

Pit [1679] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was the ephemeral remains of a heavily truncated pit, cut by [1677] and [1643]. Approximately 0.6m in length and 0.52m in width, this partially excavated feature was only visible on the western edge with gradual sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.17m. A single fill (1678), a soft mid brown yellow silt clay, yielded a small amount of Romano-British ceramics (Figure 40.7) and animal bone.

Gully Slot [1562] (Figures 16 & 17)

Orientated north-south and cutting Gully [1565] was a small slot approximately 2m in length and between 0.15m and 0.26m wide. It had moderately steep sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.2m. Two fills were present, the upper fill (1564), a firm dark brown clay, yielding a large quantity of Romano-British ceramics dating to the 3rd-4th century (Figure 40.15), as well as animal bone, burnt clay and a residual flint flake dating to the Late Neolithic-Bronze Age. Also present within (1564) were several sherds of Samian, derived from kilns in Central Gaul and Les Martres-de-Veyre and dated to 98-161 AD.

Gully Slot [1526], [1623] (Figures 16 & 17)

Orientated north-south and cutting slot [1562] was a third cutting of this linear feature. The recorded length was approximately 5m with a width varying between 0.25m and 0.44m. A gradually sloping cut descended to a rounded base at a depth of between 0.18m and 0.21m. The single fill (1527) (also (1624)) of [1526], a black brown firm sand silt, yielded a large quantity of 3rd-4th century Romano-British ceramics, including a burnt sherd of Samian dated to 138-161 AD, along with animal bone, burnt flint and slag. A large amount of Romano-British ceramics and animal bone was also retrieved from (1624), the single fill of [1623] (Figures 19j & 19k), a compact dark brown clay.

Burnt Pit [1554] (Figure 16)

In plan, this was a circular feature, approximately 0.9m in diameter and with shallow sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.21m (Figure 19k). A single fill (1528), a black brown firm silt clay, yielded a small amount of 3rd-4th century Romano-British ceramics, as well as several iron special finds: SF29 a nail, SF30 an unidentified object, and SF31, a hobnail. It is thought that this feature may be related to linear slot [1526], due to the spread of a similar material to (1528) between the two features.

Deleted: s

Gully [1643], [1646] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was a curvilinear gully orientated south-east to north-west, and cutting roundhouse group 1686 on its inside edge. The length of this feature was 2m, and in width it varied between 1.15m and 1.3m. It had moderately steep sides descending to a flat base at a depth between 0.28m and 0.47m. The single fill (1644) of [1643], a mid brown friable silt clay, contained a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics, as well as animal bone and slag.

Pit [1549] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was an irregularly-shaped pit located at the western end of roundhouse group 1686 and cutting gully [1692]. It was approximately 2.5m long, and 0.9m wide. The profile consisted of moderately steep sides descending to a slightly undulating rounded base at a depth of 0.35m. Three fills were present: primary fill (1596) consisted of a green brown clay and contained a large quantity of 3rd-4th century Romano-British ceramics (Figure 40.10), along with frequent animal bone; secondary fill (1597), a dark brown/black clay, yielded the same, as well as slag, possible worked stone, and two Samian sherds dated to 138-161 AD. The upper fill (1598), a dark brown/orange mottled clay, also contained Romano-British ceramics and may have represented a linear located in the eastern corner of the pit, although this was not clear.

Pit [1408] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was shallow, elongated oval in plan, orientated east-west, and 1.3m in length and 0.8m in width. The sides were moderately steep and descended to a flat base at a depth of 0.1m. A single fill (1407), a brown grey silt clay of firm consistency, contained a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics of possible 2nd century date, along with animal bone.

Posthole [1271] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.43m and moderately steep sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.09m. It was filled with a compact mid grey brown silt clay (1272) containing burnt clay and animal bone inclusions. Frequent sub-rounded flint cobbles were present, situated around the edges of the fill and cut.

Posthole [1273] and associated Gully Slot [1275] (Figures 16 & 17)

The posthole was circular in plan, 0.38m in diameter and with moderately steep sides to the west, becoming shallower to the east, descending to a sloping flat base at a depth of 0.07m. A small amount of Romano-British ceramics was retrieved from its single fill (1274), a friable mid grey orange/brown silt clay with common angular flint inclusions. Cut by [1273], on its northern edge, were the remains of a gully slot, approximately 0.4m in length, 0.17m in width, and with a shallow 'U' shaped profile. The fill yielded no finds.

Posthole [1277] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.25m and shallow sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.06m.

Posthole [1279] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.35m and moderately sloping sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.07m.

Working Hollow Group 1414 [1281], [1283], [1401], [1404], [1409], [1411], (1419), (1430), [1441], [1443], [1450], [1457], [1473], [1475], [1477], [1486], [1488], [1490], [1492], [1494], [1509], [1568], [1575], [1688] (Figures 16 & 17)

This is thought to represent a possible 2nd to 4th century 'working hollow', probably resulting from the intensive use of this localised piece of ground. The 'working hollow' consisted of shallow pits, spreads, gullies, and postholes. Some of the cut numbers above relate to exploratory 'sondages' excavated into the hollow, to help determine the nature of some of the often ambiguous cuts and fills which constituted the feature(s).

Posthole [1281] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was a circular feature in plan, approximately 0.26m in diameter with near vertical sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.16m.

Gully [1283] (Figures 16 & 17)

This linear was orientated east-west, situated at the northern limit of the working hollow, was approximately 4m in length, and had shallow sloping sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.07m. A single fragment of Samian ware derived from Central Gaul was retrieved from single fill (1284), a compact grey orange silt clay. This pottery fragment has been dated to the first half of the 2nd century.

Pit [1401] [1404] (Figures 16 & 17)

This irregular feature was approximately 1.5m in diameter with shallow sides descending to an irregular base at a depth of between 0.18m to 0.26m. Two fills were present. Primary fills (1403) and (1406) comprised dark grey brown silt clays containing a moderate amount of Romano-British 2nd century AD ceramics, as well as animal bone, slag, and charcoal fragments. The upper fills (1402) and (1405) yielded a moderate amount of Romano-British 2nd century ceramics, together with animal bone, burnt clay, slag and two special finds: SF 9, a small iron axe head (Figure 54c), and SF 23, a number of quern stone fragments.

Scoop [1409] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was orientated east-west, and measured approximately 0.85m in length and 0.8m in width. Its shallow sides descended to a flat base at a depth of 0.08m, and containing a single fill (1410), a compact mixed orange/brown and dark grey/brown silt clay yielding a small amount of Romano-British ceramics.

Pit [1411] (Figures 16 & 17)

This small pit cut was 0.43m in diameter with gradual sloping sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.1m. A single compact dark grey silt clay (1412) yielded a small amount of Romano-British ceramics, animal bone, slag, and SF11, an iron blade fragment.

Spread (1419) (Figures 16 & 17)

This was a compacted deposit of mid grey orange/brown material, covering and sealing the working hollow area and its associated features. The spread measured 8m by 7m in plan, and was around 0.1m deep. It contained natural inclusions of frequent flint gravels, sub-rounded cobbles and occasional flint, chalk and manganese flecks. Finds included a large amount of Romano-British ceramics dating to the 3rd-4th centuries, animal bone, slag, burnt flint, a residual flint knife (Figure 47c) and flake dated to the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age, and a number of special finds: SF 12 & SF 15 (iron objects), and SF 17 (Figure 50) and SF 18 (Figure 49) (quernstone fragments). A number of possibly residual fragments of Samian were also retrieved; these were abraded base fragments, derived from Central Gaul and dated to the reign of Antonine 138-161 AD.

Stone Spread (1430)

This was a deposit of flint and limestone cobbles, approximate size 0.16m, within a matrix of dark grey brown silt clay. Other inclusions were frequent small flint gravels, chalk flecks and patches of orange sand clay. The dimensions of the spread were approximately 2m by 1.6m, and it yielded a moderate amount of 3rd-4th century ceramics, as well as a possibly residual Samian ware sherd dating to the second half of the 2nd century AD.

Pit [1441] [1443] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was an oval pit, approximately 0.74m in length and 0.72m in width with moderately steep sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.12m. A small amount of Romano-British ceramics and charcoal was retrieved from a single fill (1440), a dark brown clay. Cut by pit [1441] was pit [1443], approximately 0.6m in width and descending at a near vertical gradient to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.36m. A small amount of Romano-British ceramics and charcoal was also present in its single fill (1442), an orange brown friable sand clay.

Shallow Pit [1450] (Figures 16 & 17)

Revealed in sondage [1488] was a shallow pit with a recorded length of 0.63m and a width of 0.59m, descending to a rounded base at a depth of approximately 0.21m. A dark brown grey sand clay (1449) contained a small quantity of Romano-British ceramics and animal bone.

Shallow Pit [1457] (Figures 16 & 17)

Revealed in sondage [1488] were the remains of a shallow pit cut by pit [1450] on its western edge. Its shape in plan was circular, and it was approximately 0.47m in diameter with near vertical sides, descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.19m. A single dark grey brown sand clay (1456) contained fragments of animal bone.

Posthole [1473] (Figures 16 & 17)

Revealed in sondage [1486] were the remains of a small posthole, approximately 0.26m in diameter. A small amount of Romano-British ceramics, together with animal bone, frequent charcoal, and SF 20, an iron nail, were retrieved from its fill (1472), a black, friable silt.

Shallow Pit [1475] (Figures 16 & 17)

Revealed in sondage [1486] were the remains of a shallow pit, 0.51m in length and 0.42m in width. A single fill (1474), a mid grey brown moist clay, contained occasional charcoal flecks. This feature was cut by posthole [1473].

Shallow Pit [1477] (Figures 16 & 17)

Revealed in sondage [1486] were the remains of a shallow pit, oval in plan with a length of 0.38m and a width of 0.23m. Its shallow sides descended to a flat base at a depth of 0.05m. It contained a single sterile fill.

Sondage [1486] (Figure 17)

This exploratory slot was 1.2m by 2.m, and orientated east-west within the working hollow, towards its eastern limits. The sondage contained features [1473], [1475] and [1477], and was filled by (1485), a grey compacted silt clay, 0.1m deep, and yielding a large quantity of Romano-British ceramics dating to the 3rd-4th century, and some animal bone and slag.

Sondage [1488] (Figure 17)

This slot measured 1m by 2.2m, and was orientated north-south within the working hollow, towards its western limits. The sondage contained cuts [1450] and [1457], and was filled by a grey compacted material (1487) to a depth of 0.1m; it contained a moderate amount Romano-British ceramics, as well as animal bone, slag and burnt clay.

Sondage [1490] (Figure 17)

This slot was approximately 2m by 2m and dug to a depth of 0.1m; it was located towards the southern limits of the working hollow. It contained features [1441] and [1443], within a compacted grey silt clay (1489), which contained a large quantity of Romano-British ceramics dating to the 3rd-4th century, along with ceramic building material, animal bone and slag. A fragment of Samian derived from central Gaul and dated to 138-161 AD was retrieved from the grey compacted fill (1489) the sondage.

Sondage [1492] (Figure 17)

This slot was 2.2m by 1.6m and dug to a depth of 0.1m; it was located towards the eastern limits of the working hollow. It contained shallow pit [1509], which had a grey silt clay fill (1510), which contained a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics dating to the 3rd-4th century, as well as animal bone.

Sondage [1494] (Figure 17)

This slot was 1m by 2m, and orientated east-west towards the northern limits of the working hollow. It contained stone spread (1430) within a compact grey silt clay fill (1493), the latter yielding small fragments of Samian dated from 98-161 AD.

Shallow Pit/Posthole [1509] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was oval in plan, and orientated north-west to south-east with a width of 0.67m and a depth of 0.13m. Its sides were moderately steep, descending to a flat base. Its single fill, (1510), a dark grey silt sand clay, yielded a small amount of Romano-British ceramics, animal bone, burnt clay, a quern stone fragment (Figure 51), and SF 7, an iron hobnail.

Sondage [1568] (Figure 17)

This slot was located towards the north-west corner of the working hollow, and was approximately 1.2m by 1.8m in size, descending to a depth of 0.1m. It contained a compact grey fill (1569), containing a large quantity of 3rd-4th century ceramics (Figure 40.13 & 14), animal bone, slag, ceramic building material, and a decorated Samian fragment (Form 30) dated to 160-190 AD.

Posthole [1575] (Figures 16 & 17)

This was a small posthole located at the southern edge of Sondage [1494], was circular in plan, around 0.3m in diameter, and had steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.2m. A single fill (1576), comprised a dark grey sticky silt clay containing a small amount of Romano-British ceramics, animal bone and burnt clay.

Possible Posthole [1688] (Figure 17)

This was the ephemeral remains of a possible posthole. It was quarter-sectioned by a small sondage situated along the north-west edge of the working hollow. This feature was 0.33m wide, with gently sloping sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.15m.

Features south of Roundhouse

Spread [1438] (Figure 16)

This was a deposit of light brown firm silt clay (1439) containing a small amount of 2nd century ceramics and worked stone within a shallow cut approximately 2m in length and 1.5m in width, descending to a depth of 0.08m.

Gully Terminus/Hollow [1434] (Figure 16)

This shallow, irregular feature was approximately 4m in length and between 0.4m and 0.7m in width, with gradually sloping sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.1m (Figure 19l). A small amount of Romano-British ceramics was retrieved from a single fill (1435), a light grey brown firm silt clay.

Posthole [1436] (Figure 16)

This was oval in plan, 0.5m in length and 0.4m in width, and with shallow sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.09m (Figure 19l). A small quantity of Romano-British ceramics was retrieved from a single fill (1437), a mid grey brown firm silt clay. This feature cut Hollow [1434] on its western edge.

Ditch [1431], [1572], [1429], [1611] (Figure 16)

This was orientated north-south, and was approximately 11m in length with a variable width of between 0.43m and 0.95m. Its sides were cut at a shallow gradient to either a rounded or flat base, except [1431] which revealed a steep-sided gradient descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.5m (Figure 19l & 20r). This ditch cut Hollow [1434] along its eastern edge.

Two fills were present within [1431]. The primary fill (1433), a light brown grey firm silt clay, contained a moderate amount of possible 2nd century Romano-British ceramics including a Samian fragment from a possible dish base, dating to 138-161 AD. The upper fill

(1432) produced similar quantities of 2nd century Romano-British ceramics, as well as animal bone, a large flint flake, and SF 19, an iron hobnail.

The primary fill (1428) of [1429] consisted of a soft mid grey brown clay silt with a small amount of Romano-British ceramics as well as occasional charcoal. The upper fill (1427), a firm, dark grey brown clay silt, yielded a moderate amount of 3rd-4th century Romano-British ceramics, as well as charcoal flecks and slag.

Cut [1572] had two fills: primary fill (1574), a light brown grey silt clay, contained a small amount of Romano-British ceramics, including a Samian fragment dated to 138-161 AD, along with animal bone and charcoal. The secondary fill (1573), a dark brown loose silt sand clay, contained a moderate amount of possible 3rd-4th century Romano-British ceramics, as well as metalwork in the form of SF 24, 25 and 26 - all iron nails.

Pit [1416] (Figure 16)

This was an irregular oval in plan, and was 1.45m in length, 0.6m in width, and had moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.26m. A single fill (1415) was present, a soft, dark grey brown silt clay; this yielded a fragment of possible worked stone and occasional charcoal fragments.

Group 1413 [1258] [1299] [1613] (Figure 16)

Orientated east-west, this truncated linear varied in width between 0.95m and 1.45m, and possessed moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of around 0.4m (Figure 20p: Plate 11). A single fill was recorded, and given contexts (1257), (1298) and (1612) (within [1258], [1299], and [1613] respectively). This ditch was cut by ditches [1256] and [1609].

Fill (1257) consisted of a firm mid yellow brown clay silt, yielding a small amount of Romano-British ceramics, animal bone and charcoal. Three pieces of Samian ware bowl rim were also retrieved; these will have originated from Central Gaul, and have been dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD. A small quantity of Romano-British ceramics, along with some animal bone, was also retrieved from (1298), a soft mid brown grey clay silt. Fill [1612], a mid brown silt clay, contained a small quantity of Romano-British ceramics, as well as animal bone, slag and charcoal inclusions.

Group 1295 [1256] [1270] (Figure 16)

Ditch [1256] was orientated east-west and turned north-east terminating at [1270]. The ditch was around 0.6m wide, with gradual sloping sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of around 0.2m (Figures 20o & 20p). Two fills were recorded in [1256]: primary fill (1255), a firm, yellow brown clay silt, contained a small amount of Romano-British ceramics, and a fragment of ceramic building material. Upper fill (1263), a soft, dark grey clay silt, yielded only charcoal inclusions. Terminus [1270] contained a single fill (1269), a firm mid grey brown silt clay containing a small amount of 2nd century Romano-British ceramics, along with animal bone and charcoal (Figure 20o).

Pit [1290] (Figure 16)

This was a small circular truncated pit, approximately 0.7m in width with gently sloping sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.17m. A single fill (1289), a firm mid grey brown silt clay, contained occasional burnt clay fragments, charcoal and burnt flint. This pit was cut by Ditch [1256].

Ditch [1672] (Figure 16)

Orientated east-west, this linear was heavily truncated by Ditch [1670] on its southern edge and also by a modern land drain. It was actually visible in plan, but the ditch possibly

survived as a 5m long feature. It had moderately steep sides, which descended to a slightly pointed base at depth of 0.42m (Figure 19m). Single fill (1671), a grey/green friable silt gravel, yielded animal bone.

Pit [1674] (Figure 16)

This shallow truncated pit with a width of 0.8m had a depth of 0.19m and descending to a rounded base (Figure 19m). A single fill (1673), a friable mid orange brown silt clay, contained animal bone. This feature was cut by Ditch [1670].

Pit and Posthole [1690] [1627] (Figure 16)

Pit [1690] was oval plan, 1.05m in width, and had gradually sloping sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.22m. Situated on the eastern edge of the pit was a small posthole [1627], and cut by the pit. The posthole was 0.34m in width and had near vertical sides, descending to a rounded base.

Pit [1635] (Figure 16)

This was irregular in plan, approximately 0.5m in diameter with gently sloping sides, and descended to a rounded base at a depth of 0.15m. This pit was heavily truncated by a later, possible pit, [1637].

Curvilinear Gully [1544] (Figure 16)

Orientated west to north-east, this curvilinear had a length of 13m and a width of 0.43m with gradual sloping sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.15m (Figure 19n).

Posthole [1546] (Figure 16)

Circular in plan, this feature was located to the west of Curvilinear [1544]. It was around 0.29m in diameter, with near vertical sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.33m. Its single fill (1545), a soft mid brown yellow silt clay, contained a sandstone cobble, 0.11m by 0.06m in size, positioned as if it had tipped into the cut on the latter's north-east edge.

Possible Posthole [1538] (Figure 16)

This was oval in plan, approximately 0.44m in length and 0.28m in width, and with moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.4m. It was located on the eastern edge of curvilinear gully [1544] (Figure 19n).

Pits [1536], [1540], [1542] (Figure 16)

This group of three interconnected, possible pits was truncated by two features [1544] & [1538] in the south part of the site. No relationship could be seen between the pit cut [1536] and both [1542] and [1540]. The latter features may have been part of a single irregular cut, which was sub-oval in plan, with moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base of 0.46m (Figure 19n). All three cuts contained single fills: (1535), (1539) and (1541); these were firm mid yellow brown silt clays. All contained Romano-British ceramics, occasional charcoal, burnt clay. A fragment of possible worked stone was found in (1541), the fill of [1542].

Pit [1297] (Figure 16)

Located towards the southern end of the site was a medium sized pit, 2m in length and at least 0.85m in width. Oval in shape, it had a moderately steep southern edge descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.25m. The northern edge was truncated by ditch group 1413, [1299] (Figure 20q).

Pit/Gully [1615] (Figure 16)

This was the heavily truncated remains of either a gully or a pit, possibly related to Pit [1540]. The feature was circular in plan, approximately 1.1m in width, and descended to a rounded

base at a depth of 0.32m (Figure 20r). A single fill (1614), a light yellow grey clay, yielded a small quantity of Romano-British ceramics and animal bone.

Pit [1639] (Figure 16)

This was sub-oval in plan, and had a shallow 'U' shaped profile, approximately 1.4m in diameter, descending to a depth of 0.35m. Two fills were present: the secondary fill (1641), a dark brown loam, contained a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics from the 3rd to 4th centuries, along with burnt clay, animal bone, slag and occasional charcoal inclusions.

Stakehole [1684] (Figure 16)

This feature was unclear in plan, but was approximately 0.1m in width with near vertical sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.1m. A single fill (1685), consisted of a firm brown silt clay; it contained burnt clay fragments. This feature may possibly have been associated with Pit [1639].

Shallow Linear [1300] (Figures 16 & 17)

Orientated north-south and consisting of a shallow 'U' shaped profile, this was 2.8m long, and 0.82m wide. Its sides descended to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.12m.

Posthole [1633] (Figure 16)

Oval in plan, this feature had a gradually sloping profile descending to a rounded base to an unknown depth. A small amount of 3rd-4th century ceramics was retrieved from a single fill (1634), a dark brown grey compact clay with manganese inclusions.

Pit [1637] (Figure 16)

This possible pit was at the southern end of site, cutting earlier Pit [1635]. It was orientated north-south, was irregularly oval in plan, and was 2.56m in length with a shallow profile descending to an irregular base at a depth of 0.25m. A single fill (1638), a firm dark orange olive/brown silt clay, contained a small quantity of Romano-British ceramics, animal bone and Ceramic building material.

Ditch [1548], [1609], [1670] (Figure 16)

This was orientated east-west, had a recorded length of 11m, and varied between 2.45m and 0.7m in width. It possessed a steep sided profile, which descended to a rounded base at a depth of between 0.39m and 0.52m (Figure 19m). A single fill was present in [1548], (1547), which was a dark grey clay with red/orange silt inclusions that contained a moderate amount of 3rd-4th century Romano-British ceramics, along with slag, charcoal and animal bone . The single fill of terminus [1609] (Figure 20r: Plate 12), (1608), consisted of a mid brown to grey silt clay with red silt inclusions. It yielded a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics of 3rd-4th century date, as well as a Samian ware sherd dating to 98-161 AD, and animal bone and slag. An orange grey silt gravel formed the single fill, (1669), of [1670]. It contained animal bone, worked stone and a moderate amount of 2nd century Romano-British ceramics (Figure 40.17), possibly residual from Ditch [1672].

Gully [1542]

Orientated north-south, and with a length of 12m and width of between 0.65m and 0.95m, this linear had steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.25m. Its single fill (1541), a firm mid yellow brown silt clay, yielded a small amount of Romano-British ceramics, burnt clay, occasional charcoal, and worked stone.

Curvilinear Gully [1665] (Figure 16)

Orientated north-west to south, this gully was 3.2m in length with a width of 0.55m, and had moderately steep sides descending to a small round base at a depth of 0.22m. A single fill (1666), a firm dark grey brown sand silt, contained a large quantity of Romano-British

ceramics, possibly 2nd century, along with Samian fragments dated to 117-161 AD. Also present was ceramic building material, animal bone and burnt stone.

Possible Gully [1681] (Figure 16)

This was the truncated remains of a possible gully orientated south-west to north-east. Its dimensions were a length of 1.2m, and 0.3m in width. The northern edge was near vertical, descending to a rounded base; the southern edge descended at a moderately steep gradient to a depth of 0.12m.

Posthole [1259] (Figure 16)

This was oval, 0.87m in length, and 0.5m in width with shallow sides descending to an undulating rounded base at a depth of 0.1m.

Modern Ditch Boundary [1288] (Figure 16)

This was orientated north east-south west, and ran the length of the site. It was 0.8m in width and 0.5m in depth, and descended to a rounded base. The mid brown clay silt fill (1287) contained frequent modern glass, brick and agricultural debris, as well as moderate amounts of root and twigs.

Watching Brief

The following features were revealed during the pipe-trenching phase of operations.

Ditch [1379]

This was orientated east-west, was around 1.35m in width, had gradual sloping sides, and descended to a rounded base at a depth of 0.45m. A small amount of Romano-British ceramics was retrieved from single fill (1380), a friable mid brown silt sand clay with occasional charcoal flecks.

Ditch [1381]

This was orientated north-east to south-west, and had a recorded width of 3.3m and depth of 0.55m. A true profile was not seen due to the oblique truncation of the feature by the pipe trench. Occasional charcoal flecks were present within a single fill (1382), a friable mid grey brown silt clay.

Ditch [1383]

Orientated north-west to south-east, this feature was 2.09m wide, with moderately steep sloping sides descending to a depth of 0.5m. The north-west edge was slightly stepped, probably as a result of the oblique cutting of this feature by the pipe trench. A small amount of Romano-British ceramics and charcoal was retrieved from single fill (1384), a mid grey brown friable silt clay.

Figure 16: Site 13, plan (scale 1:200)

Figure 17: Site 13, plan of roundhouse and adjacent spread (scale 1:100)

Figure 18: Site 13, sections (a)-(h), ditch [1660] and roundhouse features

Figure 19: Site 13, sections (i)-(n), Phase 6 roundhouse features, ditches [1670] and [1431], and ditch/pit intersection [1536], [1544], [1538], [1542] and [1540]

Figure 20: Site 13, sections (o)-(r), ditch terminus [1270], ditches [1256], [1258], [1299], [1615] and [1609], gulley [1611], and pit [1297]

Interpretation

Phase 1

This is represented by two flint flakes from the fills of later features and an unstratified end-scraper, all with characteristics diagnostic of the Mesolithic-Early/Neolithic period.

Phase 2

This consists of a series of residual flints: four flakes, a possible utilised flake converted into a borer and a knife with a retouched edge. The majority of these finds all bear the diagnostic characteristics of the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age.

Both Phases 1 and 2 indicate possible early activity within the vicinity, either settled or transient, from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

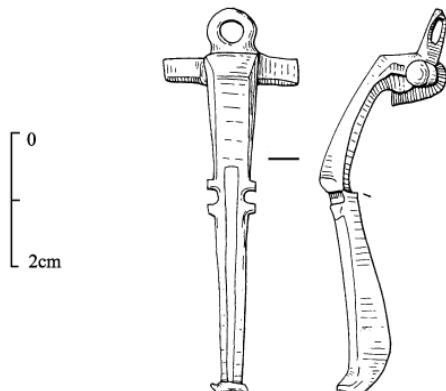


Figure 21: Site 13, brooch from roundhouse gully 1686

Phase 3

This has been stratigraphically phased as pre-Roundhouse Group 1686; no artefactual dating evidence was recovered but is assumed from later material and stratigraphy to be 1st and 2nd centuries.

A linear feature represented by [1656], [1654], [1652], [1625] and [1520], orientated north-south, was truncated on its eastern edge by Roundhouse Group 1686. This enigmatic feature is difficult to interpret. Its extremely compacted fill could indicate that it was possibly utilised as a track-way, perhaps conveniently leading to the roundhouse, but almost certainly leading towards the possible Roman road, BSMR 717 (Figure 3b). The retrieval of a single slag fragment from the fill, in addition to a slag hearth bottom from (1694), indicates metalworking was taking place within the vicinity. Two truncated pits at the southern end of Site 13 and containing a variety of domestic/industrial debris also belongs to Phase 3.

Phase 4

This saw the main period of Romano-British activity dated to around the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries. The main feature is Roundhouse Group 1686.

The earliest features within Group 1686 are post holes [1530], [1532], [1556], [1518] and [1458], hearth [1616], and the initial gully; these contain primarily late 2nd to early 3rd century pottery.

Adjacent to the entrance of the roundhouse was a right angled linear slot [1512] and associated postholes. This small group appears to represent a deliberate measure to decrease the width of the entrance from 5.2m to 3m.

Irregular shallow pits, [1401] and [1404], located 4m east of the roundhouse entrance, also belong to Phase 4. These pits probably represent simple rubbish pits for domestic and industrial waste before being truncated by later features and covered by layer (1419). A high concentration of finds were retrieved from both [1401] and [1404], including quern stone fragments. Fragments Q2, Q3 & Q8 consisted of ill-sorted millstone grit, whilst Q2 had been possibly burnt as the stone's surface had been turned pink. This fragment also has two dressed surfaces and a drilled hole to facilitate the insertion of a wooden handle, features indicative of a 2nd century Roman hand quern. Fragment Q3 is slightly coarser and has been identified as a Roman flat quern of the 2nd century. A small fragment of whetstone was also recovered, composed of coal measures sandstone. The irregular shape of this piece indicates that the function of a whetstone was probably secondary to its original usage.

South of Group 1686, enclosure ditch [1431] may have been a possible continuation of [1672], however, disturbance made this relationship unclear. This linear appears to form an enclosure respecting the roundhouse Group 1686 and is filled with a variety of domestic and industrial debris such as slag, iron work represented by nails and hobnails, animal bone and ceramics.

Ditch [1258] appears to be associated with ditch [1431] although the physical relationship was also unclear. As well as numerous pits, ditch [1258] was also filled with similar debris to that from [1431]. Pit [1290] contained residual burnt clay, flint and charcoal, while Pit [1416] contained worked stone and [1674] animal bone. This material also dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries.

Phase 4a

At the southern extent of roundhouse 1686 was. The pottery retrieved from its fill was of similar date to that from the earlier gully but its stratigraphic position suggests that it was redug shortly after initial construction. Similarly, ditch Group 1295 truncates ditch Group 1413 and contains material from the late 2nd to early 3rd century.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Phase 5

Phase 5 is dated stratigraphically as later than Phase 4, however, the cultural material still predominately dates from the 2nd and 3rd centuries, emphasising the site's use during this period.

During this phase, no construction was apparently made to roundhouse 1686. However, there was an increase in activity within the working hollow/refuse area (Group 1414) adjacent to and probably derived from activities possibly focused in and around the roundhouse. This area saw the addition of four possible postholes, six shallow pits a gully and a scoop. The majority of these features contained small amounts of RB ceramics, animal bone, slag, burnt clay and metal work in the form of iron nails, hobnails and an iron blade recovered from post hole [1411].

The presence of burnt clay within these features appears to be residual and derived from elsewhere as no apparent indication of burning in situ is evident. A small pit [1409] contained a large radial fragment of upper quern stone, Q6 (Figure 51) which is similar to Q5 (Figure 50) in its well executed form, possibly produced by the same craftsman as a speciality item
and dating to the 1st C. Paragraph space needed

To the north of [1409] and on the edge of the working hollow is situated a shallow gully [1283] from which a large triangular fragment of lower quern stone, Q12 was recovered. The initial evidence points to a lower saddle quern although the triangular shape of this piece also lends itself to a rotary quern of 2nd C provenance.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

A spread of firm homogenous silt clay within a shallow cut [1438] was situated approximately 5m south-east of the roundhouse and contained items of discarded domestic refuse including a quern fragment, Q11. This displayed a grinding surface composed of widely spaced parallel lines forming a ‘harp’ pattern of stone dressing. This piece is probably representative of a Roman large hand stone / small mill stone, and dates to the 2nd century.

The remaining features are located at the extreme southern limits of the site and include the remains of two curvilinear gullies [1544] and [1665]. Gully [1665] has the potential to be a possible roundhouse if [1681] is taken into consideration, the remains of a second possible terminus situated at the south-west corner of the site.

Phase 5a

Sub-phase 5a is represented by the ditch [1672] and [1429]. This linear respects the space of roundhouse 1686, and also the orientation of ditch [1431], and Groups 1413 and 1295.

Phase 6

This phase represents activity dated to the 3rd-4th century AD.

The most striking aspect of the activity during Phase 6 was the changes made to the structure of roundhouse Group 1686. This consisted of a number of linear slots and gullies within and truncating the roundhouse. A total of five slots/gullies were present with two linears represented by [1460] and [1501] forming a right angled partition within the north-east corner of the structure. The second alignment consisted of [1562] and curvilinear [1607] forming a narrow 15m partition at the south-western end of the roundhouse. The remains of a fifth linear [1643] was located adjacent to [1562] and [1607] and may possibly have been a re-cut of the actual roundhouse ditch itself. Where there was a right angled linear [1512] was replaced by two postholes, [1514] and [1498].

All the slots/gullies contained a moderate amount of domestic and industrial material along with the ubiquitous presence of 3rd-4th century ceramics. Also found was animal bone, burnt clay and a copper alloy Roman dolphin brooch with possible silver plating from [1446] (Figure 54d).

It is thought that the ring gully itself may still have been in use at this time as part of the overall modified structure. Finds from the gully included domestic and industrial material dated to the 3rd-4th centuries, including a large amount of discarded metal work from [1601] and an silver plated copper alloy coin retrieved from [1418].

The features that comprised the ‘working hollow’ area were levelled with deposit (1419) and stone spread (1430). The amount of artefacts retrieved from this spread was considerable, including a large amount of Romano-British ceramics from the 3rd-4th century, animal bone, slag, burnt flint, residual late Neolithic-Bronze Age flints, CBM, metal work in the form of a hobnail and frequent quern stone fragments. Two of the querns, Q1 (Figure 49) & Q5 (Figure 50) were representative of an upper stone and a radial fragment, the stones provenance

originating from the Ashover Grit and Melbourne rock of the south Pennines and south Derbyshire respectively. Q1 is peck dressed and grooved and appears to have been used for some possible secondary function as the fragment has been crudely re-shaped. Q5 is an exceptionally well made fragment indicating frequent use due to the querns smooth surface. Both examples are indicative of Roman querns dating to the 3rd-4th centuries. A large fragment, Q4 consisted of a dressed edge and a smooth worn grinding surface, forming either a large quern or mill stone approximately 0.6m in diameter.

An isolated pit [1639] approximately 6m south of the roundhouse contained domestic and industrial refuse in particularly RB ceramics of the 3rd-4th centuries, burnt clay, animal bone and slag.

To the northern extent of the site was a 3rd-4th century boundary ditch [1660] that was filled with a variety of industrial and domestic waste represented by burnt clay, ceramics and animal bone and frequent charcoal. The majority of pottery was dated to the 4th century AD. A copper-alloy coin in very good condition was retrieved from the upper fill, (1662). This was a coin of Septimus Severus Sestertius dated to the late 2nd - early 3rd centuries.

A second boundary ditch [1670] orientated east-west is situated to the south of the site and was possibly contemporary with the northern boundary ditch [1660]. This ditch, like the others, contained a quantity of domestic and industrial debris; the single fill of [1670] yielded an amount of late 3rd and early 4th century ceramics.

A further linear [1542], orientated north-south, possibly formed an enclosure at the southern limits of the site with ditch [1670]. However the relationship between the two is unclear due to the intersection of the ditch terminus [1609] and the obscuration by pit [1540]and [1615]. No dateable finds were retrieved from ditch [1542] though it is stratigraphically later than ditch [1429] and Groups 1413 and 1295.

It is worth noting the similarity between ditch [1542] and [1429] and their appropriate spatial relationship to roundhouse 1686 and the possible roundhouse (suggested by ditch terminus [1665]). The purpose of these small ditches may be seen as draining water away from domestic areas to the ditches [1672] and [1670].

The truncated remains of a shallow ditch were revealed approximately 5m south of the roundhouse, cutting an earlier domestic dump [1438]. The function of this linear is unknown and may have been abandoned in favour of the later ditch [1431].

An elongated ovoid pit, [1637] and [1635], located on the south-western edge of the site and adjacent to ditch [1670], may be contemporary with this linear. The fills from pit [1637] ditch [1670] merge to the north and south of each feature respectively and initially present the appearance of a conjoined linear. The pit [1637] is very shallow and its function appears to be that of a quickly excavated scoop into which a small amount of domestic debris was cast. The pottery was dated as late 3rd to early 4th century.

Phase 6a

Phase 6a also describes features of the late 3rd to early 4th centuries AD but stratigraphic relationships suggest that it represents the final occupation of the site.

An irregular shallow pit [1549] is situated at the south-western edge of the roundhouse, truncating the southern edge of the possible partition gully [1692]. The pit contained animal bone of which frequent amounts were retrieved from the primary fill. The subsequent two upper fills contained the usual mix of domestic material and industrial debris in the form of slag. A fragment of an upper Roman hand quern dating to the 3rd-4th C, Q10 was also

recovered. Made from mill stone grit the grinding surface is well worn indicating frequent use. A faint 'V'- shaped hopper was visible around the central eye in the upper surface which may also have incorporated a slight collar around it.

The southern right angled partition [1562] was re-cut by a deeper slot [1623] and [1526], extending approximately 2m into the interior of the roundhouse. This feature may be associated with a small burnt pit [1554] to the south.

Phase 7

This phase consists of a single linear [1288] that truncates the roundhouse structure and several other features. Filled with modern debris, this possible drainage/boundary ditch may also represent an old hedge line that had been removed to increase the size of the field. This can be substantiated by the visual recognition of another linear crop mark to the east which appear to be aligned with existing hedge lines in plot 2/13.

Figure 22: Site 13, plan of Phases 3 to 6 (scale 1:500)

1 page

Discussion

Site 13 consists of 7 phases, initially represented by activity from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age by worked flint artefacts present as a residual finds.

The majority of the phases are confined to the Roman period, first represented by track-way [1656], an occasional scattering of pits located at the southern end of the site, and other finds dated to the 1st century AD.

Initial occupation of the roundhouse appears to have been around late 2nd to early 3rd century, as witnessed from material cultural from that period. During this phase enclosure ditches appear at the southern end of the site along with numerous pits containing domestic and industrial deposits.

There is a second phase of activity during the 2nd and 3rd centuries when ditches were continued at the south of the site, and an area of pits, Group 1414, was established to the east of the roundhouse. Another series of pits was also dug to the north of the roundhouse.

Interestingly, two narrow curvilinear gullies were also established at the southern limits of the site, perhaps representing a second roundhouse. It is notable that both houses would have had the same eastward orientation and a similar arrangement of enclosure gullies. The eastward orientation certainly conforms to Parker Pearson's (1996) and Oswald's (1997) hypothesis.

During this period a localised industry was situated within the environs, possibly producing metal work attested by the presence of slag within the pits and a hearth bottom from the track way overburden.

Secondary agrarian activity was also established suggested by the inclusion of broken quern stone fragments within these dumps. Insufficient environmental data exists to suggest that this was occurring directly in the excavation area. Food preparation may have taken place locally, possibly to supply those individuals themselves and the occupants from a possible villa located close to the area of excavation, and possibly represented by the retrieval of tile and slate from the site.

Imported high status Samian ware also began to be introduced to the area, as retrieved from the roundhouse, pits and 2nd/3rd century enclosure ditches to the south, lending credence to the possibility of a villa being present within the immediate environs. It is worth noting that an area of undulating ground was observed in the fields south west of the site.

During the 3rd to 4th centuries, activity is seen within the 'working hollow', east of the roundhouse. However, whether this represents *insitu* industrial activity or the deposition of industrial material is unsure. When it fell into disuse, the working hollow was subsequently covered with a deposit of stones, cobbles, and industrial and domestic material containing within it a large amount of 3rd-4th pottery.

During this period the roundhouse appears to have been altered with the re-cutting of the southern arc of the roundhouse, perhaps due to the instability of the walls. A series of possible partitions were also established. It is unknown why these changes were made or if the building changed its use. There is no evidence to suggest that the industrial activities occurred within the building, nor is there evidence to support it being used as stock-hold. The most striking aspect is that by the time of abandonment the roundhouse had been used for about a century and would certainly need structural adjustments. This is likely to account for the later 'partitioning'. It is equally as striking that the later features are concentrated solely within the

roundhouse and do not occur elsewhere on the site. This perhaps emphasises the focus on the continual use of the roundhouse. Although each excavated slot through the drip gulley and later ‘partitions’ were sampled accordingly, no evidence was gleaned for highlighting spatial patterning of activities.

A northern boundary ditch was established and further activity in the south resulted in another east-west ditch [1670], possibly contemporary with a north-south gully [1542], together perhaps forming a right angled enclosure.

Plate 11: Site 13, ditch [1613] and various intercutting features

Plate 12: Site 13, ditch terminal [1609] and various intercutting features

Plate 13: Site 13, roundhouse 1686 showing working hollow 1414

Site 14

Summary

Site 14 consisted of a series of enclosure ditches situated along the length of the site. The remains of a possible palisade was suggested by numerous post and double postholes located along the length of one of the central east-west ditches. To the north of the site was situated an enclosure entrance with an associated posthole. The remnants of a possible drip gully and numerous associated postholes were located towards the eastern easement. These and the presence of other pits and isolated gullies have been dated to the early to middle Iron Age with the majority of the early enclosure ditches truncated by a late Iron Age Belgic ditch orientated north-south.

A total of 26 residual lithic artefacts were retrieved from the fills of various ditches and pits, mainly concentrated towards the centre of the site. This assemblage indicates probable activity on or adjacent to the site during the later Mesolithic to Neolithic, and in the Bronze Age..

Site 14 comprised nine phases of occupation based on the recorded findings of artefacts and stratigraphical relationships.

- *Phase 1 Mesolithic to Early Neolithic (10,000 to 2,700 BC)*
- *Phase 2 Bronze Age (2,000 to 650 BC)*
- *Phase 3 Early Iron Age (650 to 450 BC)*
- *Phase 4 Early to Middle Iron Age (650 to 350 BC)*
- *Phase 5-6 Middle to Late Iron Age (350 BC to 100BC)*
- *Phase 8-9 Late Iron Age Belgic (100BC to 50 BC)*

Introduction

A geophysical survey revealed the possible presence of an enclosure field system along with an indication of possible areas of burning to the south of the site.

Location and Topography

Site 14 is located approximately 6km south-east of Bedford, situated at construction plot 2/13, NGR 510270 245290 to 510230 245250, on gentle gradients originating from the Greensand Ridge to the east.

Geology and Soils

Site 14 resides upon calcareous pelosols overlying Oxford Clay laid down in the Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological desk based pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for an extensive concentration of enclosure systems revealed by geophysical survey. This prompted an evaluation by the excavation of four trenches which revealed high concentrations of archaeology resulting in excavation after mitigation.

Evaluation

A total of four trenches, numbers 35 to 38 were opened up for evaluation. Two trenches, 36 and 37 revealed dense areas of archaeology, the remainder contained no features, natural or otherwise. Trench 36 contained a substantial linear orientated north-south along the entire length of the trench, with a second linear orientated east-west merging with it revealing numerous scatters of pottery sherds located along the length of these linear. Trench 37 revealed another linear, orientated east-west across the width of the trench. After evaluation it

was decided to strip the area around Trenches 36 and 37 in order to ascertain the limits and extent of the archaeology. The extended area was approximately 63m by 15m within the limits and constraints of the easement. The site was then excavated by a team of approximately 14 archaeologists.

Excavation

Site 14 revealed a complex series of enclosure ditches and associated pits and postholes. All features are presented in plan on Figure 23.

Enclosure entrance [2067], [2105]

An entrance located to the north of the site was investigated by excavating each of the enclosures termini. Terminus [2067], orientated east-west, had dimensions of 2.56m width and 0.94m depth (Figure 24a: Plate 16). The second terminus, [2105], orientated north-west south-east, was slightly smaller at 1.27m in width and 0.63m in depth (Figure 24b). This deposit contained remnants of Trifolium (Clover) and Poaceae (Grasses) within its upper fill (2107). Pottery from both features safely dates them as middle to late Iron Age (Figure 41.20). Residual finds of worked flint were recovered from (2070), the upper, tertiary fill of [2067] consisting of two chips, one chunk and one core. These finds were unfortunately undiagnostic and could not be dated.

It is possible that [2105] had continued in an arc before being truncated by [2168] and may be associated with the linear [2105] adjacent to [2053].

Posthole [2103]

Posthole feature truncated by enclosure entrance terminus [2105]. This feature was approximately 0.65m in width and had gradual sides descending to a rounded base (Figure 24b).

Pit [2132]

This was located at the north-eastern end of the site and cut linear [2129] and [2151]. The western edge was steep and the eastern edge near vertical at a width of 1.08m and descended to a depth of 0.51m with a slightly rounded base. This feature also yielded several worked lithics including one chunk, one flake and a large pebble/cobble revealing areas where two large flakes had been removed.

Gully [2151]

A terminus with a moderately steep profile and a recorded width of 0.6m on the northern edge descending to an irregular base at a depth of 0.3m. The southern edge of this feature was cut by pit [2132].

Ditch [2129]

Ditch terminus or possible pit with a width of 1.02m and 'V' shaped in profile, descending to a depth of 0.59m. The northern limits of this feature were truncated by pit [2132].

Enclosure ditches [2047], [2050], [2059], [2080] (Figure 25e)

Orientated east-west and truncated by [2168] is [2053], a post Mediaeval /modern land drain which contained two cream ceramic pipes which cut an earlier east-west ditch [2059]. This ditch contained re-cut [2050] which heavily truncated [2059] to a depth of 1.07m and a width of 2.4m. Pottery retrieved from [2050] proved to be late pre-Belgic Iron Age. Also cut by [2053] is a third enclosure ditch [2047] [2080] (Figure 26g). This feature was orientated east-west out of the eastern easement and turned south-west. The dimensions were approximately

1.12m wide and between 0.68 to 0.7m deep with steep sides and descending to a flat base.

Both [2047] and [2080] contained a mix of middle to late pre-Belgic Iron Age pottery.

The primary fill (2082) of [2080], a mid yellow olive silt sand produced a residual utilised flint flake, retouched on one edge and characteristic of the Mesolithic to Neolithic period. The upper, secondary fill, (2048) of [2047] also yielded a single flake with un-diagnostic characteristics.

[2047] may be related to [2041] and [2025]; however, this is difficult to ascertain due to the intersecting of around four linear and three post holes and a large pit, although they share the same date of pottery type.

Posthole [2044]

Truncating [2047] was a substantial post hole [2044] of a depth of 1.07m and width of 2.4m and contained three fills (Figure 25e). Both the upper (2057) and middle fills (2045) contained mid to late Iron Age ceramics. This post hole may be related to a sequence of large post holes and pits aligned along ditch [2047]. This group is comprised of double post holes [2076], [2078] and [2021], [2023], along with [2119] (Figure 26h), [2174] and possibly a large pit/post [2108]. Pottery from [2078] and [2021] was dated as mid to late pre-Belgic Iron Age. Ceramics from [2021] were identified as a type of storage jar from numerous sites in Bedfordshire, e.g. Biddenham Loop. This alignment may represent a palisade enclosure, replacing the earlier ditch represented by [2047], [2080], [2117], [2041], [2025] and [2071].

Environmental evidence was provided within its three fills, (2046) primary, (2045) secondary and (2057) upper. All three contained evidence of *Chess* (wild grass), *Trifolium* (Clover) and *Urtica Urens* (Common Nettle) present within its fills, indicating a possible grassland habitat. The primary fill (2045) contained the possible remnants of backfilled post packing in the form of sub rounded stones, approximately 0.1m in size.

Group 2176 Posthole alignment [2007], [2009],[2011], [2013], [2033], [2035]

The postholes were all heavily truncated and had approximate dimensions of between 0.14m to 0.35m in width to 0.11m to 0.23m in depth. These appeared to be possibly associated with a narrow shallow gully [2005] approximately 0.40m in width and 0.18m in depth and ending in a terminus, orientated north to south-east. Only posthole [2009] yielded any datable pottery (Figure 41.19) as possibly middle Early Iron Age though middle Iron Age cannot be excluded. This alignment may represent the truncated remains of a ring ditch although no indication of a continuation of this feature could be located.

Double Postholes [2021] [2023] and [2076] [2078]

The two double postholes, [2076], [2078] (Figure 26g) and [2021], [2023] were each comprised of a main posthole [2078] and [2021] with dimensions between 0.6m width to a depth of 0.5. This main post was possibly supported or reinforced by a smaller post, [2076] and [2023] between 0.33m in width to 0.45m depth. Both features retained the same profile of gradual sloping sides forming a rounded base, with the smaller posthole being cut at a steeper gradient. It was difficult to ascertain as to whether this additional structural support was located internally or externally as the orientation of the positioning differs between the two. Pottery from [2021] is similar to jars from Weekly, Northants, dated from the middle to late Iron Age. (Figure 41.23) Context [2021] also contained fragments from an oven floor (Figure 46a).

Posthole [2174]

Of the remaining postholes, [2174] was also quite substantial, with an average depth of between 1.02 and a width of between 0.65 to 0.8m in length. [2174] contained a single fill (2072) within a near vertical cut and rounded base.

Gullies [2041], [2029]

Located south-west of [2108] were linears, [2029], [2041]. Gully [2029] was approximately 1.3m wide and extended to a depth of 0.43m, terminating at [2087]. Gully [2041] was a continuation of [2117] (Figure 26h), and also incorporated [2025] and [2071]. It was located to the north-east of [2108], and was truncated twice by post holes [2021] and [2023]. It was finally cut by [2174] whereby it appeared to be cut or possibly incorporated within ditch [2060], [2018]. [2041] contained two fills of which the primary fill (2042) contained a shard of middle to late pre-Belgic pottery (Figure 41.19). [2041] was approximately 5m long, between 0.57 to 0.62m in depth, and an average width of 1m.

Gully [2087], [2029]

This shallow scoop/gully was cut at a width of 0.83 to 1.3m with a moderately steep gradient on the eastern edge becoming shallow on the western edge, and descending to a slightly rounded base. The terminus of this feature, [2087] was comprised of shallow even sides to a rounded base. Small amounts late pre-Belgic ceramics were retrieved from its single mid yellow brown silt clay fill (2030).

Enclosure Ditch [2015], [2018], [2060], [2145]

Adjacent to [2071] was ditch terminus [2060]. This feature was curvi-linear in plan, orientated north-east before turning south and running into the eastern easement. [2060] had a depth of 0.97m and a width of 1.65m (Plates 14 & 15). The profile was steep on the south-east edge while the north western edge was shallow and stepped prior to the steep gradient, ending in a rounded base. This ditch also incorporated excavated slots [2018] (Plate 18) with re-cut [2015] (Figure 20c) and finally [2145] (Figure 26i) located at the southern intersection of ditches.

The terminus [2060] (Figure 20f) contained seven fills. Of these fills, it was the upper deposits which were the most interesting. The fifth fill, (2124), contained a thin deposit, approximately 0.1m in depth with a matrix of cobbles set within a compact silty clay. This deposit yielded frequent animal bone, charcoal and ceramics set amongst the cobbles. The cobbles themselves were between 0.1 to 0.3m in diameter and varied from sub rounded to sub angular. The deposit itself covered an area of 1.3 to 1.5m and was situated on the north-western edge of the terminus, tipping into the ditch. Environmental evidence revealed a significant amount of data in the form of meadow/grassland plants such as *Lathyrus* (Vetchling), *Trifolium* (Clover), *Montia* (Blinks) and Emmer/Spelt. This deposit may have remained open for some time before being sealed by (2123) which also contained Emmer/Spelt. Both secondary and tertiary fills (2066) and (2065), including the upper fill (2062), contained small to moderate amounts of early Iron Age ceramics. The exception to this was (2061), the uppermost fill of [2060] which yielded Belgic period ceramics.

Also present were a moderate amount of worked flints retrieved from (2066), (2065), (2064), (2062) and (2061). These were representative of diagnostic forms from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age and included a total of 12 lithics, seven of which had un-diagnostic characteristics.

Ditch [2018], a continuation of ditch [2060] revealed a feature with a steep sided cut, down to a slightly rounded base (Figure 24c). Two fills were present with the primary fill (2020) yielding evidence of *Trifolium* (Clover) and a possible aquatic plant Yellow Juncus, perhaps indicating the ditches initial function as drainage. A shallow re-cut [2015] was later excavated; the two fills (2017) and (2016) contained frequent early Iron Age ceramics. The southern end of the ditch extended into the eastern easement edge, represented by slot [2145]. A high concentration of intersecting features was revealed in this vicinity including two gullies, a ditch, two possible postholes and a pit. At the easement, [2145] was cut by ditch [2154] (Figure 26j).

Enclosure ditch Group 2175 [2037], [2154], [2168], [2114], [2161]

A main enclosure ditch, [2168], [2037] and [2154] ran along the length of the site for approximately 40m, with both northern and southern ends turning east into the easement. The dimensions of this ditch measured between 1.8m in width and 0.6m in depth. Frequent Late Iron Age Belgic ceramics were retrieved from the primary fills and also from the upper matrix of this feature. Sherds from the same type of vessel, a coarse Belgic grog-tempered fabric, are found in both primary fills of ditch [2114] and [2161] suggesting a contemporaneous infilling. It is highly probable that the whole group 2175 was filled in at the same time.

Also retrieved were three flint flakes, two from (2038), the primary fill of [2037], a light mottled blue yellow firm clay and one from the upper fill (2039), a grey brown sand silt. One of the flakes from (2038) had characteristics diagnostic of the Mesolithic to early Neolithic periods.

Large Pit or Posthole [2108]

Located at the intersection of ditches [2114], [2117] and [2037] was a large posthole or possible pit [2108] (Figure 24d: Plate 17). This feature had a width of 2.3m. The depth was not fully ascertained due to health and safety reasons and was terminated at 1.31m. The profile of [2108] was of a steeply sloping cut on the south-east edge, becoming near vertical and narrow at 0.6m. The north-western edge was initially shallower at 45° before the gradient became near vertical. The shallow north-western edge may possibly have been a deliberate attempt to facilitate the alignment of a large post as the gradient was not stepped in such a way as to indicate its use as a possible well or water catchment feature.

Pit [2108] contained six fills. Of these the primary fill (2109) and central fill (2112) looked the most promising and a monolith <70> was taken, incorporating (2109), (2112) and part of upper fill (2113). The remaining fills were avoided due to their close proximity to land drain [2110] or because they represented the redeposited slumping of the sides. The environmental data retrieved in the form of pollen and seeds from the monolith and other samples provided information on habitat, with Poaceae (Grasses) forming 40% of the floras present. Others present were Trifolium (Clover), Chess (Wild grass) and occasional Emmer/Spelt.

Ditch [2091], [2139]

Orientated south-west to north-east this feature was cut at a steep gradient between 0.72 and 1.5m in width down to a rounded base at a depth of 0.38 to 0.5m. This linear appeared to cut gully [2089] but this relationship was unclear due to the truncation of [2091] by pit [2092] and re-cut [2172]. The primary fill of [2091], (2126), contained a moderate amount of middle to late Iron Age pottery. However, the secondary fill (2140) of [2139] (Figure 26i) contained both middle to later Iron Age and Belgic ceramics.

Pits [2092], [2172]

The remains of a pit truncating several linears at the southern end of the site were recorded along with its re-cut [2172]. In plan the base appeared as sub-square with steep sides descending to a flat base. Dimensions were recorded at a width of 1.14m and a depth of 0.23m. [2172] was recorded as 3.22m wide with moderately steep sides descending to a flat base at depth of 0.56m. A total of four fills were recorded with the two upper fills; (2165) a grey brown silt clay and (2166) a mid orange brown silt yielding moderate to large amounts of middle to late pre-Belgic Iron Age ceramics and a ‘pot boiler’.

Gully [2093]

Orientated east-west, this shallow linear was approximately 0.4m in width and 0.09m in depth with an irregular profile.

Gully [2097]

Situated adjacent to [2093] at the southern end of the site, this linear was orientated east-west with a shallow concave profile and dimensions of 0.68m in width and 0.12m in depth.

Posthole [2095]

This was a shallow sub-circular feature measuring 0.46m in diameter and 0.09m in depth.

Posthole [2099]

This was a circular posthole approximately 0.49m in width with steep near vertical edges which descended to an uneven base at a depth of 0.11m.

Gully [2090], [2142]

Located at the southern group of ditch intersections was a shallow truncated gully [2090]. Orientated south-west to north-east this feature was between 0.6 and 0.75m in width and 0.32 to 0.5m in depth. The profile was a shallow terminus descending to a flat base. The single fill (2125) was a light brown clay and contained a small amount of pottery which bore a similarity to that from [2009] and may be contemporary. The eastern limits of [2090], [2142] were truncated by pit [2172] and ditch [2139] (Figure 26i), although it appears that a second terminus is possibly present at this juncture.

Gully [2089]

Orientated north-south this linear was approximately 1.06m in width with moderately steep edges descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.36m. The upper fill contained Belgic pottery fragmented enough to suggest an intrusive origin.

Posthole [2147]

Located amongst the ditch intersections at the southern end of the site, this feature was approximately 1.02m in length and had vertical sides descending to a flat base. The shape in plan was in the form of a solid figure of eight and may possibly be a double posthole although only a single cut and fill (2148) is discernable. A small amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics was retrieved along with a large sherd of Belgic pottery.

Posthole [2149]

Situated immediately south of [2147], was a small oval posthole, approximately 0.4m in length and 0.18m wide, and with vertical sides descending to a flat base.

Watching Brief

Three features were revealed during the watching brief. One gully [2200] was located after topsoil stripping and two features, a pit [2204] and ditch [2202] were recorded during trenching.

Gully [2200]

A shallow gully [2200] was located at the northern end of the site between the location of evaluation Trenches 35 and 36. The gully was orientated east-west and measured 1.27m in width and 0.26m in depth. A gradual sloping profile fell to a flat base and contained a single dark grey silt clay fill (2201). This fill contained a substantial amount of artefacts regarding the size of the section excavated. This included several degraded fragments of animal bone and the remains of possible iron horse gear (SF34). This artefact bears some resemblance to Roman and even Iron Age examples although this has yet to be substantiated.

Ditch [2202]

Ditch [2202], located during the trenching phase and situated towards the northern end of plot 2/13 was approximately 2.6m in width and 1.1m in depth, orientated north-east by south-west, terminating on the western side of the pipe trench. The profile was shallow on the northern edge and steep on the southern, reflecting the features oblique angle recorded in the trench section. It contained a single fill (2203) which yielded no datable evidence.

Pit [2204]

Pit [2204], also located at the northern end of 2/13, measured 3.64m in width and 0.7m in depth. The profile was steeply cut on both sides, with a break of slope on the northern edge to a flat, sloping base. A single fill (2205) was evident, containing flecks of chalk and charcoal.

Figure 23: Site 14, plan (scale 1:200)

Figure 24: Site 14, sections (a)-(d), enclosure ditch termini [2067] and [2105], ditch [2018], and pit/posthole [2108]

Figure 25: Site 14, sections (e)-(f), ditches [2059], [2047], [2060] and [2071]

Figure 26: Site 14, sections (g)-(j), ditches [2080], [2139], [2142], [2145] and [2154], gully [2117] and postholes [2078], [2076] and [2119]

Interpretation

Site 14 consisted of nine phases of activity:

Phase 1

Phase 1 was represented by the Mesolithic to early Neolithic, dated by the retrieval of worked lithics with diagnostic characteristics typical of this period from across the site.

Phase 2

This phase consisted of a single struck flake with characteristics consistent with those of the Bronze Age retrieved from (2061), the upper fill of ditch terminus [2060].

Phase 3

This phase is defined from pottery as early Iron Age and includes features at the eastern side of the site although their early nature has proved troublesome in revealing their full extent.

The most northerly contexts within this phase were pit [2103] later cut by enclosure ditch [2105], and pit [2129] and linear [2151] both truncated by [2132].

To the south was [2059], a possible boundary ditch orientated east-west and heavily truncated by [2050], [2047] and [2053], respectively. Undated by ceramics but apparently earlier than the cutting features, [2047] is dated as middle Iron Age. Ditch [5059] was truncated so heavily that its direction to the west or northwest is difficult to discern.

Group 2176 and associated possible roundhouse gully [2005] were dated as early Iron Age through pottery with parallels at other similarly dated sites throughout Bedfordshire, such as Salford.

Linears [2142], [2090] and [2089] had pottery of similar type and date to [2005]. The relationship of the two gullies [2089] and [2090], and [2142] is unclear due to their truncation by pit [2092], which is of later date. They are certainly earlier than the south-west to north-east ditch [2139] and [2091] which clearly cuts them and is in turn truncated by pit [2172].

At the southern extent of the site were shallow and isolated features comprising of linears [2093] and [2097], and pits/post holes [2099], [2095] and [2101].

Phase 4

Phase 4 represents archaeology which cannot be confidently placed through dateable evidence as early or mid Iron Age but can be stratigraphically located between features of these two periods.

At the north-west of the site was located an enclosure entrance consisting of two adjacent ditch termini, [2067] and [2105]. The eastern enclosure terminus [2105] was truncated by the north-south linear [2168] and contained a large quantity of early to mid Iron Age ceramics within its two fills (Figure 41.20). Ditch [2105] may have continued south and then curved westwards before being largely obscured by [2168] and [2105].

To the southeast of [2105] and located along the easement was pit [2132] that also cut the earlier pit [2129] and linear [2151].

At the south western limit of the site was ditch [2091], [2139] orientated north-east to south-west, truncated by pit cuts [2174] and [2092], and ditch [2145].

Phases 5 and 6

These phases represent the middle to late Iron Age

Phase 5

This phase classifies the first apparent activity in the middle to late Iron Age and only includes ditch [2047] that truncated the earlier [2059]. After a short north-westerly direction [2047] bore west and has been interpreted the same as [2117], [2080], [2041], [2025] and [2071]. It appears to represent an earlier enclosure that was heavily truncated by a later posthole alignment.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Phase 6

This phase was concentrated at the centre of the site and consisted of post holes located along the route of ditch [2047] and the enclosure or boundary ditch [2018] on the same alignment, possibly forming a palisade. Both series of features contained middle to late pre-Belgic Iron Age pottery.

The post alignment included three single postholes, [2174], [2119] and [2044], along with two double, possibly contemporary postholes [2078] [2076] and [2021] [2023].

The enclosure or boundary ditch [2018] included terminus [2060] which incorporated the distinctive cobble layer (2124). Also included in this phase was the re-cut [2015] into [2018]. Both fills (2017) and (2016) produced middle to late Pre-Belgic Iron Age ceramics. The southern most investigation [2145] was almost certainly a re-cut associated with [2015].

Phase 7

Phase 7 describes the late Iron Age period that preceded the appearance of Belgic wares characteristic of the very late Iron Age/Early Roman periods.

To the north-west was ditch [2050], a re-cut of the Phase 1 east-west linear [2059]. It is however, uncertain if the feature was aligned west or north-west.

Immediately west of the above feature was a shallow gully/scoop [2087] and [2029], which had been cut by the later ditch group 2176.

To the very south were the truncated remains of pit [2117] re-cut by [2174], both of which truncated [2090], [2091] and [2089].

Pit [2204] recorded during the watching brief may also be related to this phase although with no stratigraphic relationships or datable evidence this may be considered tentative.

Phases 8 and 9

These phases witnessed the introduction of Gaulo-Belgic wares attributed to the late Iron Age and early Roman periods.

Phase 8

The most dominant feature perhaps of the whole site was ditch Group 2175, an enclosure ditch orientated north-south which contained Belgic ceramics.

At the south-western ditch intersections are posthole [2149] and the remains of a possible double post setting [2147]. Although both these features contained Belgic pottery they were not stratigraphically paralleled to similarly phased archaeology. Therefore, they have been allocated to the earliest of the late Iron Age Belgic period.

To the west of the above features was a large pit re-cut [2172]. This feature was a re-cut of Phase 7 pit [2092] and also contained Belgic pottery.

Phase 9

Phase 9 is represented by a large posthole/pit [2108] that was located roughly central to the alignment of the Phase 3 postholes. This feature cut a later Belgic ditch [2037], [2168] and therefore may be unrelated to the earlier posthole alignment which was in turn truncated by this ditch. Pollen data retrieved from a [2108] was in a poor state of preservation and offered little information regarding the local environment. There was however a dominant presence of grassland/pasture and cereal pollen, possible derived from crop processing activities.

Also present within this phase may be the shallow gully [2200] located during the watching brief containing an iron ring snaffle with a broken mouthpiece ([Figure???](#)) although undated.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Figure 27a & 27b: Site 14, plan of Phases 3 to 9 (scale 1:500)

2 pages
page 1

Discussion

The earliest material evidence at Site 14 was a number of flint lithics with origins from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. Evidence suggests that these were derived from a knapping floor, on or adjacent to the site although it is difficult to ascertain during which period of activity they relate to.

What is so commonly lacking with such material is evidence of *insitu* deposition and, as is the case here, the physical residuality. It is not until the Iron Age that stratified remains and material are apparent.

These later remains appear to represent a multi phase Iron Age system of enclosures and boundary ditches dating from the early to middle and the pre-Gaulo-Belgic and Gaulo-Belgic late Iron Age periods.

The evidence indicates continual utilisation of the site throughout the whole Iron Age. Features that may indicate habitational areas are abandoned in the early to middle Iron Age when boundary enclosure systems appear to be favoured up until the site stops being used in the late Belgic Iron Age.

The earliest phases indicate a number of heavily truncated small gullies, along with a possible ring ditch [2005] and associated postholes, Group 2176. This feature may represent a round house drip gully, however, there was no other evidence to substantiate this theory. A number of shallow gully termini emerging from the eastern easement may represent the remains of an early field system with all three linear features on the same alignment and parallel with each other.

Later activity revealed an enclosure entrance [2067] and [2105] at the north of the site although its southern limits could not be ascertained due to truncation by a later ditch and land drains.

Immediately south of this enclosure lies an east-west boundary ditch of which only the eastern end, adjacent to the easement, survives having been severely truncated by several land drains on the same alignment.

South of this and emerging out of the eastern easement is a second enclosure [2047] which at some point seemed to have been abandoned in favour of a possible palisade enclosure, corroborated by the discovery of a number of single and double postholes situated along its length. One of these, [2108], was of substantial size and appeared to have had a shallow north-western edge, perhaps to facilitate the insertion of a large post. This feature may however be unrelated to the posthole alignment due to its later truncation of a Belgic enclosure ditch [2168]. This enclosure and possible palisade may have continued in a south-west orientation, however both were possibly discontinued by a larger enclosure ditch [2018], the terminus [2060] truncating the final section [2071] of the original enclosure and later palisade.

A final enclosure ditch [2168] was established during the late Iron Age (Belgic) around 50BC -43 AD. This was substantiated by the retrieval of Belgic ceramics from its fills. The presence of Belgic ceramics within the upper fill (2061) of terminus [2060] may indicate the final discontinuation of enclosure ditch [2018] although this may simply be a levelling deposit as the previous six fills of this terminus have been dated to the early Iron age.

The habitat appears to be one consisting of primarily grassland with Poaceae (Grasses) forming 40% of the floras present. Sporadic open woodland may also have been in the

vicinity, represented by occasional *Pinus* (Pine), *Quercus* (Oak) and *Corylus Avellana* type (Hazel) retrieved from the monolith within pit [2108].

Plate 14: Site 14, ditch terminal [2060] showing cobbled surface

Plate 15: Site 14, ditch terminal [2060] during excavation

Plate 16: Site 14, ditch terminal [2067]

Plate 17: Site 14, large pit or posthole [2108]

Plate 18: Site 14, section through ditch [2060]

Site 23

Summary

Site 23 represents a settlement dating from the early to middle Iron Age with areas of the site still in use throughout the Romano-British period. The settlement evidence consists of two roundhouses, one of which was heavily truncated, a substantial enclosure ditch, six linear gullies possibly for drainage of field systems, and a large possible well pit located at the southern limits of the site. Also present were several pits and postholes, an inhumation and a possible cremation.

A total of twenty five pieces of worked flint were retrieved from the site, six of which were un-stratified, dating from the Mesolithic to the late Neolithic.

From the ceramics and other artefacts retrieved, nine phases of activity have been allocated to Site 23:

- *Phase 1 Mesolithic to Late Neolithic (10,000 to 2,000 BC)*
- *Phases 2-5 Middle Iron Age (650 to 350 BC)*
- *Phases 6 Late Iron Age Belgic to Romano-British (100 BC to 2nd C AD)*

Introduction

A geophysical survey revealed a potential prehistoric enclosure. Also present were strong anomalies, possibly indicating areas of burning, and a series of linears apparently truncating the enclosure, perhaps representing the remains of ridge and furrow.

Location and Topography

Site 23 is located at construction plot 3/22, NGR 508340 243430 to 508130 243360, approximately 2km south-east of the village of Wilstead and 7km south of Bedford. The site is situated on shallow descending gradients from the Greensand Ridge to the south.

Geology and Soils

The geology of the region consists of calcareous pelosols overlying Oxford Clay laid down in the Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological desk-based pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed a potential archaeological feature in the form of an enclosure at NGR 0820 4330 along with a series of linears and positive anomalies. As a result of these findings an evaluation was carried out with the provision for excavation and/or other mitigation as required.

Evaluation

A total of five trenches, numbers 46 to 50 were opened up for evaluation. All the trenches revealed archaeology and the decision was made to strip the area between the five trenches. This resulted in an open area of 222m by 16m, within the constraints of the easement.

Excavation

Tree Boles including [3194], [3201], [3191], [3205] and [3209] (Figure 28a)

Over 100 tree boles were concentrated towards the eastern extent of the site, although not exclusively as they were also present in lower densities in the main area of the site.

Ditch [3198], [3196] and [3192] (Figure 28a)

Orientalted north-west by south-east this linear was between 0.7m and 0.75m deep, the steep gradients descending to either a flat or round base at a depth of between 0.2m and 0.29m. The ditch contained a single sterile fill.

Pit [3211] (Figure 28b)

This was oval shape in plan, had a length of 1.3m, and a width of 0.88m. The pit was cut with gradual sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.3m.

Ditch [3009], [3292] and [3218] (Figure 28b)

This was loosely orientated north-south across the site with a total length in plan of 21.8m. The dimensions varied in width from 0.42m to 1.4m, with a profile descending to either a steep sided flat base or a vertical narrow base at a depth between 0.17m and 0.48m. The profile of cut [3009] contained a narrow slot at its base approximately 0.2m in width and 0.17m in depth. All of the cuts contained single fills except for [3009] which produced three, of which (3012), the primary fill residing in the basal slot, consisted of a dark grey/brown friable sand silt yielding a large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics (Figure 42.31).

Pit [3289] (Figure 28b)

This was sub-circular in plan, and cut ditch [3009] on its western edge. The pit was 1.3m in diameter, with steep sides descending to a wide flat base at a depth of 0.44m.

Ditch [3032], [3036] and [3273] (Figure 28b)

Orientalted north-west by south-east across the site with a total length of 22m, this linear varied in width from 0.7m and 0.97m, and had a profile consisting of either a near vertical gradient descending to a rounded base or one with irregular cut sides. It varied in depth: 0.55m-0.73m (Figures 29a & 29b). All the cuts contained between two and five fills, with the tertiary fill (3034) of [3032], being a light brown sand, yielding burnt clay and animal bone. A small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics was retrieved from the fourth fill (3038) of [3036], a mid yellow/brown soft sandy clay.

This early to middle Iron Age ditch truncated grave cut [3061], an inhumation producing pottery of middle Iron Age date. These latter ceramics may have been residual due to the presence of a land drain which cut the upper deposits of ditch cut [3036].

Inhumation [3061] (3062) (Figure 28b)

Cut by linear [3032] were the heavily truncated remains of an inhumation (Figure 29c). The grave cut was 1.6m long and 1.19m wide. A shallow profile descended to a depth of 0.53m, and contained a single fill (3062), mid dark orange friable sand silt containing the fragmentary remains of an adult cranium SK 3057, and a small quantity of poorly preserved middle Iron Age ceramics plus animal bone. Although truncation had obscured much of the grave cut, it appeared to have a north-south orientation.

Pit [3256] (Figure 28b)

This was an oval pit, and was truncated by gullies [3258] and [3185], so its full depth and profile were not ascertained. It did, though, appear to possess a steep sided cut, to be about 1m in width, and descended to a depth of at least 0.25m.

Pit [3248] (Figure 28b)

Located adjacent to gully [3258] and along the same alignment as pit [3252], this feature was oval in plan with a length of 0.6m and a width of 0.4m. The sides were extremely shallow, falling to a flat base at a depth of 0.14m, and containing a single fill (3344), a soft dark grey brown clay silt with occasional charcoal inclusions.

Pit [3252] (Figure 28b)

Located adjacent to gullies [3258] and [3185], this pit was oval in plan and approximately 1.1m in length and 0.77m in width. The sides were shallow, descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.18m and containing a single sterile fill.

Ditch [3177], [3250], [3258] and [3188] (Figure 28b)

This was a north-west by south-east ditch, with termini at either end orientated westwards. It was approximately 12.5m long, and had a variable width of between 0.32m and 1.1m, with a gradual profile descending to a rounded base at a depth of between 0.13m and 0.44m (Figures 29d & 29f). Single fills were present in each of the cuts from which a number of finds were retrieved. The fill of [3177] consisted of a soft mid yellow/brown silty clay, and had a thin dark lens of material on its surface, probably derived from the charcoal inclusions within the fill. Also present were fragments of burnt clay. A soft, dark brown/grey clay silt (3249) comprised the single fill of [3250], from which a small amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics were retrieved along with charcoal and burnt clay fragments. The single fill of [3258] consisted of a soft, dark brown/grey clay silt, and yielded frequent animal bone, charcoal and burnt clay. Cut [3188] contained a friable green/black silt, (3187), from which was retrieved a large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics (Figure 42.33), animal bone and a Mesolithic-Early Neolithic residual flint blade.

Enclosure Ditch [3260], [3185] and [3282] (Figure 28b)

Orientated east by north-west by south-east, turning due west and then resuming a north-west by south-east direction. This linear varied in width from 0.38m to 0.88m, and had moderately steep gradients descending to a rounded base (Figure 29e). The profile of terminus [3260] was slightly steeper and fell to a flat base (Figure 29d). The linear contained a single fill, with (3259) the fill of terminus [3260], consisting of a soft dark brown grey clay silty and containing a small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics. The fill (3281) of [3282], a dark brown/black silty clay, produced frequent amounts of charcoal and also middle Iron Age ceramics.

Gully [3283] (Figure 28b)

Orientated north-west by south-east, this linear was cut by and possibly incorporated within [3282]. The profile consisted of a shallow sided cut, 0.67m in width descending to a sloping base at a depth of 0.21m (Figure 29e).

Linear [3286] (Figure 28b)

The remains of a shallow north-west by south-east linear, approximately 3m in length, was recorded emerging from the northern easement adjacent to gully [3185]. A gradual sided profile was revealed, with a width of 0.58m descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.17m (Figure 29e). It contained a single sterile fill.

Curvilinear Ditch [3156] and [3088] (Figure 28b)

Located west of ditch [3185] was a curvilinear gully with a length of 25m. Its orientation was initially north and then curved to the west. The width of the cut varied between 0.65m and 0.73m, and had a 'V' shaped profile at a depth of between 0.44m and 0.47m (Figure 29h). A single fill consisted of a soft mid yellow/brown silty clay. The fill (3155), from cut [3156], yielded a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics, charcoal, animal bone and burnt clay, as did fill (3087) of [3088], from which a Mesolithic-Early Neolithic flint flake was also retrieved.

Boundary Ditch [3023], [3019], [3094], [3157], [3226] and [3309] (Figures 28b & 28c)

This was a curvilinear ditch orientated east by west from the southern easement which changed orientation due west before curving and leaving the site via the western easement. In total it was 56m long, with a variable width of between 2.1m and 2.4m, and a depth of 0.92m-1.25m. Its profile consisted mainly of a steep-sided 'V' shape, although [3094] became more gradual towards its base. The cut of [3023] was steep-sided descending to a rounded base, prior to being re-cut as [3019] with a more consistent 'V' shaped profile (Figures 30i, 30j & 30k).

A high concentration of finds were retrieved from all cuts except for [3309] located towards the western easement. Cut [3023] contained the remnants of a primary fill (3024), an orange/brown firm sand silt clay yielding a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics. This was cut in turn by re-cut [3019] containing six fills. The secondary fill (3026), a dark grey/brown sand silt, produced a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics, burnt clay and animal bone, as did the fourth fill (3022), a mid orange grey/brown sandy silt. The fifth fill (3021), a firm mid orange grey/brown sand silt, contained the highest frequency of finds in this cut; these included a moderate quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics, burnt clay, animal bone and worked flint in the form of a utilized flake and a Mesolithic-Early Neolithic scraper. The upper fill (3020), an orange brown/grey sandy silt, contained a large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics (Figure 42.32 & 35).

Cut [3094] contained three fills. The primary fill (3097), a mid grey orange/brown friable silty clay, yielded a large quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics along with animal bone and two flint flakes diagnostic of the Mesolithic-Early Neolithic. The secondary fill (3096), a dark grey/brown friable silty clay, contained a large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics, animal bone, burnt clay and numerous worked flints consisting of four flakes, one chip, one blade dated to the Mesolithic-Early Neolithic and a chopping tool with characteristics diagnostic of the Mesolithic-Late Neolithic. The upper fill (3095), a mid orange/brown friable silty clay, produced a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and animal bone.

The central cut [3157] was situated on the apex of the east-west orientation and contained six fills. Primary fill (3158), a compact dark orange brown clay, contained a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and animal bone. The subsequent fills were devoid of finds except for the fourth fill (3173), a dark olive grey/brown compact silty clay, which yielded a moderate amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and animal bone.

Cut [3226] was located at the point of truncation of roundhouse Group 3519 and contained five fills. The primary fill (3225), a firm orange grey clay, contained a small amount of animal bone. A small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and animal bone was retrieved from the secondary fill (3224), a loose orange grey silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The fourth fill (3223), a dark brown silty clay, produced a small amount of middle Iron age ceramics, and the final upper fill (3221), a yellow brown silty clay of firm consistency, produced a small amount of animal bone.

Linear [3165], [3170] (Figure 28b)

Orientated north-east to south-west, this linear slot had a total length of 5.5m. The profile of [3165] was cut at a width of 0.56m, with steep sides descending to a flat base. Cut [3170] was slightly narrower at 0.38m, although both cuts were 0.2m deep. Both contained single fills yielding no finds, apart from occasional charcoal present in (3171), the dark grey silt of [3170].

Pit [3247] (Figure 28b)

This sub-square pit cut large boundary ditch [3094]. Approximately 1.5m in width, this feature had gradual sloping sides descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.43m. A large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics was retrieved from its single fill (3246), a firm yellow/brown silt clay.

Large Irregular Pit [3263] (Figure 28b)

This large pit was orientated north-south from the southern easement. Its dimensions were 5m in length and 3.08m wide at the recorded section; its profile was moderately steep on the southern edge, falling to a flat base at a depth of 0.53m. Three fills were present, none of which yielded any datable evidence.

Large Irregular Pit [3005] (Figures 28b & 28c)

Approximately 6m in length and orientated north-south from the southern easement, this irregular pit cut an earlier phased pit [3003]. It had moderately steep sides descending to a depth of 1.2m (Figure 30l). Five fills were present, all of which contained finds except for the primary fill. The secondary fill (3008), a mid grey olive/brown compact silt clay, produced a large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics (Figure 42.30), animal bone, burnt clay, a residual flint flake and a fragment of copper alloy sheet, SF62. The tertiary fill (3028), a mid olive ginger/brown compact silty clay, yielded a moderate amount of middle Iron Age ceramics (Figure 42.34), animal bone, burnt clay and a fragment of quern stone (Figure 52). A small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and burnt clay were retrieved from the fourth fill (3007), a dark blue grey compact silty clay. The upper fill (3006), an orange grey/brown compact silty clay, contained a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and animal bone.

Pit [3003] (Figures 28b & 28c)

This sub-oval/irregular feature was cut by pit [3005], and was 6.1m long and 3.5m wide. A moderate gradient descended 0.27m to an unclear base due to truncation by pit re-cut [3005] (Figure 30l).

Pit [3030] (Figure 28c)

This was oval in plan, approximately 0.85m in diameter with near vertical sides, and descended to an undulating base at a depth of 0.3m.

Roundhouse Group 3521 [3084], [3074] and [3163] (Figure 28b & 28c)

The possible truncated remains of a roundhouse were located east of roundhouse Group 3519. This group consisted of a shallow curvilinear gully approximately 9m in length with a variable width of between 0.45m and 0.61m. The profile was moderately steep, descending to a narrow rounded and tapered base at a depth between 0.2m and 0.36m. The primary and secondary fills of [3074] consisted of (3075), a plastic dark grey silt clay, and (3076), a plastic brown clay, both containing animal bone and occasional charcoal. A large amount of middle Iron Age ceramics was retrieved from (3164), the primary fill of [3163], a compact dark grey/brown silty clay.

Features possibly associated with Group 3521 are a number of internal postholes and gullies, as follows:

Posthole [3091] (Figure 28b)

This was oval in plan, approximately 0.75m in width with a moderately steep gradient on the western edge, and descending to a sloping flat base. The western edge was cut initially at 40° becoming near vertical approximately halfway down. The fills appeared as vertical slumps or deposits. The primary fill (3092) consisted of a dark grey silt with occasional charcoal inclusions and animal bone. Charcoal was also present within the secondary fill (3093), an orange brown sandy clay situated on the southern edge.

Posthole [3271] (Figure 28b)

This was sub-circular in plan, approximately 0.74m in width with moderately steep sides, and descended to a flat base at a depth of 0.34m.

Posthole [3269] (Figure 28c)

This was a shallow irregular oval, 0.58m in length and 0.5m in width, with near vertical edges descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.23m. A small quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics was retrieved from its single fill (3270), a dark brown friable silt clay with charcoal inclusions.

Posthole [3304] (Figure 28c)

This was sub-oval in plan, and located 1m north of [3269]. It was 0.58m wide, and had vertical sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.22m. Its single fill (3303), an orange brown firm silt clay, contained a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics in a poor state of preservation.

Posthole [3323] (Figure 28c)

Situated towards the western limits of roundhouse 3521 was a small oval posthole. This feature was 0.38m wide, with a moderately steep gradient descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.1m (Figure 31o). A single fill (3322) was present, consisting of an orange brown friable silt clay with frequent charcoal inclusions.

Stakehole [3321] (Figure 28c)

Located adjacent to [3323] were the remains of a stakehole approximately 0.15m in width, with steep sides descending to a rounded base. A loose orange silt clay (3320) represented the single fill of [3321], which also contained a very high frequency of charcoal inclusions, approximately 90% of the fill content. Both [3323] and [3321] were located on the southern edge of an area of staining possibly related to roundhouse 3521.

Gully Terminus [3305] (Figure 28c)

This was a small linear terminus, approximately 0.9m in length and cut by enclosure ditch [3226]. The profile consisted of a very shallow gradient descending to a slightly rounded base. It contained a single sterile fill.

Roundhouse Group 3519 [3212], [3215], [3307], [3227], [3220], [3081], [3071], [3063], [3079], [3230], [3240], [3233], [3167], [3313], [3242] and [3327] (Figure 28c)

This consisted primarily of an infilled gully, with a diameter of 12.7m (external) and 11.7m (internal). A north-west facing, 5m-wide entrance provided access to the structure. The gully of the roundhouse varied between 0.26m and 0.95m in width, and had a steep-sided profile descending to either a slightly rounded, or a pointed base, at a depth of 0.14m to 0.57m (Figures 31p, 31q & 31r).

The secondary fill of [3212], (3214), consisted of a black-grey silty clay and contained moderate amounts of middle Iron Age ceramics. A dark grey/black silty clay (3217) comprised the secondary fill of [3215], and also yielded a large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics (Figure 42.25) as well as animal bone and burnt clay. The single fill of [3308]

consisted of a dark orange/brown silty sandy clay (3307), and contained moderate amounts of middle Iron Age ceramics and animal bone.

Terminus [3167] produced three fills, of which the primary fill, (3245), a grey-black silt, yielded a large amount of middle to late Iron Age ceramics (Figure 42.27, 28 & 29), animal bone and charcoal. The secondary fill (3169), a dark brown/black silt, also produced the same quantities of finds as well as burnt clay. The upper tertiary fill (3168), contained no finds apart from occasional charcoal. A moderate amount of middle Iron Age ceramics, along with animal bone and residual worked flint flake, was retrieved from the single fill of [3234], a dark brown silt clay (3234).

Hearth [3242] (Figure 28c)

Located within the roundhouse at a central position was a possible hearth. The feature was approximately 1.2m in length and 0.7m in depth. In profile it had shallow sloping sides descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.12m. The upper fill (3244) consisted of a layer of heat-affected sandstones each between 0.05m and 0.15m in size, within an orange/brown sand. The primary fill (3243), comprised a light olive grey/brown sandy silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of heat-affected stones.

Posthole [3327] (Figure 28c)

This was a sub-circular feature, 0.28m in diameter, with near vertical sides descending to a rounded base to a depth of 0.25m. A single fill (3328), consisting of dark grey/brown loam, yielded a small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics and charcoal.

Linear Scoop [3313] (Figure 28c)

Orientated north-west to south-east and located within roundhouse Group 3519, was the remains of a scoop or possible linear [3313]. The western edge was truncated by a land drain, the surviving shallow feature 0.7m in width and 0.11m in depth with a visible length in plan of 3.7m. Its single fill (3314), a soft mid grey brown silty clay containing a large quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics.

Ditch [3067] [3296] (Figure 28c)

Orientated north-south, this linear consisted of a steep-sided cut, 1.04m in width, descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.6m. Three fills were present in [3296], of which the secondary fill (3298), an orange brown silty clay, produced a small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics (Figure 42.24). The primary fill (3299), a dark grey brown silty clay, yielded a small amount of degraded animal bone. Ditch [3296] may possibly be a continuation of ditch [3067].

Pit [3065] (Figure 28c)

This sub-square pit cut truncated ditch [3067] and consisted of a steep-sided cut, more gradual to the west, approximately 2.2m in length and 1.46m in width, and descending to a flat sloping base at a depth of 0.5m.

Postholes/Shallow Scoops [3000] [3013] [3058] [3348] [3350] [3352] (Figure 28c)

Situated approximately 7m south-west of roundhouse Group 3519 was an area of possible postholes/shallow scoops or an area of animal or plant disturbance. Feature [3013] was oval in plan, 0.34m in width with a vertical western edge, and descended to a rounded base at a depth of 0.59m, the eastern gradient being shallower at 45°. The secondary fill (3015) consisted of a central irregular core of compact dark grey/black silt clay containing a small amount of undated ceramics in a poor state of preservation.

West of [3013] were three possible post holes/shallow scoops, [3348], [3350] and [3352]. [3348] was shallow-sided with a rounded base, and was 0.6m long, 0.45m wide and 0.09m

deep. Cut [3350] was 0.66m long, 0.28 m wide and 0.05m deep, and had a flat base and shallow sides. Cut [3352] had moderately steep-sides descending to a rounded base, was 0.76m long, 0.35m wide, and 0.16m deep.

Feature [3000] was oval in plan with a concave base, and was 0.8m long, 0.72m wide, and 0.33 m deep. Cut [3058] was also oval and concave, and was 1.65m wide and 0.26 deep.

Curvilinear Gully [3016], [3055], [3238], [3236], [3287] and [3090] (Figure 28c)

The eastern three sections of this curvilinear feature consisted of moderately steep cuts descending to flat bases. The dimensions of [3016], [3055] and [3238] varied between 0.8m and 0.95m in width, and were 0.2m to 0.36m in depth (Figures 31s, 31t & 31u).

All of the cuts contained single fills, except for [3016] which had two deposits. The single fill of [3055] consisted of (3056), a sticky plastic brown clay containing a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and charcoal. A small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics was also retrieved from fill (3239) of the slightly steeper cut of [3238], a loose orange/brown sandy grit.

Gully [3236] consisted of a steep-sided profile, 0.6m in width and descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.23m. A single fill (3237), comprised an orange/brown silt containing a small amount of possible middle Iron Age ceramics, animal bone and burnt clay. This appears to have been an initial terminus of perhaps a shorter gully before being extended to the south-west.

The profile of [3287] was funnel-shaped, was 1.42m wide, with initial gradual sloping sides descending at a vertical gradient to a flat base at a depth of 0.43m. A single fill (3288) consisted of a dark grey orange/brown sand and yielded animal bone and burnt clay.

Terminus [3090] was 0.59m wide, with moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.32m. A small quantity of possible middle Iron Age ceramics, along with a flint blade of Mesolithic-Early Neolithic date, was retrieved from a single fill (3089), a friable mid brown grey silt clay.

Gully/Slot [3315], [3317] (Figure 28c)

This was a small curvilinear gully approximately 4m in length with a moderately steeply cut profile, and with a width of between 0.3m and 0.43m, and descending to a small round pointed base at a depth of 0.1m. The single fills, (3316) and (3318), dark brown black sticky clays, yielded a moderate amount of middle Iron Age ceramics possibly derived from the same vessel.

Pit [3300] (Figure 28c)

This oval pit was approximately 0.93m in length with moderately steep sides descending to an irregular base. It contained two fills. The primary fill (3301), a grey/black sand silt, yielded a small quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics and frequent charcoal inclusions.

Ditch [3340], [3338], [3341] and [3339] (Figure 28c)

Orientated south-east to north-west, this large ditch had three re-cuts, and ran into the possible well pit [3324] (Figure 31w). Cut [3340] was approximately 2.9m in width with moderately steep sides descending to an (unexcavated) base at a depth of (at least) 1.1m. A small quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics was retrieved from fill (3337), a blue grey silt clay with chalk inclusions.

Re-cut [3338] was situated on the western edge of cut [3340]. This was approximately 0.92m in width with moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.58m.

Re-cut [3341] was in contrast located on the eastern edge of cut [3340]. This feature consisted of a steep sided gradient, 2.05m in width, descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.81m. Its single fill (3334) a red brown sand gravel, contained a large amount of middle Iron Age ceramics, animal bone, two flint flakes of Mesolithic-Neolithic date and a possible fragment of worked stone.

A third re-cut [3339] was situated between [3341] and [3338]. Cut [3339] was 0.92m in width with shallow gradients descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.22m.

Large Possible Well Pit [3324] (Figure 28c)

Oval in plan, this large pit had a diameter of 6m and a depth of at least 2.4m. It was excavated to this depth by stepping-in and excavating the feature via a quadrant. The total depth was not ascertained as health and safety restrictions took precedence. Prior to back-filling, the unexcavated lower fill surface was protected with ‘terram’ matting. The pit’s profile was began as a moderately steep cut, which then continued at a near vertical descent (Figures 32x & 32y).

Five fills were recorded. The lower most fill (3333), a mid blue grey clay, contained a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and a residual Late Mesolithic-Early Neolithic flint flake. The secondary fill (3332), a mixed yellow orange/brown firm silt clay, contained a moderate amount of Romano-British ceramics and residual Iron Age ware. A fragment of Samian was also retrieved, originating from central Gaul during the reign of the Roman emperor Hadrian or Antonine. This fragment had a plain rim with a decorative band of ovolo.

The tertiary fill (3331), a dark ginger brown silt clay, yielded a moderate amount of Late Iron age Belgic ceramics (Figure 42.36), animal bone and two flint flakes of Mesolithic-Neolithic date. A moderate amount of middle Iron Age ceramics was present within the fourth fill (3330), a mid ginger grey brown firm silt clay, along with animal bone and eight flint flakes, one utilized flake and a core fragment, all residual finds from the Mesolithic-Neolithic.

The upper fill (3329), a dark olive orange/brown compact silt clay, contained a small amount of Romano-British ceramics and residual Iron Age ware, along with many animal bone fragments.

Cremation [3154] (Figure 28c)

This possible cremation cut was ovoid in plan and located at the western limits of the site adjacent to large pit [3324]. The feature was 0.43m wide and in profile had a sharp brake of slope to a flat base at a depth of 0.15m (Figure 31v). A single fill (3153), a dark grey friable sandy silt, contained a small amount of possible late Iron Age ceramics, animal bone, burnt bone and charcoal.

Watching Brief

Gully [3508]

This was orientated north-east to south-west and consisted of a cut with a ‘U’ shaped profile approximately 0.7m in width and descending to a depth of 0.25m.

Ditch [3510]

Orientated north-east to south-west, this feature had moderately sloping sides, cut at 3.25m in width. The gradient descended to a wide ‘V’ shaped profile at a depth of 1.27m, and it contained three fills from which no finds were retrieved.

Pit [3515]

The shape in plan of this feature was not visible due to spoil and machine tracking over the area. In profile it was 2.5m wide at the top, was cut at a moderately steep gradient, and descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.95m.

Pit [3516]

This was sub-circular shape in plan and approximately 1m in width with near vertical sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.65m. It contained a single fill from which no finds were retrieved, apart from visible charcoal inclusions.

Figure 28a to 28c: Site 23, plan (scale 1:200)

3 pages

Page 1

Site 23 Plan

Page 2

Figure 29: Site 23, sections (a)-(h), ditches and gullies [3273], [3032], [3260], [3258], [3282], [3283], [3177] and [3088], grave [3061], and pit [3247]

Figure 30: Site 23, sections (i)-(l), ditch [3019], [3157] and [3226], and pit [3005] and [3003]

Figure 31: Site 23, sections (m)-(w), roundhouse Groups 3521 and 3519 features, gully [3016], [3238], [3236] and [3090], cremation pit [3154], and ditch [3341], [3340] and [3338]

Figure 32: Site 23, sections (x)-(y), well-pit [3324]

Interpretation

Phase 1

This is represented by the 25 pieces of worked flint retrieved from the fills of various pits and linear features across the site. All the examples have characteristics diagnostic of the Mesolithic and early Neolithic period, and the presence of scrapers, utilised flakes, a chopping tool and a flake with use wear indicate possible occupation on or within the vicinity of the site.

Phase 2

This consisted of ditch [3067] and [3296], and was cut by pit [3065] (Phase 2a). A fingernail impressed rim from the secondary fill of [3296] suggests a date consistent with the middle Iron Age. Pit [3065] was dug into [3067] and cut by roundhouse 3519. No finds were recovered but its stratigraphic relationship between the roundhouse and ditch [3067] confidently suggests its phasing as subsidiary to Phase 2. Similarly phased and also without any finds, pit [3256] was truncated by Phase 4 gullies [3258] and [3185].

Phase 3

This represents the main period of occupation, and is represented mainly by roundhouse Groups 3519 and 3521.

Roundhouse 3519 possessed a west facing entrance as opposed to the more usual east facing (Oswald, 1997).

The gully fill of this roundhouse consisted of black/brown silt containing a moderate amount of middle to late Iron Age ceramics, animal bone and burnt clay. The latter may well be residual and not derived from the structure itself. There is no evidence that the gully was meant to have a structural purpose, and as is assumed to have been for drainage.

In the gully, pottery appears to have been concentrated towards the entrance, within termini [3212] and [3167] containing the majority, and with [3167] the most. Hill (1995) suggests this resulted from frequent sweeping of the dwelling's floor. Slowekowski (this publication) proposes that the large amount of pottery from different vessels suggests the house's longevity as a domestic focus.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

The roundhouse gully at excavation slots [3167] and [3233] also contains pottery in the upper fills, which is attributed to the late Iron Age/Belgic period. At this point in the drip gully, there is an increase in girth, perhaps denoting some significance. The gully may not only have been the focus of deposition during the middle Iron Age, but at some point during the late Iron Age the feature may have been re-dug and pottery also deposited at this time.

Overall, the pottery evidence indicates infilling of the gully some point between the middle and late Iron Age, with occupation probably concentrated during the middle Iron Age.

Three internal features were identified within the roundhouse. Feature [3313] was a shallow linear yielding a large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics, in particular fragments from three individual vessels with scoring typical of the middle Iron Age. A small posthole [3327] situated near terminus [3167] contained a small amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics, possibly residual or an indication of an earlier phase of habitation in the roundhouse.

The remains of a possible second roundhouse, Group 3521 was situated east of Group 3519, and is represented by a single northern curvilinear gully and a soil stain at its western limits. A large quantity of middle Iron Age ceramics was retrieved from this gully and also from the

six associated postholes east and south of the group. A possible terminus is represented by [3305], truncated by the main enclosure 3518.

Two meandering ditches, [3016] and [3088], possibly represent an enclosure around and respecting the two roundhouses, although of course one cannot say which was constructed first, the enclosure or the roundhouses within. One of the enclosures, ditch [3016], appears to incorporate a second linear, [3236], which may possibly be an earlier phase of the enclosure.

Part of another possible enclosure is represented by two gullies [3185] and [3258], with a small quantity of middle to late Iron Age ceramics retrieved from both. A large amount of burnt clay was also retrieved from ditch [3258], possibly representing discarded residue from an (unlocated) kiln within the area. The main ditch of this enclosure runs parallel with the easternmost ditch of the meandering enclosure, one appearing to respect the other.

An inhumation [3061] was present towards the southern easement, truncated by ditch [3032]. This contained the fragmented remains of SK3057, the skull of a human adult. These consisted of 52 fragments of bone with 28 cranial vault, 24 cortical and 2 unsided fragments of parietal, and dated to the middle Iron Age by the presence of pottery within the grave fill.

Phase 4

This is represented by a series of three straight ditches [3198], [3009] and [3032], orientated loosely north to south across the site. These probably represent Iron Age field systems boundary ditches, although if contemporary, ditches [3009] and [3032] could possibly also have functioned as a drove-way for livestock. Also included in this phase are pit [3289] and linear [3296], as dated by pottery.

Phase 5

This is represented by ditch [3226], a large, irregular, curvilinear ditch, and orientated north-west to south-east across the site, truncating both roundhouse groups in the process. The ditch appears to be respecting a feature, or features, not located within the easement, and therefore possibly indicates a later shift of activity. Numerous finds were retrieved from the fills of ditch [3226], including the majority of the worked residual flints, as well as burnt clay, animal bone and middle Iron Age ceramics.

Phase 6

At the southern limits of the site was a large ditch [3340], which appeared to feed into a later phase well pit [3324]. The ditch contained a small amount of middle Iron Age ceramics and little else. It was cut at a later date by three shallow re-cuts into its surface, representing at least two definite phases of activity. The functional relationship between the ditch and the well pit was not actually clear, although [3340] appears rather large to be constructed simply as a drainage ditch.

This the well pit itself (delete)was a substantial feature, at least 2.4m deep but not fully excavated due to health and safety restrictions. The pit contained a mixture of pottery ranging from the middle Iron Age to the Roman period, including a sherd of Samian. The earlier material has been considered as residual and it has been assumed that the pit was probably in use during the Belgic Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

A sample taken from the primary fill of the pit provided a little environmental data, indicating the presence of Rubus or brambles growing in the vicinity.

Adjacent to the well pit was cremation pit [3154], which contained late Iron Age / Belgic and Romano-British ceramics and burnt human bone. The fragmentary remains of the a skull were thinner than expected and may possibly relate to either a juvenile or a child, or possibly

faunal. In all 177 fragments of cremated bone were retrieved: 45 cranial, and 132 unidentified fragments, all of which had been possibly cremated at high temperatures due to the fully oxidised condition of the bone. The total weight of the remains was calculated at 91g, less than average for a human cremation which probably either indicates later truncation of this feature or a singular deposit of pyre debris.

Figure 33a to 33c: Site 23, plan of Phases 2 to 6 (scale 1:500)

3 pages

page 1

page 2

page 3

Discussion

Site 23 represents an Iron Age settlement, initially dating from the early to middle Iron Age, and expanding during the middle Iron Age with later activity during the late Iron Age and Romano-British period.

An assemblage of worked flints recovered from the fills of later features indicates activity on or adjacent to the site pre-dating the early to middle Iron Age. Present among this collection of flints is are two scrapers, a chopping tool, two utilised flakes, and a blade and flake with use wear. These lithics all bear diagnostic characteristics of the Mesolithic to early Neolithic period, with the utilised flakes indicating a more permanent presence within the vicinity, perhaps situated on higher ground along the Greensand ridge to the south.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

The early to middle Iron Age is represented by probably a single linear feature and pit, both heavily truncated by later middle Iron Age ditches and a roundhouse. Several features, however, may date to this periods but have been incorporated within middle Iron Age linear, as perhaps indicated by the presence of fairly large amounts of early to middle Iron Age ceramics in later ditches.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Initial activity within the middle Iron Age is reflected by enclosure ditches [3258] and [3185]. Ditch [3258] may possibly be structural as indicated by the parallel right angled termini situated at each end and the two adjacent remains of post holes/pits [3252] and [3248]. These two ditches may be contemporary as they appear to respect each other. Later settlement and enclosure took the form of two roundhouses Groups 3519 and 3521, enclosed by two meandering enclosure ditches.

The north part of the site was dominated by a series of three east-west linear, ditches [3198], [3009] and [3032]. These were perhaps indicators of some form of agrarian delineation, although the close proximity of ditches [3009] and [3032] may indicate a possible function as a drove-way.

Later middle Iron Age features include the large enclosure ditch [3226] and a number of pits, including a large refuse pit [3005] possibly related to areas of activity to the east or west of the site, as well as a large boundary [3340] ditch towards the south.

A large quantity of burnt clay was recovered from the fill of almost every middle Iron Age feature. These inclusions appear to be residual and could possibly indicate the presence of a kiln site within the area.

A shift southwards in activity appears to have taken place during the late Iron Age Belgic period, with a single cremation containing possible burnt human bone at the southern limits of the site.

Ditch [3340] although containing middle Iron Age pottery respects pit [3324] which was dated from pottery as Romano-British. It is assumed that both features are contemporary and that the earlier ceramics are residual back-fill.

It has been considered that the ditch might have been a re-used boundary ditch with its terminus being dug into to establish the pit. Also under consideration was the ditch as a drain into the pit. However, the nature of the pit would have to be established to ascertain the nature of the ditch. Two functional explanations for the pit are either a well or a source of clay. Neither can be proved. It is known that the pit is beyond 2.4 metres deep and would have

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

needed an access. It is the conclusion that the ditch would have facilitated a walk-way into the pit, similar to the clay extraction pits on Site 5.

Site 28

Summary

Site 28 consisted of four evaluation trenches of which only one, Trench 58, contained any archaeology in the form of a shallow gully and pit. No ceramics or other methods of dating were retrieved from these features. The only evidence of activity was in the form of a number of unstratified worked flints recovered from the surface or spoil of the trenches and dated to the Late Neolithic-Iron Age.

From the lithic assemblage, two phases of activity have been allocated.

- *Phase 1 Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2,700 to 1,400 BC)*
- *Phase 2 Bronze Age to Iron Age (2,000 BC to 350 BC)*

Introduction

Geophysics revealed the possible location of a linear within this plot and possibly related to a Mediaeval Post-Mediaeval cropmark moat situated approximately 200m to the west of the site.

Location and Topography

Site 28 was located along the pipeline route at construction plot 4/35 & 36, NGR 505990 241430 to 505860 241330, approximately 1.5km east of the Mediaeval village of Houghton Conquest and 2 km due south from the village of Wilstead.

Geology and Soils

Site 28 itself is situated on gently rolling terrain with the local geology consisting of typical Calcareous pelosols overlying Lower Greensand laid down in the lower cretaceous era.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological desk based pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed a potential archaeological feature in the form of a linear by geophysical survey and field reconnaissance at grid reference 0580 4130. These findings recommended the excavation of initially four evaluation trenches with the provision for excavation and/or mitigation as required.

Evaluation

Site 28 was evaluated using Trenches 58-78. Only Trench 58 contained any archaeology in the form of a shallow gully [4006] and pit [4008]. Trench 60 revealed a considerable depth of colluvium which was investigated via a machine excavated sondage to a depth of 1.4metres. The depth of this deposit is not surprising as the site lies at the bottom of a slope of the Green Sand ridge.

The features are illustrated in plan on Figure 55 in the Addendum.

Gully [4006]

Shallow gully orientated north-west by south-east and cut at a width of 0.76m with moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.18m.

Pit [4008]

A shallow pit cut, oval in plan with a total length of 1.36m and a width of 0.76m. The sides are cut at approximately 20°, descending to a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.18m.

Watching Brief

No features were located during the watching brief phase of operations at site 28.

Interpretation

Two shallow features, gully [4006] and pit [4008] were recorded in Trench 58 during the evaluation.

Neither feature yielded any datable evidence; this was only provided by the retrieval of unstratified flints from the trench and associated spoil. From these lithics two phases of activity have been recorded as being from the Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age and the Bronze to the Iron Age, with the features possibly belonging to the early Iron Age.

Discussion

No real conclusions can be drawn from site 28 as relatively few archaeological features had been identified.

The collation of worked lithics suggests activity within the vicinity but not necessarily in close proximity. It is highly likely that the lithic material has been moved by colluvial action from the slopes of the Greensand ridge. However, the wide range of dates and period of time this material has been in the ground suggests little of the origin of the earliest material but may suggest a later prehistoric site situated on the hills of the Greensand.

Site 29 Figure 56

Summary

Site 29 consists primarily of Mediaeval ridge and furrow. Also present were the remains of a possible trackway orientated towards the village of Houghton Conquest and dated to the later Mediaeval period by the retrieval of a silver Elizabethan coin. A broad Mediaeval date has therefore been ascribed to this site.

Introduction

A geophysical survey revealed several linear anomalies, possibly representing ridge and furrow along with areas of enhanced magnetic susceptibility. Field reconnaissance supported the above by recording the faint ephemeral presence of ridge and furrow.

Location and Topography

Site 29 is located at construction plots 5/38 and 41, NGR 505360 240918 to 504968 240925, approximately 0.5km south-east of the Mediaeval village of Houghton Conquest and 3km north-east of Ampthill. The site itself is situated immediately north of the Greensand Ridge, residing on a level terrace overlooking the village of Houghton Conquest.

Geology and Soils

The local Geology consists of calcareous pelosols of Evesham 3 typology overlying river terrace gravels and lower Greensand laid down in the lower cretaceous period.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological desk based pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed a number of potential archaeological features by geophysical survey and field reconnaissance at grid reference 504040 240680. These findings recommended the excavation of initially five evaluation trenches with the provision for excavation and/or mitigation as required.

Evaluation

Site 29 consisted of five evaluation trenches, numbers 62-66. Each trench was approximately 30m in length and 2.5m in width. Three trenches revealed archaeology, 62, 63 and 65.

The features are illustrated in plan on Figure 56 in the Addendum.

Trench 62 contained two small pits [5002], [5007]. One large shallow pit [5010] a gully terminus [5005] and one linear, possibly an old hedge line [5009]. No material evidence was recovered.

Trench 63 revealed ridge and furrow [5015] and an unspecified sherd of Mediaeval pottery.

The remains of a possible track way or ridge and furrow [5024], dated from a coin as probably to the Elizabethan era (r.1558-1603), was revealed in Trench 65.

Watching Brief

The watching brief recorded no visible archaeological activity within plots 5/38 and 41 during either the top soil stripping or pipe trenching phases of the pipeline construction.

Interpretation

Due to the nature of the features and the finds retrieved, no specific phasing could be allocated to Site 29 other than the encompassing period of Mediaeval.

No finds were retrieved from Trench 62 and in Trench 63 only an undiagnostic sherd of Mediaeval pottery was retrieved from furrow [5015]. However, located beneath post Mediaeval ridge and furrow [5024], Trench 65 yielded a silver coin (SF 6) with a date of 157? It was a well sealed context, approximately 0.02m within the feature and 0.50m below the excavated surface. The matrix for this furrow differed substantially from the other ridge and furrow in the area, being friable and with a higher sand content. The feature was orientated north-west by south-east towards the village of Houghton Conquest and may possibly represent a track way rather than a furrow, a theory that would place better credence on the loss of the coin. To possibly substantiate this theory it was noted that the surrounding natural differed from the rest of the trench in being of a gravel and stone consistency. This material had however been badly degraded by root action and was therefore difficult to ascertain its true identity.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Discussion

Site 29 yielded archaeology with little or no dating evidence. The exception to this was the silver coin dated to the 1570s retrieved from Trench 65. The features themselves appear to be ridge and furrow with a possible trackway on the same north-west by south-east orientation. The date of the coin cannot be assumed as a *terminus post quem* for this possible trackway but the later Mediaeval can at least be held as a period of use. Consequently, a wide date of Mediaeval is the only possible date that can be assigned to the site with emphasis placed on the later periods.

Site 32 [Figure 57](#)

Summary

Site 32 revealed a number of degraded and contaminated features as a result of modern agricultural activity within the area. In all a total of nine linear features, including three ridge and furrow and four shallow pits were recorded along with a more substantial pit located on the watching brief.

Three phases of activity have been recorded based on dating from the ceramics retrieved and also residual finds such as a copper alloy coin of Queen Anne 1702-1414.

- Phase 1 Late Iron Age Belgic (100 to 50 BC)
- Phase 2 Romano-British to Mediaeval (50 AD to Late Mediaeval 1500 AD)
- Phase 3 Post Mediaeval (1500 to 1750 AD)

Introduction

A geophysical survey revealed the possible presence of a curvilinear enclosure and associated pit like anomalies.

Location and Topography

Site 29 [32](#) is located at construction plots 6/49 and 50, NGR 503700 240350 to 503630 240310 approximately 0.5km south-east of the Mediaeval village of Houghton Conquest and 3km north-east of Ampthill. The site itself is situated immediately north of the Greensand Ridge, residing on a level terrace overlooking the village of Houghton Conquest.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Geology and Soils

The local Geology consists of calcareous pelosols of Evesham 3 typology overlying river terrace gravels and lower Greensand laid down in the lower cretaceous period.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological desk based pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed a number of potential archaeological features and a possible enclosure by geophysical survey at grid reference 503610 240270. The provision for trench evaluation was undertaken and a total of nine trenches were excavated revealing the presence of archaeology in three of them. After mitigation an area 77 by 18m was opened up and excavated by hand.

Evaluation

A total of nine trenches, numbers 67-75, were opened for evaluation. Out of the nine trenches, 69, 70 and 75, only three revealed any archaeology.

Trench 69 revealed a linear and terminus orientated south-east by north-west.

Trench 70 contained two linear features, orientated east-west across the width of the trench. Incorporated within the linear situated at the northern limits of the trench was a small spread of charcoal and associated staining. Two possible ovoid pits/postholes were also located, each one adjacent to a linear at the western trench edge.

Trench 75 revealed a group of three linear features orientated east-west across the width of the trench. These features were approximately 2m in width and spaced apart between 5.2 and 7.7m and formed part of a system of ridge and furrow.

Trenches 69 and 70 were **reolved** into open area excavation. This involved stripping off the top and sub soils between Trenches 69-70 within the constraints of the easement. Due to the sterile contents of Trenches 72, 73, 74 and the ridge and furrow of 75, it was decided not to extend the open area any further south. A total area of 77m by 18m was eventually stripped and excavated by a small team of archaeologists.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Excavation

The excavation revealed a site of poor preservation and considerable modern contamination. In all, eight linear features, one curvilinear and four isolated pits were revealed. These features, none of which was of any consequence, had all been heavily truncated by ploughing. Those which could be dated via material retrieved were east-west linear features [6006], [6013] and [6000], curvilinear [6004] and pits [6029] and [6018].

The features are illustrated in plan on Figure 57 in the Addendum.

Linear terminus [6000]

Orientated east-west, this shallow gully was cut at a width of 0.46m, descending to a depth of 0.11m and a rounded base. The fill consisted of light brown sandy silt.

Linear [6004]

This was a curvilinear feature orientated east by south-east, cut at a very shallow gradient at a width of 0.88m, descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.21m. The fill, a single brown grey silt clay (6005), yielded a copper alloy coin of Queen Anne (r.1702-1714), (SF 37).

Linear [6006], [6010]

This linear was orientated north-east to south-west and contained a steep sided profile cut at a width of 0.42m, descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.6m. The fill contained abraded pottery dating between the early and middle Iron Age.

Linear [6008]

This was a linear terminus orientated east-west which emerged from the western easement. It was cut at a width of 0.52m with a steep gradient descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.4m. Its single fill (6009) a yellow grey clay, contained post Mediaeval CBM, animal bone and an iron nail (SF 68).

Linear [6012]

An east-west linear and cut at a width of 1.2m, this feature consisted of a moderately cut gradient descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.32m.

Pit [6014]

A circular pit cut at a width of 0.9m, with moderately steep edges descending to an irregular base at a depth of 0.16m.

Pit [6018]

An oval pit cut at a width of 0.39m with near vertical sides which descended to a rounded base at a depth of 0.25m. A single fill (6019), consisted of a black brown sand clay silt with a frequent amount of animal bone identified as neonate/very young pig. The bone was clearly fresh and indicates that this feature was modern.

Pit [6020]

This was a circular pit cut at a width of 0.52m with steep sides and descended to a sloping irregular base at a depth of 0.24m. A single fill (6021) consisting of a grey brown silt sand clay contained several fragments of animal bone identified as neonate/very young cow. Similarly to pit [6018], the bone was clearly fresh and indicates that this feature was modern.

Irregular linear [6022]

This feature was orientated east-west and formed irregular distended bulges at either end. The width of the eastern excavated section measured 2.35m with an irregular gradient descending to a rounded base.

Linear [6025]

This linear was orientated north-east to south-west, cut at a width of 1.29m and revealed a shallow bowl profile descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.19m. Its single fill (6026), brown grey silt sand clay contained environmental evidence in the form of Emmer/Spelt grain.

Ridge and furrow [6027]

Orientated north-west to south-east, cut at a width of 1.07m with steep sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.1m.

Pit [6029]

This was an oval pit approximately 1.5m in width with a steep gradient descending to a rounded base at 0.46m deep. A small amount of degraded early to middle Iron Age ceramics were retrieved from a single fill (6030) consisting of a mid orange brown sand clay.

Watching Brief

A single feature was identified and recorded during the pipe trenching phase of the pipeline construction.

Pit [6050]

Pit [6050] was revealed in the west facing section of the pipe trench. It had a width of 1.9m and a depth of 0.8m. Its profile was steep, cut at 60° to a rounded base, and contained a single firm light orange grey/brown silt clay fill. Inclusions present within this fill were occasional charcoal flecks along with mixed gravels.

Interpretation

Three phases of activity have been identified from the retrieval of ceramics from the excavated features, dating from early-middle Iron Age to the modern period.

Phase 1

This phase consisted of east-west ditches [6006], [6010] and pit [6029], their single fills containing sherds of early to middle Iron Age pottery, c. 650-350 BC. Possibly present in this phase are two shallow linear, [6025] orientated north-west south-east and a shallow curvi linear gully [6004] cut by [6025]. The single fill of [6025] contained Emmer/Spelt grains and a single barley grain.

A copper alloy coin SF37 was also recovered from [6004] which although degraded, revealed a faint portrait, possibly of Queen Anne 1702-1714. This small find was probably intrusive, derived from the heavy ploughing of this plot in Phase 2.

Phase 2

This phase consisted of one north-west by south-east shallow linear [6027] which appeared to be the remains of probably early Modern ridge and furrow. Three further linear, [6012], [6022] and [6008] orientated east-west may also be attributed to ridge and furrow or possibly tree boles.

Phase 3

Phase 3 has been deemed as recent owing to the relative freshness of the bones from pits [6018] and [6020], and are attributed to the disposal of still born or very young livestock.

Unfortunately the only substantial feature, pit [6050] located on the watching brief yielded no datable evidence and cannot be placed within a specific phase.

Discussion

Site 32 possibly represents the extreme limits of a larger area of archaeology the function of which is unknown.

Of the three phases it is the earliest, Phase 1, situated at the northern end of the site that indicates a possible enclosure entrance, dated to the late (Belgic) Iron Age. This may have been incorporated within a later Romano British settlement; however this is tentative due to the fact that this area is heavily contaminated by modern agrarian activity.

The retrieval of Emmer/Spelt wheat and Barley from the single fill of shallow ditch [6025] possibly indicates the presence of arable activity within the immediate vicinity. Also present were Rumex (Sorrel) and Trifolium (Clover), providing information on a possible ‘managed’ grassland habitat used as pasture along with arable crops.

Phase 2 witnesses the heavy truncation of the earlier archaeology at some point during the early modern period, possibly suggested by the Queen Anne coin.

The pits located in Phase 3 are obviously modern. Furthermore, the presence of *Beta Vulgaris* in pit [6018] is also considered as a modern intrusion.

Site 52

Summary

Site 52 consists of a large number of drainage gullies orientated north-south and east-west, and a high concentration of archaeology towards the centre of the site specifically a curvilinear boundary ditch and a ring ditch enclosure truncated by a roundhouse. Other features included isolated pits and truncated gullies located along the length of the site with a particular concentration to the north. The archaeology on site 52 has all been dated from the early to middle Iron Age, the exception being two unstratified flint flakes recovered from the surface during cleaning.

The inclusion of these lithics and the retrieval and dating of ceramics supported by the stratigraphy provides site 52 with five phases of occupation.

- Phase 1 Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2,700 to 1,400 BC)
- Phase 2-5 Early to middle Iron Age (650 to 350 BC)

Introduction

A geophysical survey revealed a concentration of diffuse linear anomalies towards the northern end of plot 75.

Location and Topography

Site 52 is located at construction plot 10/75, NGR 501790 236310 to 501750 236170, approximately 1.5km north-west of the town of Flitwick and 1.5km south-west of Ampthill, and is situated on the local flood plain for a tributary of the river Flit.

Geology and Soils

The local geology is comprised of a mixture of Ferritic brown earths and calcareous pelosols overlying Lower Greensand laid down in the lower cretaceous era. The immediate drift geology encountered was significant deposits of Ferritic brown earths. These deposits were located throughout the site, especially at the negative end of the site adjacent to the road crossing. The close proximity of the tributary of the river Flit accounted for the majority of this ferrous material, with the seasonally fluctuating water table that frequently floods this plot.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological desk based pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed a number of potential archaeological features during a geophysical survey at grid reference NGR 501700 236400. This survey indicated the presence of a number of linear anomalies which were investigated by the excavation of seven evaluation trenches. After evaluation, due to the high concentration of archaeology present, an area approximately 144m by 26m was opened up to be excavated by hand.

Evaluation

A total of seven trenches, numbers 82 to 88, were opened for evaluation. All the trenches revealed possible archaeology at varying degrees of concentration.

Trench 82 revealed a north-south orientated linear.

Trench 83 contained a second north-south linear and areas of brown sand silt, possibly associated with the numerous land drains located within this trench.

Trench 84 revealed three east-west linear features, the northernmost being wider than the others. This trench forms a right angle with Trench 85, with the southern end of Trench 84 forming an off centre T-shape as it connects with Trench 85.

Trench 85 contained the densest concentration of archaeology with one north-south orientated linear, the northern limits of a curvi-linear feature and two linear features orientated south-west by north-east and north-east by south-west respectively. These last two features appear to intersect or merge towards the south-eastern corner of Trench 85.

Trench 86 revealed approximately five possible post holes and eight possible stake holes. The post holes appeared to be in a rough alignment north-west by south-east with the stake holes constituting two independent groups between the postholes. A linear, orientated east-west was also present at the southern end of the trench.

Trench 87 revealed four possible features which may be natural anomalies. These were two possible ovoid features situated at the western end of the trench and two slightly irregular linear features, orientated north-south and located towards the centre of Trench 87.

Trench 88 contained the vague remains of a linear feature orientated south-east by north-west. This feature was very faint and was possibly natural.

Trench 85 contained a possible roundhouse. The decision was made to strip and pull back from Trench 85, both positive and negative, in order to ascertain the full extent of the roundhouse and the limits of the remaining archaeology. The resulting area of excavation was approximately 144m by 26m at its widest point, incorporating all the evaluation trenches.

Excavation

Site 52 revealed a series of north-south and east-west orientated drainage ditches, a ring ditch enclosure and a roundhouse along with a number of scattered shallow pits.

Four north-south linear features [10015], [10038], [10031] and [10040] were located at the northern extent of the site.

Ditch [10015] (Figure 34a)

Ditch [10015] measured 1.02m in width and 0.25m in depth. The feature was approximately 9.5m in length with a terminus situated at the southern end. No finds were retrieved.

Gully [10003], [10038] (Figure 34a)

Located west of [10015], gully [10003] [10038] revealed a shallow linear cut at approximately 30° to a flat base. Its dimensions were 1.02m wide and 0.25m deep. No finds were retrieved.

Gullies [10034], [10036] (Figure 34a)

Cut into the upper fill (10033) of [10031] were revealed two adjacent linear gullies, [10034] and [10036] orientated north-south. Gully [10034] was the larger of the two features at a width of 0.5m and a depth of 0.25m. The second gully was slightly smaller in dimensions at a width of 0.4m and depth of 0.2m. Both features had steep sided profiles leading down to a well rounded bases. No finds were retrieved.

Ditch [10002], [10031] (Figure 34a)

The dimensions of [10002], [10031] were revealed at a width of 1.5m and a depth of 0.6m, the profile having moderate sloping sides to a flat base. Ceramics were retrieved from the secondary fill (10005). These have been dated to the early/middle Iron Age.

Ditch Group 10025 [10022], [10040], [10068], [10148], [10328], [10329] (Figure 34a)

Approximately 8.5m west of [10031] was situated the north-south linear, Group 10025. This ditch had a total length of 55m, running under the northern and eastern edges of excavation. All the profiles revealed an approximate depth of between 0.22 to 0.59m and a width of 1m to 1.3m. A single re-cut was revealed in [10040] and [10068].

Ditch [10040] was truncated by a shallow re-cut [10329]. This re-cut was situated on the eastern edge of [10040] and was approximately 0.6m in width and 0.31m in depth, and cut at 30° to a flat base. Ditch cut [10068] contained re-cut [10328], a steep sided profile to a flat base.

No datable evidence was retrieved from group 10025. The only finds obtained were the remains of animal bone from the upper fill (10043) of [10040].

Pits [10093], [10096] (Figure 34a)

Pit [10096] was under a large amount of overburden. A sondage was excavated from the known limits of the feature into the overburden. Two features were revealed in section, pit [10096] which was truncated by a second pit [10093]. Pit [10096] was approximately 0.45m in length and 0.4m in width. A moderately sloping edge fell to a depth of 0.23m. The full depth and profile, including the base were not ascertained. The re-cut, pit [10093] was recorded at 0.78m in width and a depth of 0.13m. It contained two fills compared with pit [10096] which had one known fill. Neither features yielded any datable evidence.

Situated to the north of group 10171 and to the west of linear [10068] was a small group of shallow truncated features revealed under a dense overburden of iron pan. These include curvilinear gully [10081] and truncated pits [10087], [10090], and [10092] (see below).

Curvilinear Gully [10081] (Figure 34a)

Adjacent to pit [10096] was a shallow curvi-linear [10081], approximately 0.45m in width and 0.2m in depth. The known length of the feature was 3m, orientated north-west and turning to the south-west before terminating. The north-west limit of this feature was unknown due to a dense overburden of iron pan. The profile of [10081] consisted of a gently sloping gradient to a rounded base. Two fills were contained within this cut, of which the primary fill (10082), dark grey and yellow brown sandy silt, produced a small amount of possible industrial residue.

Truncated pits [10087], [10090], [10092] (Figure 34a)

Also present in this location were a small group of three truncated shallow pits and post holes, situated in an area with a high frequency of tree boles. Pit [10087] was sub-rectangular in plan with dimensions of 0.57m long and 0.37m wide and steep sided to a depth of 0.27m. Pit [10090] was a shallow feature cut at a depth of 0.07m and a width of 0.7m. It was cut by a second shallow pit [10092] which was approximately 0.6m in length and 0.07m in depth. The fills of these features yielded no datable evidence.

Gully/Pit [10062] (Figure 34a)

The remains of a possible gully or pit were revealed in a spread of iron pan situated at the northern corner of the site. A sondage, [10061], was excavated through the dense layers of iron pan and sand, and revealed in section a moderately sided cut [10062], approximately 1m in width and 0.3m in depth to a flat base. Its single fill consisted of red-brown sand and iron pan, with some rounded stone inclusions. Small quantities of early to middle Iron Age ceramics were retrieved from this context.

Other features revealed within this vicinity are [10109], an irregular shallow gully located 1.5m south of feature [10121,] and feature [10326] a possible irregular gully or tree bole (Figure 34a).

Group 10171 [10046], [10050], [10105], [10168], [10193], [10195], [10220], [10222] (Figure 34a)

West of linear [10068] was, segmented ditch group 10171 orientated east-west. This group consisted of four detached linears, between 3 to 5m in length. The width varied between 0.36 to 0.73m and the depth between 0.1 to 0.25m. Profiles remained consistent throughout this group, a shallow sloping cut at 30° to a rounded base (Figures 35a, 35c & 35d). Unfortunately, one gully remained unexcavated. The only finds from this group was animal bone from fill (10167) of cut [10168].

Pits [10107], [10197] (Figure 34a)

Truncating one of the western slots [10193] and [10195] was a shallow ovoid pit [10197] that cut a second smaller pit [10107] located immediately to the north. Both pits produced shallow profiles at 0.17 and 0.19m depth respectively, down to a rounded base (Figure 35b). The larger pit contained three fills and [10107] contained two. No datable evidence was retrieved from either the fills of the pits or from the single fills of the gully Group 10171.

Curvilinear Ditch [10077], [10100], [10178] (Figure 34a)

A high density of features was revealed towards the centre of the site. Ditch [10077] was orientated north-west by south-east, turning due east and then south-east before being truncated by north-south linear [10068]. This ditch appeared to possibly respect two groups of features located 5 to 7m south. These were Groups 10225 and 10224, a ring ditch enclosure and roundhouse. It also cut two east-west linears [10098] and [10214] along its route. The excavation revealed a cut approximately 1.7m at its narrowest point to 2.4m where the ditch changes orientation. The profile was steep, between 60-70° down to a flat base (Figures 35e & 35f). No finds were retrieved that could provide us with datable evidence. Fill, (10086), a primary fill of [10077] yielded animal bone, and fill (101790, a fill of [10178]), contained a tin/copper alloy or silver/copper alloy strip that may have been a section of decorative binding.

Gully [10181], [10184] (Figure 34a)

To the north-east of the intersection between ditches [10178], [10214] and [10068] was situated a spread of iron pan and silt sand (10186). This spread appeared to conceal archaeology and was investigated at its northern and southern limits. Slot [10181] revealed a shallow gully orientated north-west by south-east. This gully had a profile consisting of moderately sloping sides down to a rounded base. Its single fill consisted of a dark red brown oxidised sand (10182) from which a sherd of early to middle Iron Age pottery was retrieved. A second investigation, situated at the southern limits of (10182) revealed gully [10184]. This feature was 0.25m in width and cut at a shallower gradient of 45° to a depth of 0.3m, revealing a flat base. This may possibly be a continuation of [10181], containing the same fill matrix and also yielding an early Iron Age ceramic sherd.

Group 10208 [10098], [10201], [10211] (Figure 34a)

Truncated by ditches [10100] and [10178] were two east-west linears, [10098] and [10214]. These cuts were allocated the group number 10208. The width of Group 10208 varies between 0.35 to 0.61m and a depth of 0.09 to 0.3m. All the sections revealed a profile with a moderate to steep gradient down to a flat base. No finds were retrieved.

Pits [10161], [10172] (Figure 34a)

Adjacent to [10201] were two small sub circular pits, [10161] located on the northern side of the linear and [10172] on the southern side. Both had comparable dimensions of 0.72 and

0.73m respectively. The profiles were near vertical to a slightly irregular base although the northern edge of [10172] was cut at 45°. Pit [10172] was the shallower at 0.38m, compared with [10161] at 0.51m. No finds were retrieved from the three fills of [10161] but the primary fill of [10172], (10176), contained animal bone and early to middle Iron Age ceramics.

Posthole [10135] (Figure 34a)

At the Northern limits of gully [10216] was an isolated posthole [10135]. This feature was ovoid in plan, approximately 0.25m in width and orientated north-east by south-west. It had an irregular stepped edge to a depth of 0.08m and contained a single sterile fill.

Gullies [10187], [10216], [10227] (Figure 34a)

Located to the south-west of pits [10172] and [10161] was an area of intersecting terminating gullies, [10187] and [10216] along with a possibly associated post hole [10135]. Gully [10187], orientated north-west by south-east, was cut at 50° to a rounded base. The total length of this feature was approximately 4.5m from the edge of the Western easement. Truncating [10187] was a second wider gully [10216] with moderately cut sides to a depth of 0.3m. The total width of [10216] was 1m, with 0.75m being the exploratory width excavated (Figure 36g). No finds were retrieved.

Pit [10205] (Figure 34a)

An investigation at the south-eastern limit of [10216] revealed a shallow pit rather than a terminus located at the southern limits of the gully. Pit [10205] was 0.85m in width and cut at 50° down to an undulating base at a depth of 0.3m (Figure 36g). No finds were encountered.

Gully [10207], [10214], [10218] (Figure 34a)

Truncating linear [10227] was an east-west orientated linear [10207], [10218] and [10214]. Excavation revealed a steep sided profile, shallower on the northern edge, leading down to a rounded base. The average depth was between 0.23m and 0.3m, with a width of 0.68m to 0.85m (Figure 36g). All the sections contained dark green brown silt sand with areas of red staining, probably the result of leaching from the high mineral content present on this site. Slots [10207] and [10218] contained a small quantity of degraded early to middle Iron Age ceramics within their respective fills, (10206) and (10219).

Truncated posthole [10212] (Figure 34a)

Linear [10214] truncated a small pit or posthole [10212]. This feature consisted of a steep sided cut down to a rounded base containing a single fill with no finds. The full dimensions could not be ascertained due to the truncation by [10214], although a width of 0.4m was recorded along with a depth of 0.15m.

To the south of linear [10214] was located a dense concentration of archaeology. This consisted of a ring ditch enclosure, Group 10225, truncated by a roundhouse, Group 10224 containing various internal features, Group 10284 along with other possibly associated postholes and a hearth [10316].

Ring Ditch Enclosure Group 10225 [10229], [10231], [10246], [10250], [10256], [10259], [10268], [10281], [10293], [10320] (Figure 34a; Plate 21)

The ring ditch was situated to the east of [10331] and was cut by round house Group 10225. This enclosure consisted of a northern and southern arc. A terminus was situated at either ends of the curvilinear ditches which formed an east facing entrance, 3.5m in width and a smaller west facing entrance, 1.75m in width. The external diameter of Group 10225 was 9.7m and the internal dimensions are 7.75m in diameter.

Slot [10250] was excavated across the north-west to south-east orientated terminus, located on the northern arc of Group 10225. This revealed a steep sided cut, 0.94m in width and

0.48m in depth, falling to a small rounded base (Figure 36n). Two fills were present within this section of which the secondary fill (10252) contained a small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics.

To the west, slot [10281] also consisted of a steep sided cut containing three fills (Figure 36o). The second and third fills, (10289) and (10290) respectively, both contained animal bone with the tertiary fill, (10290), yielding a moderate amount of good quality early to middle Iron Age ceramics. Truncating [10281] was a re-cut [10305] (Figure 36o), situated on the southern edge of the ditch. This re-cut consisted of a small shallow gully, 0.2m in width and 0.08m in depth. Three fills were present of which the primary fill (10291) revealed inclusions of slag and burnt clay. The slag content was frequent within the secondary fill (10313) with no finds present in the upper fill (10292) which may represent a sealing deposit. Both primary and secondary fills contained a similar matrix consisting of a friable grey silt ash deposit with grey clay lenses.

Slot [10293] revealed a steep sided cut, approximately 0.8m in width and 0.5m in depth down to a small rounded base. Three fills were revealed, of which the secondary and tertiary fills, (10299) and (10298) respectively, produced finds in the form of a moderate amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics within (10299) and burnt clay and ceramic building material identified as kiln furniture from (10298). Both fills contained the remains of animal bone. A central re-cut, [10294], was located in [10293]. This feature may possibly be a continuation of gully [10305] situated in ditch [10281]. The profile was shallow at a depth of 0.09m containing two main fills, (10295) and (10296), and sealed on the east facing section by (10297), a deposit of iron pan. The primary fill (10295) consisted of a thin lense of fine mid grey ash, approximately 0.03m in depth containing a green slag material. The secondary fill (10296) also consisted of an ash deposit of a light grey white colour with inclusions of the same green slag. Both these deposits are comparable with those located in the fills of cut [10305].

Slot [10259] was cut at a width of 0.93m, with a steep gradient down to a rounded base at a depth of 0.48m (Figure 36m: Plate 20). Three fills were present, of which the primary and secondary fills, (10261) and (10260) respectively, revealed worked flint, animal bone and frequent amounts of early to middle Iron Age ceramics in (10261) (Figures 44.39, 44, 47, 48 & 49) and frequent early Iron Age ceramics (Figures 44.42), worked flint and slag in the secondary fill (10260). The slag retrieved may be residual from the adjacent slot [10293] and re-cut [10294] which contained a frequent amount of this material. Environmental samples revealed the presence of charred elderberry seeds (*Sambucus nigra*).

The final investigation through the northern arc of Group 10225 was placed across the Western terminus [10320]. This section produced a cut, 0.5m in width and 0.36m in depth, with near vertical sides down to a widening rounded base. No finds were retrieved from its two fills.

The remaining cuts were situated on the southern arc of the enclosure and comprised five slots, as follows:

Slot [10268] was situated at the south-west orientated terminus. At 1m in width, the edge was cut near vertical to a narrow rounded base at a depth of 0.52m. Two fills were present within [10268]. The primary fill (10266) consisted of a thin deposit (0.1m) of water logged clay containing occasional charcoal flecks, angular flints and a small quantity of degraded early to middle Iron Age ceramics. The secondary fill (10267) was made up of red brown silt clay, loose in compaction with occasional stone and flint inclusions. Finds included a moderate amount of Iron Age ceramics and fired clay in a good state of preservation.

Slot [10231] revealed a cut, 0.82m in width with a near vertical gradient on the north-east edge, falling to a pointed base at a depth of 0.54m. The south-west edge, cut steep, immediately levelled off before the gradient continued at an angle of 60° to the base. A large quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics was present in a good state of preservation within the single fill (10230) (Figure 44.46). The fill consisted of dark red brown friable silt clay and also contained animal bone, occasional charcoal, flint, and ceramic building material identified as kiln furniture.

Slot [10229] was recorded as a near vertical cut, 0.65m in width, falling down to a narrow flat base 0.48m in depth. A single fill, (10228), comprised of friable dark red brown silt clay yielded a small amount of animal bone and early to middle Iron Age ceramics.

Slot [10256] was revealed as a steep sided irregular cut, 0.48m in width, falling down to a rounded base at a depth of 0.45m. A single fill (10257) yielded no datable finds.

Slot [10246] formed the north-east orientated terminus of Group 10225, cutting irregular gully [10244]. This features full width was not established due to the confusing interface caused by two other features in the immediate vicinity. A width of 0.58m was recorded revealing a profile consisting of steep sides leading to a slightly stepped base at a depth of 0.44m. Three fills were present comprised of primary (10247), secondary (10248) and tertiary (10249). Of these, only the upper fill (10249), a compact dark orange, olive brown clay silt contained any finds in the form of a small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics.

Irregular Gully [10244] (Figure 34a)

Cut by ring ditch enclosure terminus [10246] was an irregular gully [10244], orientated east-west, and terminating within the Group 10225 enclosure. This feature consisted of a shallow, steep sided cut, approximately 0.44m in width and 0.16m in depth. This feature measured 1m in width at its widest part where [10244] was cut by [10246]. A single fill (10245) yielded no datable evidence. It is not known if [10244] is a deliberate sub phase of the construction of Group 10225 or whether it is an unrelated feature.

Roundhouse Group 10224 [10232], [10234], [10236], [10238], [10255], [10262], [10264], [10285], [10302], [10304], [10308], [10322] (Figure 34a: Plate 21)

Located to the immediate west of and cutting ring ditch enclosure Group 10225 was situated a roundhouse with internal features. The external diameter of the roundhouse was 13.4m and the internal dimensions 11.75m, with an east facing entrance approximately 5m wide.

Slot [10302] located at the southern terminus of Group 10224 revealed a cut 0.45m in width and 0.2m in depth. The eastern edge was steeply cut down to a rounded base. A re-cut [10303] truncated the western edge of [10302] and was recorded at a width of 0.25m and a depth of 0.14m. This gully revealed a profile consisting of steep sides and a rounded base. Single fills were recorded in both linear which yielded no datable finds.

Slot [10262] revealed a shallow 'V' shaped profile at a width of 0.5m and a depth of 0.2m down to a narrow flat base(Figure 36i). A small quantity of degraded early to middle Iron Age ceramics were retrieved from a single fill (10263) consisting of mid brown grey silt sand. Environmental samples contained tubers of onion couch (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*).

Slot [10264] was cut at a width of 0.5m and a depth of 0.26m and revealed a steep sided profile at approximately 60° down to a flat base. A single fill (10265) consisting of a dark orange red brown silty sandy clay yielded a small quantity of animal bone and Iron Age ceramics retrieved from sample <228>.

Slot [10285] revealed a shallow cut, 0.5m in width and 0.14m in depth. A moderate gradient descended to a small rounded base containing a single sterile fill.

Slot [10308] revealed a steep sided gully profile, cut at a width of 0.36m and a depth of 0.28m, descending to a small rounded base. Two fills were present within [10308] which was devoid of any finds.

Slot [10232] produced a ‘V’ shaped profile, 0.4m in width and 0.32m in depth. A small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics were retrieved from single fill (10233), a dark orange red brown sandy silt along with occasional charcoal flecking.

Slot [10238] was a shallow cut, approximately 0.67m in width and 0.2m in depth descending to a wide rounded base cutting posthole [10240]. Animal bone was retrieved from a single fill (10239), consisting of dark red brown sand clay with occasional angular flint inclusions.

Slot [10236] revealed a steep sided profile, 0.45m in width, descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.23m. A single fill (10237) yielded no datable finds.

Slot [10255] was cut at a width of 0.95m; the profile descended at a near vertical gradient on the southern edge to a flat base at a depth of 0.42m. The northern edge was cut slightly shallower at 60° to base. Contained within [10255] were two fills (10254) and (10253). The primary fill (10254), a mid grey brown silt clay with rare gravel and flint inclusions, descended to a depth of 0.12m and contained a large quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics in a good state of preservation (Figures 44.45). The secondary fill (10253) consisted of a dark red brown clay silt containing a moderate amount of Iron Age ceramics and industrial residues.

Slot [10234] revealed a moderately sided cut, at a width of 0.7m and a depth of 0.25m, descending to a wide rounded base (Figure 36h: Plate 19). A single fill (10235), comprised of a mid orange brown silt clay yielded a small amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics.

Slot [10322] formed the northern terminus of Group 10224. This was cut at a width of 0.5m, with the edge descending at a near vertical gradient on the western edge to a rounded base (Figure 36j). The eastern edge was shallower at approximately 45° to the base. A single fill, (10323), comprised of a mid orange brown silt clay with flint inclusions and yielded a large quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics in a good state of preservation.

Within the area of roundhouse Group 10224 were located a number of internal features consisting of Group 10284, an alignment of four postholes situated within an area of burning and four other possibly unrelated postholes along with a hearth.

Posthole alignment Group 10284 [10273], [10275], [10277], [10279], [10282] (Figure 34a)
This group consisted of four postholes cut into a shallow lozenge shaped feature [10282] on an east-west alignment. Feature [10282] was located off centre to the north of the interior of roundhouse Group 10224.

Posthole [10273] revealed a very small, shallow feature, approximately 0.05m in diameter and 0.02.5m in depth. The profile consists of a steep sided gradient descending to a sub square base.

Posthole [10275] was visible as a small oval feature in plan. Dimensions were recorded at a length of 0.25m and a width of 0.1m. A wide steep sided cut was revealed descending to a rounded base.

Posthole [10277] revealed a small sub circular posthole, approximately 0.14m in length and 0.06m in width. The profile was steep sided descending down to a rounded base at a depth of 0.03m.

Posthole [10279] revealed a circular steep sided feature, approximately 0.07m in diameter descending to a rounded base.

Posthole [10282] was approximately 2.9m in length and 0.3m in width. The profile was shallow and irregular to a depth of 0.05m, merging with the natural drift geology. The base of the cut appeared burnt, although this may represent natural staining. The single fill (10283) contained a dark grey firm clay with occasional rounded small stones, and was cut by the alignment of four postholes [10273], [10275], [10277] and [10279].

All features within Group 10284 contained single fills of which no finds were recovered.

Posthole [10269] (Figure 34a)

Adjacent to Group 10284 was a shallow oval feature, possibly representing a truncated posthole. The dimensions recorded were a length of 0.23m and a width of 0.14m. The profile was shallow descending to a wide rounded base.

Posthole [10271] (Figure 34a)

Situated east of [10269] and adjacent to group 10284 was a shallow posthole [10271]. This feature was comprised of a shallow sided cut, 0.14m in diameter, and descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.04m.

Hearth [10316] (Figure 34a)

Orientated north-south was [10316], a possible hearth located centrally to the east. The length of the hearth was approximately 0.8m and the width 0.6m with a shallow profile descending to an even base. Two fills, (10314) and (10315), were present within the cut. Of these, only the primary fill (10315), a purple brown firm silt clay, yielded any finds in the form of a moderate amount of charcoal and the degraded remains of burnt clay.

Posthole [10242] (Figure 34a)

Located towards the western inner edge of Group 10224 and adjacent to [10238] was a small shallow posthole [10242]. This feature was approximately 0.33m in diameter and consisted of a gentle gradient, descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.06m.

Posthole [10240] (Figure 34a)

Cut by posthole [10242] and cutting roundhouse gully [10238] was posthole [10240]. Consisting of steeply graded sides, this feature measured approximately 0.2m in diameter and descended to a rounded base at a depth of 0.13m.

Linear [10331] (Figure 34a)

Located 3m to the north of curvilinear [10306] was an east-west linear [10331]. A single slot was placed across this linear which revealed a very shallow feature, 0.75m in width and 0.03m in depth, and possibly heavily truncated by ploughing. In plan a terminus appears to be present towards the eastern limits of the site. On investigation it became apparent that this feature had been completely truncated towards this section of the site.

Curvilinear Ditch [10306], [10311] (Figure 34a)

This was a curvilinear ditch orientated north-east from the edge of the western easement, terminating within roundhouse Group 10224 at [10306]. Slot [10311] was placed across the western limits of the curvilinear and revealed a sharp profile, approximately 1m in width, and cut at 50° to a pointed base at a depth of 0.5m. Its single fill (10312) yielded a moderate

amount of fair quality, early to middle Iron Age ceramics. Slot [10306] investigated the terminus which consisted of a steep sided profile, 0.7m in width and 0.47m in depth, and falling to a slightly rounded base (Figure 36l). Its fill (10307) contained a mixed assemblage of fragmented sherds all of which are dated from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age to the middle Iron Age (Figures 44.40 & 41).

Irregular Pit [10190] (Figure 34b)

Orientated east-west from the eastern easement edge and situated to the south of roundhouse Group 10224 was a linear pit or possible ditch terminus, approximately 4.4m in length. Cut at a steep gradient on the northern edge, the profile descended to a rounded base at a depth of 0.38m, slightly shallower than the southern edge. The two fills present revealed no datable evidence.

Linear Slot [10120] (Figure 34b)

Located approximately 7.5m south of roundhouse Group 10224 was [10120], a linear slot, 2.6m in length. The profile was steep and cut at a width of 0.44m, descending to a small rounded base at a depth of 0.26m. The Fill, (10119), was a red friable silt sand, derived from, the iron pan spreads in the area. No datable finds were retrieved.

Pit [10132] (Figure 34b)

Located approximately 16m south of roundhouse Group 10224 was a small sub circular pit [10132]. This feature, 1.8m in length, was cut at a shallow gradient down to a rounded base to a depth of 0.12m. A single fill yielded no finds.

Posthole [10079] (Figure 34b)

Located to the north of Group 10058 was situated a small circular posthole, approximately 0.14m in diameter with vertical sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.17m.

Gully Group 10058 [10057], [10059], [10074], [10126] (Figure 34b)

The most southerly group of features was represented by Gully Group 1058. This gully was orientated south-west to north-east across the site and revealed a cut between 1.2m and 0.8m in width. The profile was recorded as being moderate to steep, descending to a rounded base at a depth of between 0.34m and 0.38m in depth. All contained single fills from which no finds were retrieved.

Watching Brief

A single feature was revealed during the pipe trenching phase of the pipeline construction.

Pit [10500]

Pit [10500] was located towards the Northern end of site 52 in the east facing section of the pipe trench. The dimensions were a width of 0.95m and a depth of 0.6m to a rounded base. A single fill was contained within [10500] yielding no datable evidence apart from a moderate inclusion of charcoal flecks.

Figure 34a & 34b: Site 52, plan (scale 1:200)

2 pages
page 1

page 2

Figure 35: Site 52, sections (a)-(f), pit [10107], gully [10220], [10197], [10193] and [10050], and ditch [10077] and [10100]

Figure 36: Site 52, sections (g)-(o), gullies [10205], [10207], [10227], [10311] and [10306], and roundhouse 10224, and ring ditch 10225 gullies

Interpretation

Five main phases of activity have been identified, four of which belong to the early to middle Iron Age.

Phase 1

Phase 1 was represented by the small assemblage of worked flints, consisting of two struck flakes showing characteristics diagnostic of the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age.

Phase 2

The initial Iron Age phase consisted of the ring ditch enclosure, Group 10225, located at the centre of site 52 towards the eastern easement and cut by roundhouse Group 10224. A re-cut, [10305], situated on the north-eastern edge contained a considerable quantity of fuel ash slag. However, the function of its origin is not known.

Emerging from the western easement was a second curvilinear ditch [10311], [10306] also cut by roundhouse Group 10224.

Other features within this phase were represented by numerous shallow, truncated pits, postholes and gullies including [10090], [10092], [10096], [10081], [10087], [10062] and [10109], located towards the northern end of the site.

Further to the north of the site was a truncated gully [10181], [10184], four small pits [10212], [10161], [10172] and [10135].

Situated against the western easement was gully [10216], [10227]. This feature truncates an earlier possible sub phase in the form of gully [10187]. A single pit, [10205] may in turn cut [10227] although this interface was lost due to truncation by east-west linear [10207].

Phase 2a

Group 10225 may possibly be contemporary with a short linear [10244] cut by the ring ditch terminus [10246] and terminating within the enclosure.

Phase 3

Phase 3 was represented by a series of five east-west linear gullies. Group 10171 consisted of four linear gully segments located towards the northern end of site. Group 10208 represented a gully truncated by Phase 4 ditch [10077]. Of the remaining three gullies, two are located due south of Group 10208 and consist of linear [10207], [10212], [10218] and linear [10331] which cuts the western terminus of enclosure Group 10225 and was in turn cut by Roundhouse Group 10224.

The most southerly feature in Phase 3 represented by Group 10058 along with a single isolated posthole [10079] tentatively placed within this phase due to its location.

Phase 4

The primary focus of Phase 4 was the large ditch [10077], [10100], [10178] that meandered across the site, roundhouse 10224, and associated features.

Ditch [10077] was orientated north-east to south-west, turning due east then south-east. This linear appears to respect Group 10224.

Group 10224 contained within it numerous internal features including the posthole alignment, Group 10284, situated within a shallow slot, four postholes [10269], [10271], [10242] and

[10240] along with a hearth, [10316]. The slot [10282] revealed possible signs of burning along the length of its base although this could be a natural discolouration of the clay.

Other features consisted of an irregular pit [10190], a short gully segment [10120] and a small ovoid pit [10132] all situated south of roundhouse Group 10224.

Phase 5

Phase 5 consisted of the shallow truncated remains of four linear gullies located at the north-east of the site. This included [10015] located in the extreme north-east corner. West of [10015] were two adjacent gullies [10038] and [10031]. The upper fill of [10031], (10033), also contained two shallow re-cuts, [10034] and [10036]. The lengthiest linear [10022] cuts the large Phase 4 curvilinear ditch [10077] and Phase 3 gully segments, Group 10171.

Figure 37a & 37b: Site 52, plan of Phases 2 to 5 (scale 1:500)

Page 1

page 2

Discussion

Site 52 represents an early to middle Iron Age settlement with a palimpsest view of possible late Neolithic to early Bronze Age activity.

This settlement was initially comprised of the remains of a number of shallow, truncated pits, posts and gullies, dominated by the ring ditch enclosure Group 10225 located in the centre of the site. The ring ditch enclosure yielded a moderate amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics and animal bone.

The main phase of occupation was represented by roundhouse Group 10224 located towards the centre of the site. Several internal features were revealed including a hearth [10316] and Group 10284, an alignment of four small shallow post or stake holes situated within a shallow linear slot. This group of features may possibly represent the remains of internal partitioning or possibly a structural feature, the remaining posts having been eroded and truncated by ploughing. Alternatively, such features may have been the foundations of a structure of focus, such as a food preparation area, or a frame to mount a weaving loom, or even *an alter*. This type of internal feature is not unknown in Iron Age roundhouse. A close parallel of the same date is present in round house 3519 on Site 23 (this publication).

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

The exact purpose and function of this ring ditch 10225 is unknown and no internal features were revealed apart from an east-west linear [10244] which terminated approximately 2m within the enclosure from the eastern entrance.

Possible industrial activity may be associated with ring ditch 10225 by the shallow re-cut [10294], [10305] situated on the north-east arc of the ditch. The fill contained a quantity of light and dark grey ash deposits, burnt clay and frequent yellow green slag of a light density. This material, known as Iron Age grey slag, is common from mid to late Iron Age sites but its origin is as yet unknown.

A piece of crucible retrieved from the surface of round house 10224 was identified as a mid to late Iron Age fabric (Figure 54f). Analysis suggests that this can definitely be associated with copper-alloy working and the presence of lead also suggests the (re)melting of bronze. This crucible was made of a relatively soft fabric and the edges of the sherd were quite sharp which suggests that it had not been subject to much disturbance since deposition, and that the rest of the crucible may *lay* not too far away. Also associated with this phase was the curvilinear boundary or enclosure ditch [10077] that contained the tin/copper alloy or silver/copper alloy strip. However, no further evidence of copper alloy manufacture or working was found, and neither can it be proven that the copper alloy strip was made on site.

Formatted: Font color: Bright Green

Emmer/spelt was the most common cereal recovered from the environmental samples. Hulled barley, however, was present in five samples, and a single grain of bread-type wheat was also recovered. Most of the emmer/spelt and barley grains appear to have come from the ring-ditch 10225. The only two samples to produce small amounts of chaff were from ring-ditch terminals, one from each structure.

No further evidence of crop processing, such as quern stones, were found. However, a large claw-shaped fragment of sandstone has been interpreted as a broken piece of quern stone. Subsequently, it was probably used as a whetstone, perhaps for larger items, such as scythes or large blades (Figure 53b).

Tubers of onion couch (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) were present in nine of the samples. Most of these were ring-ditch samples, particularly from round house 10224. Onion

couch is a grass that grows in well-aerated but often moist, fertile soils that have been disturbed by cultivation in the past. It is perhaps more likely that the charred tubers represent either the use of turves in the construction of the building, perhaps for walls or roofing. Alternatively, they may have originated from the disposal of waste from hearths where onion couch hay and tubers had been used as tinder. These tubers are often associated with Bronze Age cremations, and it has been suggested that this is due to their use as tinder, rather than for ritual purposes (Robinson, 1988). The Iron Age grey slag from ring ditch could be related to the presence of the onion couch tubers.

Another occurrence of note was the large number of charred elderberry seeds (*Sambucus nigra*) recovered from the ring ditch 10225 (10260). In some cases the seeds were still enclosed in the charred remnants of their berries. Elderberry fruits are a useful source of vitamin C when cooked and also produce a fast blue/black dye. The shrub commonly grows around settlements, particularly in nutrient-rich soils. It is not possible to determine whether the seeds represent a particular process that was taking place, but the preservation by charring of some of the berries does suggest that they had been fairly dry prior to being charred. Of course, charring could happen accidentally if an elder branch had been used for firewood.

The only ceramic building material from Site 52 was recovered from the fills of the ring ditch group 10225. It comprised four fragments which could be identified as kiln/oven floors from the holes pierced in them, and six fragments of unidentifiable fired clay. The holes in the kiln/oven fragments are smaller than expected and are in two different fabric types suggesting two different kiln/ovens and possibly two different uses.

Most of the pottery was found in the western gullies of ring ditch 10225. Concentrations of pottery are more usually found in the terminals on either side of the entrance (Hill 1995). This was the situation on Site 23 (this publication), but at the Iron Age settlement of Salford, for example, the opposite occurred, as it may here (Slowikowski forthcoming (b)). In contrast, a relatively small amount of pottery was recovered from roundhouse 10224 with little concentration towards the termini.

The vast majority of pottery (97%) from Site 52 was Type F28, and was particularly exclusive to Phases 2 and 4. This pottery type is described as having late Bronze Age/early Iron Age parallels, but continues into middle Iron Age. Examples include those from Site 1 (this publication) and on the Huntingdon to Willington pipeline (Sloweskowski, forthcoming (a)). This concentration of one single type of pottery is a rare occurrence; it is more usual to find a mixture of fabric types, which would have reached the site as a result of trade, exchange or gifts. None of the other comparable sites along the pipeline have this bias towards one fabric type.

One possible explanation is that the occupants of this site specialised in the manufacture of pottery. No evidence of burned areas was found, but these are likely to be away from the immediate area of settlement, possibly just beyond the excavation area. A bonfire would not be sited too close to a building because of the danger of fire. All useable pottery would be traded or exchanged but some would be used by the makers. There would be no need to obtain pottery from elsewhere if you made your own. However, the small quantity of non-F28 pottery shows that some exchange and trade was occurring, possibly the contents of the vessels rather than the vessels themselves. Some exchange was necessary for the survival of social cohesion within the region. At Danebury, for example, 50% of the non-local pottery was of a type that was readily available locally, suggesting that the maintenance of community networks through exchange of goods was as important as the commodity itself (Morris 1997, 36).

It has been suggested that this site specialised in pottery manufacture. At this date, however, pottery would have been fired in clamps or bonfires. There was no evidence for kilns and no

burnt areas were found; simple bonfires would leave little trace. Kiln furniture was unnecessary. It is therefore likely that the kiln/oven floor fragments came from domestic ovens such as the ones found at Harrold (Dunning, 1970). Furthermore, thin section analysis excludes any of the pottery from Site 52 being made with local clays or inclusions.

Plate 19: Site 52, section through gully of roundhouse 10224

Plate 20: Site 52, section through gully of ring ditch 10225

Plate 21: Site 52, ring ditch 10225 and roundhouse 10224

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Site 15

Summary

Site 15 consists of two features located during the pipe trenching phase of operations. These were a pit and a gully, from which no datable evidence was retrieved.

Introduction

The only pre-existing feature present on this plot was the parish boundary between Cardington and Eastcotts (DBA:BL), as represented by a ditch and associated hedge line.

Location and Topography

Site 15 is located at construction plot 2/15, NGR 509990 244950, approximately 6km south-east of Bedford on gentle gradients originating from the Greensand Ridge to the east.

Geology and Soils

Site 15 resides upon calcareous pelosols overlying Oxford Clay laid down in the Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed in the area a pond (BSMR 5228) at NGR 509610 244878, approximately 500m south-west of site 15, and also the parish boundary between Cardington and Eastcotts (DBA:BL). As a result of these findings, no evaluation was carried out.

Watching Brief

Pit [2206]

This sub-circular pit was approximately 1.8m in width, and had a moderately steep sided cut on the northern edge, descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.37m. The southern edge was cut at a shallow gradient of 20° down to the base. A single mid orange brown fill (2207), consisting of firm silt clay, yielded no finds apart from occasional charcoal.

Gully [2208]

This linear gully was orientated north-west to south-east, was 0.7m wide, and had moderately steep sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.35m. A single orange brown silt clay (2209) was present, and contained no finds except for the occasional charcoal inclusions.

Interpretation

The date/function(s) of these two features is unclear.

Discussion

These features reflect some level of human activity, and may be related to archaeology revealed on site 14.

Site 19

Summary

Site 19 contains a single isolated ditch from which no datable evidence was retrieved.

Introduction

Geophysical survey revealed several linear features orientated in two perpendicular directions and interpreted as possible ridge and furrow.

Location and Topography

Site 19 is located in construction plot 3/19, NGR 508970 243910, approximately 6km south-east of Bedford on gentle gradients originating from the Greensand ridge to the east.

Geology and Soils

Site 15 resides upon calcareous pelosols overlying Oxford Clay laid down in the Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed the potential presence of archaeology in the form of several linear features producing high magnetic susceptibility levels. The presence of crops at the time of field-walking meant the fields were not field-walked. In the absence of any positive results, monitoring and recording of the plot during construction was recommended.

Watching Brief

Ditch [3500]

Orientated east-west, this feature consisted of a ditch with a 'U' shaped profile, 0.75m in width and 0.42m in depth. No datable finds were retrieved from its single fill (3501), which consisted of yellow brown silt clay containing frequent iron inclusions and rounded pebbles towards the base.

Interpretation

The date/function of this ditch is unknown.

Discussion

This feature may represent a drainage ditch.

Site 21

Summary

Site 21 consists of two ditches, orientated east-west, containing fills devoid of artefacts. They were over 100m apart. They may be fairly recent field boundary ditches.

Introduction

The site was found in the pipe trench.

Location and Topography

Site 21 is located at construction plot 3/21, NGR 508750 243700, approximately 6km south-east of Bedford on gentle gradients originating from the Greensand ridge to the east.

Geology and Soils

Site 21 resides upon calcareous pelosols overlying Oxford Clay laid down in the Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) revealed that the purported course of a Roman road existed in the area. Geophysical survey located a well-defined linear anomaly.

Watching Brief

Ditch [3502]

Orientated east-west, this ditch cut had a width of approximately 2.2m, with near vertical sides descending to a flat sloping base at a depth of 0.55m.

Ditch [3506]

Orientated east-west and cut at a width of 2m, this feature was truncated on its northern edge by a land drain, leaving only the southern edge intact, which was recorded as moderately steep-sided, and descending to a depth of 0.4m.

Interpretation

Neither ditch was directly dateable, though the landain cut into [3506] suggests this ditch was a pre-existing, fairly recent boundary ditch. The other ditch could have had the same function.

Discussion

The watching brief probably located two modern field boundary ditches. The form of the ditches would not support the idea that either represents one of the outer drainage ditches of a Roman road.

Site 37

Summary

Site 37 was revealed during the topsoil stripping phase of the pipeline. Located at construction plot 4/36, it contained a small but dense area of archaeology consisting of postholes, a linear, a pit and a stake hole. Ceramics and other artefacts retrieved from these features were dated to the early to middle Iron Age. A small quantity of residual flint flakes and a flint chip were also retrieved, indicating earlier activity during the Bronze Age.

From these findings, two phases of occupation/activity have been allocated.

- Phase 1 Bronze Age (2,000 to 650 BC)
- Phase 2 Early to middle Iron Age (650 to 350 BC)

Introduction

An area, approximately 20m by 4m, was investigated during the topsoil stripping phase of pipeline construction.

Location and Topography

Site 37 is centrally located along the pipeline route at construction plot 4/36, NGR 505600 241150 to 505590 241140, approximately 1.5km east of the Mediaeval village of Houghton Conquest and 2km due south from the village of Wilstead.

Geology and Soils

The site is situated on gently rolling terrain and the local geology is composed of typical calcareous pelosols overlying Lower Greensand laid down in the Lower Cretaceous.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology within the southern limits of plot 36 at NGR 0550 4020. The potential did not merit evaluation, but monitoring during a watching brief was recommended.

Watching Brief

The site consisted of an east-west linear and terminus [4209], two postholes ([4207] cutting [4205]), and an oval pit [4200] containing a small post/stakehole [4203] at its northern most end. Pit [4200] was the only feature to be fully excavated due to constraints on time. The remaining features were rapidly planned, recorded and sampled to retrieve dating evidence. The features are illustrated in plan on Figure 58 in the Addendum.

Oval Pit [4200]

A shallow-sided pit, approximately 2.6m in length by 1.6m in width, was cut at 30° down to a rounded base at a depth of 0.35m. It contained two fills, of which the secondary fill, (4201), a dark grey brown friable silt clay, yielded a triangular loom-weight, SF 81 (Figure 46b), as well as a moderate amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics (Figure 43.38) and animal bone. A crudely struck flint flake was also retrieved from (4201), with characteristics diagnostic of the Bronze Age.

Posthole/Stakehole [4203]

A small posthole was located at the northern end of pit [4200]. This feature had a width of 0.35m and a depth of 0.15m and had a ‘V’ shaped profile. A single fill (4204), comprised dark grey silt clay, and produced no datable evidence.

Linear/terminus [4209]

This was recorded in plan as an east-west linear, apparently terminating at one end.

Postholes [4207] and [4205]

Posthole [4207] cut posthole [4205], so probably reflects re-use/repair with a new(er) timber.

Interpretation

Site 37 may largely represent part of the remains of an Iron Age settlement. Pottery recovered from the excavation was given a date of early to middle Iron Age, 600-100 BC, whilst residual flints dating to the Bronze Age reflect earlier activity. The ceramics were retrieved from the single fills of the linear/terminus and both postholes, and the secondary fill of oval pit [4200]. The majority of the features contained animal bone and worked flint except posthole [4205].

Discussion

The flint evidence points to Bronze Age activity in the vicinity, if not on the site itself. The Iron Age saw more definite evidence of settlement. Environmental evidence in the form of free threshing wheat rachis from the upper fill, (4210) of gully [4209], and Emmer/Spelt grain in the upper fill, (4208) of posthole [4207], both support an agrarian regime at this location. In addition, the substantial fragment (75% complete) of a triangular loomweight from pit [4200], further supports the suggestion that a rural Iron Age settlement once existed here. Other environmental evidence, from [4205], [4200] and [4209], in the form of *Galium Aparine* (Bedstraw) and *Fallopia Convovulus* (Bindweed), indicates a possible habitat of predominately calcareous grassland, with the Bindweed being synonymous with the encroachment of arable field boundaries possibly situated beyond this area.

Site 43

Summary

Site 43 consists of numerous linear features representing possible enclosure ditches, along with a pit and a possible hearth revealed during the pipe trenching phase of construction. Also present were the remains of a cobbled trackway adjacent to the present footpath across plot 43. From the ceramics retrieved from the trackway, and the relationships between the other features present, three phases of activity have been allocated to site 43.

- *Phases 1-3 Romano-British (1st to 2nd C AD)*

Introduction

Geophysics indicated the possible presence of several diffuse linear features in plot 43, possibly associated with a Mediaeval moat SAM 20430/01, situated 140m south-east of the site. A small assemblage of flints was also retrieved from this vicinity during fieldwalking.

Location and Topography

Site 43 is located 0.25km south of the Mediaeval village of Houghton Conquest at construction plot 5/43, NGR 504710 241000 to 504620 241010, on gently sloping gradients that descend from the Greensand ridge to the south.

Geology and Soils

The local geology comprises calcareous pelosols of Evesham 3 typology overlying Ampthill Clay formations laid down in the Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology at plot 43 NGR 0470 4100 as indicated by the geophysical survey and fieldwalking. Evaluation was not recommended; monitoring during construction was agreed.

Watching Brief

Eight ditches: [5111], [5113], [5115], [5117], [5119], [5121], [5123] and [5125], all orientated east to west, were discovered. Other features included a pit [5105], a possible hearth [5109] and a cobbled surface, [5100], possibly a trackway.

Cobbled Trackway [5100]

This feature was orientated east-west and was approximately 3.20m wide by 0.03m depth. It consisted of medium-sized rounded cobbles, approximately 0.1m in diameter, and set into silt clay. Other inclusions within the matrix included sub-angular flints and chert fragments located between the cobbles, and moderate amounts of ceramics and other finds including ceramic building material, animal bone, an iron nail (SF 69), worked flint, intrusive post-Mediaeval ceramics, and a piece of Roman Samian ware. The latter is a fragment of a mortarium, a type not normally gritted though a small piece of quartz had found its way into the fabric of the bowel. Such ware can be dated to the second half of the second century AD.

Double Ditch [5101], [5102]

Orientated north-west to south-east, a double ditch cut, [5101] and [5102], was revealed. It had a total width of 2.2m, and both cuts were steep sided down to a round, slightly pointed base at a depth of 0.6m. Both ditches contained single fills, mid brown silt clays with orange blue mottling. The clarity of the horizon between the two was poor, and fills (5103) and

(5104) appeared to indicate that [5101] and [5102] were contemporary. A small quantity of degraded Romano-British ceramics was retrieved from (5103) in ditch [5101].

Pit [5105]

Irregular and sub-circular in plan, pit [5105] comprised a steep-sided cut on the southern edge, down to a flat base. The northern edge was slightly irregular and shallow, possibly caused by erosion and slumping. The dimensions of pit [5105] were recorded as width 1.6m and depth 0.75m.

Three fills were present. The primary fill, (5107), a dark grey silt clay with occasional angular flint inclusions, was located on the northern, irregular edge and was possibly re-deposited material derived from this edge, relocated by erosion. The secondary fill (5106) comprised a friable mid grey brown silt clay with pea grit inclusions. This fill formed the bulk of the material deposited within [5105]. An upper fill, represented by (5108), consisted of a loose, dark grey silt. This final deposit may have been the result of animal activity.

Possible Hearth [5109]

This small, shallow, irregular feature was 0.92m in width and 0.22m to 0.30m deep at its deepest point. Its base was made up of natural silt clay, whose red appearance was suggestive of burning in situ. The single fill, (5110), a dark grey friable silt clay, contained frequent charcoal inclusions and occasional burnt stones.

Ditch [5111]

Orientated east-west, and cut at a shallow gradient of approximately 30° to a pointed base, this ditch was 1.8m wide and 0.49m deep; it contained a single fill.

Ditch [5113]

Orientated east-west, this ditch, 1.2m in width, was initially cut at a steep gradient; a shallow break of slope then occurred approximately half way down the profile, leading to a slightly pointed base at a depth of 0.32m. A single fill was contained within it.

Double Ditch [5115], [5117]

Orientated east-west, this section revealed two ditches [5115] and [5117]. Ditch [5115] appeared to cut [5117], and had a width of 0.9m and depth of 0.32m. The gradient was moderately steep at 40°, down to a slightly rounded base. [5117] was cut at a steeper angle, down to a small rounded base. The clarity of edge was poor on the southern edge, where [5115] truncated [5117], and therefore the full dimensions of [5117] could not be fully ascertained, although a width of at least 1m and a depth of at least 0.45m were recorded. Both ditches contained single fills which yielded no datable finds.

Double Ditch [5119], [5121]

A second double linear was recorded further south from [5115] and [5117]. These ditches were orientated east-west. The larger of the two features, [5119], truncated approximately 50% of [5121] on its northern edge. Cut [5119] had a moderately steep gradient, was 1.5m wide, and had an undulating edge and rounded base at a depth of 0.5m. The surviving dimensions of [5121] were smaller, with a depth of 0.35m and a width of 0.75m; a full width could not be recorded due to the truncation by [5119]. The southern edge revealed a moderately steep cut, gradually becoming shallower to a rounded base. Despite the total combined width of 2.2m and depth of 0.5m, no finds were retrieved from the single fills.

Ditch [5123]

Orientated east-west, this linear was cut at 45°, the edge becoming irregular down to a pointed sloping base. A substantial cut, this feature had a width of 2.2m and a depth of 0.82m. Its single fill, (5124), a dark grey silt clay with lenses of brown sand, yielded a moderate quantity

of possibly late Romano-British ceramics, including a small fragment of Samian ware, possibly Antonine.

Ditch [5125]

Oriентated east-west, ditch [5125] was 1.1m wide with shallow sides down to a rounded base at a depth of 0.31m. Three fills were recorded. The primary fill (5126) consisted of a light grey brown clay, and may represent material eroded from the sides. The secondary fill (5127) comprised a thin lens of friable dark grey silt clay, approximately 0.04m in depth. Within this lens were frequent charcoal inclusions, possibly representing deliberate deposition of burnt material.

Interpretation

Three early to late Romano British phases have been identified on the basis of stratigraphic relationships. Phase 1 comprised ditches [5117] and [5121]. These were cut by [5115] and [5119], which represent part of Phase 2. Other Phase 2 features are ditches, [5111], [5113], [5125], double ditch [5101], [5102], and trackway [5100]. Phase 3 contains just one feature, ditch [5123]

Discussion

Site 43 represents Romano British domestic activity, comprising mainly enclosure ditches and associated features. Of the latter, the possible hearth [5109] containing frequent charcoal and occasional burnt stone, may alternatively represent the removal of a tree stump by burning. Environmental data in the form of Rumex (Sorrel), retrieved from fill (5103) of double ditch [5101], indicates a habitat of lowland acid grassland. Perhaps the most interesting feature is the possible cobbled trackway [5100]. This coincidently runs adjacent to an existing footpath orientated east west across the field in plot 43. Cropmark evidence shows reduced growth on the same alignment as this feature, and therefore suggests that the trackway continues some way beyond the pipeline easement.

Site 54

Summary

Site 54 consisted of a single undated ditch and a possible hedgeline.

Introduction

This site was revealed during the pipe trenching phase of operations.

Location and Topography

Site 54 is located at construction plot 7/54, NGR 502283 239476, approximately 0.5km south-east of the Mediaeval village of Houghton Conquest and 3km north-east of Ampthill. The site itself is situated immediately north of the Greensand ridge, residing on a level terrace overlooking the village of Houghton Conquest.

Geology and Soils

The local Geology consists of calcareous pelosols of Evesham 3 typology overlying river terrace gravels and Lower Greensand laid down in the Lower Cretaceous period.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology in the form of ridge and furrow (DBA:AT), as well as cropmarks with an associated Mediaeval pottery scatter (BSMR 9883) located during field walking on the southern gas feeder pipeline, 1976. It was decided that the area should be monitored as part of the watching brief.

Watching Brief

Ditch [7000]

This was orientated north-east by south-west, and was 1.1m wide with a steep sided ‘V’ shaped profile descending to a depth of 0.8m. A single fill (7001), consisting of a dark grey brown friable silt clay, yielded no artefactual evidence apart from occasional charcoal inclusions.

Hedgeline [7002]

Orientated north-east by south-west was the remains of a truncated hedgeline, approximately 3m in width, with gradual sloping sides descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.5m.

Interpretation

The function of this isolated ditch is not known; the hedgeline may be post-Mediaeval. Both features were situated on the same alignment, but due to the substantial distance between them it cannot be reliably suggested that they were related in any way. Cropmarks suggest that a former field boundary existed in the area of at least one of these features.

Discussion

Ditch [7000] may well have been a field boundary, but there is no definite proof of this. The hedgeline almost certainly did represent a field boundary, probably of post-Mediaeval date.

Site 59

Summary

Site 59 consists of the partially exposed footings and bank of the Victorian Ampthill railway tunnel. The only phase, Phase 1, is Modern (1750 to the present).

Introduction

Excavations for the pipeline truncated a section of the Ampthill railway tunnel at plot 59, where the exposed footings and bank were recorded.

Location and Topography

Site 59 is located approximately 1.5 km north-west of the town of Ampthill at construction plot 8/59, towards the southern end of the pipeline along the northern limits of the Greensand ridge.

Geology and Soils

The local geology consists of Argillic Frilford brown sands and pelosols of Evesham typology overlying glacial till and Ampthill clay formations deposited during the Upper Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The geophysical report was discounted due to the low susceptibility readings from plot 59 - the result of unresponsive terrain and ground cover.

Results

The approximate dimensions of the tunnel are 81m wide and 2.70m deep. The matrix for the railway cutting was orange brown clay, natural or possibly re-deposited, overlying a clay mall containing frequent gypsum crystals (Plate 22).

Interpretation

This disused section of railway had been backfilled with re-deposited clay and occasional bricks/large stones, with the ground being made up around and over it.

Discussion

The tunnel was constructed by the midland railway during 1865-1868, and formed part of the extended line from Bedford to London St Pancras. Spoil from the construction of the tunnel was deposited between Ossory farm and Ampthill Park. The subsequent mound is now heavily wooded, and it dominates the skyline on plot 8/59.

Site 64

Summary

Site 64 consists of an undated ditch.

Introduction

This site was identified during pipe trenching.

Location and Topography

Site 64 was situated to the south of the pipeline route at construction plot 9/64, NGR 502002 237921, approximately 0.5km west of the Ampthill railway sidings and 2km west of the town of Ampthill. The site itself is located on a slight gradient which descends to the tributaries of the River Flit to the South.

Geology and soils

The local geology is made up of Argillic Frilford brown sands and calcareous pelosols of Evesham typology towards the railway sidings, overlying glacial till and Ampthill clay deposited during the Upper Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology at plot 9/64 through geophysical survey, which revealed the presence of a possible curvilinear feature and possibly associated pits. No fieldwalking of this plot was conducted due to the presence of pasture. The recommendations for this site were a detailed monitoring during all construction works with the provision for excavation and/or other mitigation as required.

Watching Brief

Ditch [9050]

Orientated north-east by south-west, this feature was 2.75m wide with a steep southern edge descending to a flat sloping base at a depth of 0.9m. The northern edge was cut at a shallower gradient, approximately 45° down to the base. The two fills contained no datable artefacts or finds apart from the presence of charcoal in both fills.

Interpretation

This single undated ditch contained two unremarkable fills and yielded no finds. The upper fill may possibly have been the remnants of Mediaeval or post-Mediaeval ploughsoil, slumping into the top of the ditch.

Discussion

The ditch may be the curvilinear feature located by the geophysical survey.

Site 67

Summary

Site 67 is a curvilinear gully with associated pits. The latter were located at either end of the termini. These may be the remains of a possible structure or enclosure. The finds consist of early to middle Iron Age ceramics, and residual worked flints with characteristics diagnostic of the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age. From the evidence, two phases of activity have been allocated to site 67.

- *Phase 1 Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2,700 to 1,400 BC)*
- *Phase 2 Early to middle Iron Age (650 to 350 BC)*

Introduction

The site was located during topsoil stripping.

Location and Topography

Site 67 is situated to the south of the pipeline route at construction plot 9/66 & 67, NGR 502010 237370 to 502010 237350, approximately 0.5km west of the Ampthill railway sidings and 2km west of the town of Ampthill. The site itself is located on a slight gradient which descends to the tributaries of the River Flit to the south.

Geology and soils

The local geology is made up of Argillic Frilford brown sands and calcareous pelosols of Evesham typology towards the railway sidings, overlying glacial till and Ampthill clay deposited during the Upper Jurassic.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology at plot 66/67. Possible curvilinear and associated pits were revealed through geophysics although their full extent and nature were unknown. No artefacts were retrieved during fieldwalking as the plot was under pasture. A watching brief presence was to be maintained throughout the pipeline construction with the provision for excavation and/or mitigation as required.

Watching Brief

The excavation revealed a curvilinear gully [9000] with double termini [9004] and [9002]. At the end of each gully terminus was situated an irregular shallow pit, [9011] and [9014]. Emerging from the western edge of excavation and orientated east-west were the remains of a second gully terminus [9007] possibly related or contemporary with [9000].

The features are illustrated in plan on Figure 59 in the Addendum.

Curvilinear Gully [9000], [9002], [9004]

Orientated north-west to south-east and truncated by the field boundary ditch for plots 66 and 67, this gully was 0.74m to 1.26m in width. Profiles and depths varied greatly, in part due to levels of modern agricultural truncation. The main ditch [9000] possessed a shallow profile, becoming near vertical at a depth of 0.22m to a rounded base. A small quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics were retrieved from its single fill (9001), a mid dark grey brown silt clay. The termini were inconsistent with [9002] revealing a shallow flat base at a depth of 0.09m, and [9004] revealing a steep sided cut, down to a rounded base at a depth of 0.57m. The gully's primary fill, (9005), a compact dark orange brown silt clay, yielded a moderate amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics and a residual Late Neolithic-early Bronze Age flint flake.

Pit [9011]

Orientated south-west to north-east, this irregular, curvilinear pit was located at the end of terminus [9002], and was approximately 3.4m in length. It had a steep-sided, rounded profile, and was 0.55m wide and 0.27m deep. Two fills were present within the pit: primary fill, (9013), a thin deposit of light blue grey clay, contained a moderate quantity of early to middle Iron Age ceramics. These ceramics were also present within the secondary fill (9012), a firm dark blue grey silt clay, and form part of the same vessel.

Pit [9014]

Orientated south-west to north-east, this pit, located at the end of terminus [9004], was irregular in plan and approximately 3.5m in length and 2.45m in width. Its profile was irregular and stepped towards an undulating base at a depth of 0.58m. Four fills were present. The primary fill (9018) consisted of a firm grey green clay, containing a small amount of early to middle Iron Age ceramics. Two isolated deposits formed the secondary fills: (9016) and (9017). These were situated at the southern and northern edges of the pit. (9016) consisted of friable orange brown silt sand, containing moderate amounts of Iron Age ceramics. In contrast, fill (9017) had a matrix of firm grey green clay, and yielded a small quantity of Iron Age ceramics and a residual late Neolithic-early Bronze Age flint core.

Interpretation

Site 67 is largely the possible remains of a ploughed-out enclosure/structure dating from the early to middle Iron Age, with associated pits containing domestic waste (animal bone, worked flint, fuel ash?, slag and burnt stone) indicating some form of occupation within this area. A small collection of worked lithics dating to the Late Neolithic-Bronze Age indicate earlier activity.

Discussion

The precise nature and function of the enclosure/structure is uncertain.

Site 69

Summary

Site 69 is a small area of archaeology consisting of dispersed linear, postholes and a pit. The majority of the features appeared to be heavily truncated by modern ploughing. One sherd of ceramic material was recovered, most features being devoid of dating evidence. One phase has therefore been allocated to site 69:

- *Phase 1 High Mediaeval (1250 to 1400 AD)*

Introduction

Site 69 lies immediately to the south of a known area of sub-rectangular cropmark enclosures, BSMR 15291. It was found during topsoil stripping and pipe-trenching.

Location and Topography

Site 69 is situated within the southern quarter of the pipeline at construction plot 9/69, NGR 501880 236820 to 501880 236860, approximately 0.5km west of Ampthill. The archaeology is located on the edge of a shallow gradient that descends down to a tributary of the River Flit.

Geology

The local geology consists of a mixture of Evesham type calcareous pelosols and alluvium deposited via the tributary of the River Flit, overlying Lower Greensand laid down in the Lower Cretaceous.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology at plot 69, because of the presence immediately north of enclosure BSMR 15291. A watching brief presence was recommended.

Watching Brief

An area 45m by 15m was investigated after the initial topsoil stripping. Two linear gullies were revealed, [9025] and [9023], running adjacent to each other and orientated east-west, each ending in termini. Three scattered postholes [9029], [9027] and [9021], and one small pit [9019], were also located.

Pit [9019]

A small oval pit, 0.78m in length and 0.5m in width was recorded. It had shallow edges down to a flat base at a depth of 0.12m.

Posthole [9021]

This small posthole had a diameter of 0.33m, and a moderate gradient falling to a pointed base at a depth of 0.15m.

Gully [9023]

Orientated east-west from the western easement, this shallow gully terminus was approximately 6.2m in length and 0.63m in width. Its cut had a shallow gradient with a flat base at a depth of 0.11m. It contained a single sterile fill (9024).

Gully [9025]

Orientated east-west from the eastern easement, this gully was 1.5m long and 0.8m wide. It had shallow irregular sides, and its base contained a single sterile fill (9026). This feature ran parallel with gully [9023].

Posthole [9027]

The shallow remains of a small oval posthole were recorded, surviving to a depth of 0.05m.

Posthole [9029]

The shallow remains of a small oval posthole were recorded, surviving to a depth of 0.06m.

Gully/Land Drain [9055]

A gully [9055] was revealed during pipe trenching. This was orientated south-east by north-west, and contained a centrally located ceramic drain pipe, indicating that this was a drainage feature.

Interpretation

The features represent a relatively low level of human activity. The only pottery from the site was a sherd of Potterspury type ware belonging to the 13th - 14th century AD.

Discussion

The pottery finds suggest that the features may be Mediaeval in date.

Site 72

Summary

Site 72 consists of a single undated ditch and the parish boundary between Millbrook and Ampthill. A single unstratified worked flint flake was recovered dating to the Mesolithic-Neolithic period.

Introduction

The site was located during topsoil stripping.

Location and Topography

Site 72 is located at construction plot 9/72, NGR 501870 236596, approximately 1.5km north-west of the town of Flitwick and 1.5km south-west of Ampthill. It is situated on a gradient above the local floodplain of a tributary of the river Flit.

Geology and Soils

The local geology is a mixture of ferric brown earths and calcareous pelosols overlying Lower Greensand laid down in the Lower Cretaceous era.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology at plot 72 due to the presence of a series of enclosures (BSMR 15291) approximately 150 to 200m to the north. Detailed monitoring during construction works was recommended.

Watching Brief

Ditch [9058]

Orientated north-west by south-east, this was 0.9m wide with near vertical sides descending to a flat base at a depth of 0.47m. A single fill (9059), consisting of a dark grey brown firm silt clay, yielded no finds.

Parish Boundary [9057]

Orientated east-west along plots 9/72 & 73 is the parish boundary of Millbrook and Ampthill. The boundary consists of a double bank approximately 12.5 to 13m in width. The southern bank has a moderate gradient rising to a height of 0.9m at a width of 7.5m, then descending at a steeper gradient to the flat base of the boundary ditch. The northern bank has a smaller gradient at a width of 5m, and rises from the ditch at a moderately steep angle to a height of 1.9m, before merging with the topography of plot 73. The banks are made up of a sandy subsoil, probably green sand and/or alluvium/colluvium, and have Hazel and Oak present on the southern bank, and Willow on the northern bank.

Interpretation

The ditch is undated, but may represent a former field boundary. A stray Mesolithic-Neolithic flake indicates earlier activity in the locality.

Discussion

There is nothing to link the ditch to the parish boundary.

Site 76

Summary

Site 76 consists of two shallow isolated gullies, along with a single pit and a posthole. These features have been dated to the Mediaeval period from the ceramics retrieved from one of the gullies. Further south, towards the end of plot 76, are possible Mediaeval plough marks that truncate earlier Romano-British features.

From the evidence, two phases have been identified on site 76:

- Phase 1 Mediaeval (1300 to 1400 AD)

Introduction

These features were found during top soiling.

Location and Topography

Site 76 is located 1km west of the small town of Flitwick at construction plot 10/76, NGR 501700 235700, and situated at the southern end of the pipeline route. It is situated within the localised flood plain for the river Flit and its tributaries.

Geology and Soils

The local geology is alluvial deposits, calcareous pelosols and ferric brown earths of Frilford typology, overlying glacial till and Lower Greensand laid down in the Lower Cretaceous.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology at plot 76 NGR 0180 3580, through geophysical survey. This detected several linear anomalies, within an area of known cropmarks BSMR 758. Monitoring during a watching brief was recommended.

Watching Brief

An area 30m by 8m was cleaned and investigated. Two gullies and a small posthole and pit were located. Other investigated features included [10408] and [10411], which turned out to be residual pockets of subsoil and tree boles, and [10054], an area containing the possible remains of plough marks and unstratified Mediaeval pottery.

Pit [10405]

Orientated north-east to south-west, this oval pit [10405] contained moderately steep sides down to a slightly rounded base. It was 1.6m in length, 1m wide, and up to 0.25m deep.

Gully [10409]

Orientated east-west from the eastern easement was a shallow gully and terminus. At a width of 0.75m and depth of 0.16m, this steep-sided feature was shallow with a rounded base. A single fill (10410) consisted of mid brown sandy clay, within which were found a moderate amount of Mediaeval ceramics in a poor state of preservation.

Posthole [10615]

This was a small circular posthole, approximately 0.3m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. Its sides were cut at 60° down to a flat base.

Gully [10621]

Orientated east-west, this shallow linear was 1m in width with moderately steep sides falling to a flat base at a depth of 0.18m. It was re-cut by [10401], which was approximately 0.5m in width and 0.16m depth, the resulting profile being steep with a rounded base.

Plough Marks [10054]

Positive of the main archaeology, a second, smaller area, approximately 4m by 3.4m, produced a series of irregular linear striations [10054], containing mid brown soft sand and orientated east-west. These marks were approximately 0.03m in depth and appeared to contain frequent sherds of Mediaeval and Post-Mediaeval/early Modern ceramics. The soft, mid yellow brown sand these striated markings were cut into also yielded a moderate amount of Mediaeval ceramics. These striations may represent plough marks. They were not located further north, although several Post-Mediaeval/early Modern and possibly Mediaeval ceramics were recovered from the surface of plot 10/76.

Interpretation

Phase 1 has been identified as dating from the Mediaeval period. This includes the east-west gully [10409] and the ceramics within its single fills, although there appears to be a scattering of residual late Mediaeval ceramics across the site contained within the sub-soil overburden. This phase also includes the remains of the possible plough marks [10054].

Discussion

This site represents a phase of Mediaeval activity probably associated with agricultural activities. The features themselves appear detached and isolated and may represent some form of agrarian delineation towards the outskirts of a possible settlement. The deposition of pottery across the site is mainly residual from ploughing. Those ceramics located within features are minimal and from only one secure source, linear [10409].

Interestingly, a number of manufacturing sites producing these wares are known and at least two have been located in Flitwick. The proximity of Flitwick suggested that this may be the source of this pottery. Petrological analysis, however, points to a different source and it may be that there are other kilns in the vicinity.

Site 82

Summary

Site 82 is represented by a single undated ditch along with a pre-1845 parish boundary, and two unstratified and undated flint flakes.

Introduction

The site was located during topsoil stripping.

Location and Topography

Site 82 is located approximately 1.5km south-west of the town of Flitwick and approximately 1km due south of the village of Steppingley at NGR 501230 234450. The site itself resides upon gentle gradients overlooking the River Flit to the south.

Geology and Soils

The local geology is comprised of calcareous pelosols and ferric brown earths of Frilford typology, overlying Boulder Clay.

Pre-construction background

The archaeological pre-construction works (RSK, 2001) highlighted the potential for possible archaeology at plot 11/82, with linear anomalies being recorded during the geophysical survey. Fieldwalking also recovered a small quantity of manufacturing slag which lay close to a known Mediaeval pottery scatter (BSMR 7475).

Watching Brief

Ditch [1100]

Orientated east-west and 2.65m wide, this linear had a moderately steep gradient descending to a rounded base at a depth of 0.75m. A single fill yielded no datable evidence.

Parish Boundary [11002]

Recorded between plots 11/81 & 11/82, this parish boundary consists of a level horizon on the northern, plot 81 end, descending at a moderately steep gradient to a rounded ditch base at a depth of 1m. The gradient then rises steeply to the south to plot 82, with the gradient falling again leaving a southern bank approximately 0.5m in width.

Interpretation

The function/date of the ditch is unknown, but it may represent a field boundary. Two flint flakes bear un-diagnostic characteristics so are undated.

Discussion

There is nothing to link the undated ditch with the parish boundary. The flints reflect prehistoric activity in the area.

Plate 22: Site 59, pipe trench cut through Ampthill railway tunnel

7 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations throughout the pipeline's planning and construction phases have made a significant contribution to the archaeological record of Bedfordshire.

The construction of a pipeline can clearly make an important contribution as it provides an opportunity to study a somewhat random swathe of archaeological evidence throughout a narrow but extensive strip of the countryside. This evidence would otherwise have remained undiscovered due to the lack of opportunity to investigate such areas.

The information gained from the Excavations and Watching Brief has enhanced our understanding of settlement and land-use in this part of Bedfordshire. Evidence has been found of previously unknown archaeological sites ranging from discrete pits and ditches to groups of archaeological features representing parts of small-scale settlements, agricultural field systems and industrial activities, all dating from the Iron Age to the modern period. Unstratified finds also testify the exploitation of the land from the Palaeolithic to the present. Environmental evidence has extended the information offered by the material culture to provide a greater understanding of the natural surroundings of excavated sites, in particular during the Iron Age and Roman periods, and has contributed further evidence of the agricultural activities that occurred. Human activities aside, more light has also been shed on the environment of the Devensian glacial period on the Great Ouse valley.

Whilst all of the archaeological information is of local importance, several regional research issues have been illuminated, and new questions brought to light; this includes the pre-Holocene landscape and human activities in the Great Ouse valley and Iron Age settlement patterns and land use across the region as a whole.

8 REPORT, FINDS AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The site records, drawings, photographs and artefacts have been prepared in accordance with *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums in Bedfordshire*.

As all the artefacts and sites were located in Bedfordshire the entire archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum. The accession code for this project is 2001/268.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Transco and Murphy Pipelines Personnel

Andy Souley	Transco, Project Manager
Mike Nuttall	Transco, Project Manager
Chris Ridout	Transco, Project Supervisor
John Osman	Transco, Agricultural Liaison Officer
Jeremy Oetgen	Transco, Archaeological Specialist
Shona Gentry	Transco, Environmental Advisor
Maurice Corridan	MPL, Project Manager
Trevor Jestin	MPL, Construction Manager
Paul Aylett	MPL, Engineering Manager
Jackie Brennan	MPL, Assistant Project Manager
Bob Williams	MPL, Health & Safety Officer
Leonard Gray	MPL, Agricultural Liaison Officer
Guy Handley	MPL, Senior Surveyor
Andy Wells	MPL, Quantity Surveyor
Jim Aspinall	MPL, Quantity Surveyor
Mick Fitzpatrick	MPL, Project Engineer
Mick McGoven	MPL, Foreman
Tony Theo	MPL, Foreman
John Slater	MPL, Draughtsman/CAD Operator
Geoff Boyack	MPL, Plant & Transport
Jim Inglis	Keeper of Archaeology, Bedford Museum
Rosmary Bind	Curator, Bedford Museum
Peter Murphy	English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor
Mike Chamley	Surveyor
Leslie-Ann Mather	Heritage & Environment Section, BCC, County Archaeologist
Martin Oake	Heritage & Environment Section, BCC, County Archaeologist

Specialists

Pottery	Anna Slowikowski
Ceramic Building Material	Anna Slowikowski
Samian Ware	Felicity Wild
Ceramic Thin Sections	Allan Vince
Flint	Jim Rylatt
Quern Stone	Liz Wright
Glass	Hugh Willmott
Metal Finds, Crucible and Metal Working Debris	Jane Cowgill and Brian Gilmour
	Jo Higgins
Human Remains	Andy Hammon
Animal Bone	Sarah Clark
Insect Remains	Wendy Carruthers
Palaeobotanical Remain	Robert Scaife
Pollen	Rowena Gale
Wood Remains	Tomasz Goslar
AMS	

Network Archaeology Ltd Personnel

Claire Angus *Evaluation, Excavation, Watching Brief*
Mark Ward *Evaluation, Excavation, Watching Brief*

Julian Sleap *Evaluation, Excavation, Watching Brief*
Gef Parsons *Excavation, Watching Brief*

Excavation Staff

Lesley Couch
Fay Cope
Brian Dean
Neil Fairburn
John Foulkes
Neil Guiden
Jason Hall
Christina Holloway
Kate Jackson
Scott Jacobson
Peter Jones
Kevin Milner
Simon Oakley
Richard Oram
Ken Owen

Katie Pack
David Pepper
James Preston
Owen Raybould
Esther Elen Roberts
Tegwin Roberts
Gavin Robinson
Aleck Russell
Richard Sims
Hugo Shannon
Kerry Tyler
Daniel Watkeys
Doug Young
Ginette Radcliffe

Chris Taylor *editing*
Mark Ward *report writing/site archive*
Julian Sleap *report writing/site archive*
Claire Angus *site archive*
Charlotte Bentley *illustration*
Karen Dennis *GIS and illustration*
Wendy Booth *finds officer*
Kealey Manvill *archive deposition*
Caroline Kemp *finds processing*
Gordon Shaw *finds processing*
Jean Pattison *admin office support*
Tara Taylor *admin office support*

Donna Isaacs *wet sieving*
Evelyn Anderson *wet sieving*

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bell, F. G., 1970, Late Pleistocene flora from Earith, Huntingdonshire, *Phil. Trans. Royal Soc. London*, B258, 347-78.
- BCAS, 1995, Bedford Southern Bypass Post Excavation Assessment Report Volume 4: The Landscape.
- Dark, P. (2000) The environment of Britain in the first millennium. Redwood.
- Dawson, M., 1996, Plantation Quarry, Willington. Excavations 1988-91. *Beds Arch. J.* **22**, 2-50.
- Dawson, M. (ed.) Prehistoric, Roman, and post-Roman Landscapes of the Great Ouse Valley, CBA Research Report 119.
- Dawson, M., forthcoming, *An Iron Age Settlement at Salford, Bedfordshire*, Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 4
- Dunning, G.C., 1970, ‘Ovens of baked clay’ in Eagles and Evison 1970, ‘Excavations in Harrold, Bedfordshire 1951-53’, *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*, vol.5, 17-55
- English Heritage (1991) The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition.
- Green, C., 2000, Geology, relief, and Quaternary palaeoenvironments in the basin of the Great Ouse, in M. Dawson (ed.) Prehistoric, Roman, and post-Roman Landscapes of the Great Ouse Valley, CBA Research Report 119.
- Hill, J D 1995a. Ritual and Rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex. Oxford: BAR British Series 242.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists’ (1997) Code of Conduct.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists’ (1997) Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists’ (1999) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.
- Luke, M., (forthcoming), An archaeological Resource Assessment of Bedfordshire from the Palaeolithic to the earlier Bronze Age. In M. Dawson (Ed.) An Archaeological Resource Assessment of Bedfordshire (Forthcoming).
- Morrell, M., (forthcoming), *Huntingdon to Willington Gas Pipeline*, Network Archaeology Ltd.
- Morris E.L., 1997, ‘Where is the Danebury ware?’ in Gwilt and Haselgrove 1997, 36-39
- Network Archaeology Limited (1999) Recording Manual
- Network Archaeology Limited (2001) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (ADBA), Report No. 165.

Network Archaeology Limited (2002) Archaeological Fieldwalking, Field Reconnaissance and Geophysical Survey, Report No. 167.

Parker Pearson, M 1996. Food, fertility and front doors in the first millennium BC, in Champion and Collis 1996, 117-132.

Pinder, A., 1986, Excavations at Willington 1984: I The Bronze Age. *Beds Arch. J.* **17**, 15-21.

Oswald, A., 1997, A doorway on the past: practical and mystic concerns in the orientations of roundhouse doorways. In A. Gwilt and C. Haselgrove (Eds.) Reconstructing Iron Age Societies: New Approaches to the British Iron Age, Oxbow Monograph 71, Oxford: Oxbow Books.

Robinson, Mark (1988) The significance of tubers of Arrhenatherum elatius (L.)Beauv. from Site 4, cremation 15/11. in G. Lambrick, The Rollright Stones: Megaliths, Monuments & Settlements in the Prehistoric Landscape. E.H.Arch Rep. 6, p.102.

Rogerson, R.J.A., Keen, D.H., Coope, G.R., Robinson, E., Dickson, J.H. & Dickson, C.A., 1992, The flora, fauna and palaeoenvironmental significance of deposits beneath the low terraces of the River Great Ouse at Radwell, Bedfordshire, England. *Proc. Geological Assoc.*, 103, 1-13.

Slowikowski, A.M., forthcoming (a), 'The Pottery' in Morrell forthcoming

Slowikowski, A.M., forthcoming (b), 'The Pottery' in Dawson forthcoming

11 ADDENDUM

Sites 28, 29, 32, 37 and 67 Plans

Figure 55: Site 28

Figure 56: Site 29

Figure 57: Site 32

Figure 58: Site 37

Figure 59: Site 67

