

28.7.98

6 MSMR Sites ~~dated~~  
1 site added (of Cheshire)  
(see Fig. 1 for details)

SWL

## M57-A562 TARBOCK WIDNES LINK ROAD, MERSEYSIDE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN By R. Cowell

February 1997

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

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### Introduction

In 1981 Liverpool Museum (then Merseyside County Museum) undertook an archaeological landscape survey of the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley in order to provide information for the setting up of the Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record (Cowell 1982). Part of the area covered included the township of Tarbock, where fieldwalking located several prehistoric and medieval sites. In 1990 the SMR was approached by the planning department to provide archaeological information on three potential routes for a proposed link between the M57 and the A562 to Widnes. The initial information led to the commission of an archaeological evaluation by Knowsley BC in late 1991, which was undertaken by the Field Archaeology Section of Liverpool Museum (as it had been since 1987). A subsequent report was produced by the FAS for the Public Enquiry in early 1992. Negotiations then got underway between National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM), through Liverpool Museum (LM), and Knowsley Borough Council for archaeological mitigation along the favoured route, which was the most archaeologically sensitive. Knowsley BC comissioned the FAS to undertake the programme of excavations but were unable to fund the full amount that was necessary to complete it satisfactorily. English Heritage were then approached to make up the shortfall, and after the production of the Project Design by the FAS, agreed to part fund and monitor the project.

The programme of archaeological work began in April 1993 and lasted until November of that year. The work was carried out by Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Section on behalf of National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM) and was funded by Knowsley Borough Council, English Heritage and NMGM.

There were four main locations along the line of the proposed route judged to be of archaeological potential from the 1991 evaluation. The results of the project, however, can best be seen in the context of the study of a block of landscape over c. 7000 years, and the theme of the projected final publication is designed to reflect this.

### Ochre Brook

Of the four main sites, the first (LM Site code 35) lies in the township of Tarbock, south of the now-demolished Dacres Bridge Farm, on the west bank of Ochre Brook, centred at NGR SJ 463 890. The excavation was preceded by an evaluation phase of trenching, based on the topographic potential of this side of the valley, as access had not been possible prior to the commencement of groundworks for the road. This involved cutting 31 trenches in the field west of the brook, a further three trenches on the western edge of the floodplain to examine a palaeo-channel, while six trenches were located on the edge of the flood plain on the eastern side of the stream. Fieldwalking had produced Mesolithic and later prehistoric flintwork from the slopes on the eastern side of the valley. The evaluation trenches were followed by larger area trenches on either side of the brook, of which only those to the west were archaeologically productive. The evaluation and subsequent excavations took place from 7 June to 3 September 1993. A subsequent two week period was spent from 25 October-5 November 1993, in the watching brief phase of the project, to recover further information from the site on the west side of the stream.

### Brunt Boggart

The second site (LM site code 33) is located north of Water Lane, Tarbock (NGR SJ 465881) adjacent to the partly demolished Brunt Boggart farm. The site was based on a moderately sized assemblage of medieval pottery (c.400 sherds) from fieldwalking and a range of potentially associated features from the evaluation in 1991. The excavation took the form of a long, irregular narrow area measuring a maximum of 14m by 162m which was excavated in two contiguous strips over the period of the 18 May to 2 September 1993.

## Brook House Farm

The third site consists of a double ditched enclosure at Brook House Farm, Halewood, at the extreme southern end of the route centred at NGR SJ 473 850. This was first located by aerial photography through Liverpool Museum in 1992. The main excavation (LM site code 34) consisted of a linear trench measuring c. 10x100m east-west across the site which was excavated over six weeks, from 15 September to 27 October 1993. The trench covered the central part of the enclosure, and sections of the ditch system on the east side. A watching brief (LM site code 36) took place prior to this when a gas pipeline was excavated across the northern edge of the enclosure. This was undertaken in extremely wet weather over a period of three days from 9-11 June 1993.

## Ditton Brook

The fourth area lay either side of Ditton Brook near the southern end of the road corridor. Ditton Brook South (LM site code 38) lay on the southern side of Ditton Brook, Halewood (NGR SJ 47558520). There was no archaeological evidence for the area to the south of the stream prior to the commencement of the groundwork for the road, although it was felt that early prehistoric archaeology was likely to exist there on topographical grounds. This evidence was located through a programme of 35 trial trenches, which took place between 1-8 September 1993 which identified three possible areas of prehistoric activity. Potentially the most significant of the three areas was then further excavated between 9-15 September and 27 September-2 November.

Ditton Brook North (LM site code 39) lay on the north side of Ditton Brook, Ditton, (NGR 47528535) c. 200m north of site 38. The site was excavated over a period of five weeks from 20 September to 22 October 1993. One large trench was dug from the top of the ridge down into the valley floor. A second, smaller trench was dug c. 35m to the north of this on the higher ground at the northern edge of an embayment in the valley. Seventeen pieces of struck flint, of Mesolithic date, had been found in small evaluation trenches on the valley slopes in 1991.

## THE EXCAVATIONS:

### OCHRE BROOK, TARBOCK

#### A1 Background

##### (i) Academic Objectives

This site had been identified by earlier prehistoric flintwork from fieldwalking. The aims here were:

- a) to identify the existence, nature and date of Mesolithic settlement at two sub-sites (designated OB1 and OB2 in the Project Design) and potential late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity at OB1. This was to be achieved partially from an assessment of the technology and typology of the flint assemblage, and partially from structural remains, if they were identified.
- b) the potential for this possible prehistoric evidence was held to be greatly enhanced by its proximity to adjacent waterlogged deposits in the Ochre Brook stream bed at OB2 (LM site code 35). The main aim of the work in the river valley was therefore to retrieve palaeoecological evidence to identify the impact that prehistoric activity had on the natural environment. A second aim was to determine the morphological development of the valley/channels so that the physical changes that have taken place within them could be related to the nature and timing of the surrounding human activity.
- c) to identify if the alluvial deposits in the valley masked elements of the human activity that had taken place on the adjacent dryland areas.
- d) to place this information in the context of other research underway in the county based on field survey and associated palaeoecological studies (North West Wetland Survey; Liverpool Museum), and programmes of excavation (Liverpool Museum).

There were also two limited aims which were dependent on time considerations:

- e) to study the relationship between the surface/plough zone material and underlying features
- f) to assess later cultivation effects on the archaeology of these areas

##### ii) Summary of Results

The occupation here can be divided into four main periods of activity, each one broadly corresponding to separate areas of the site, although there is some overlap.

The first period is not very significant, being represented only by a few pieces of struck prehistoric flint from both sub-sites OB1 and OB2 (subsequently Liverpool Museum Site code 35) on the western and eastern sides of the brook, including Mesolithic and late Neolithic/early Bronze Age material. This material was all from either the ploughsoil or from residual contexts.

The paucity of this evidence meant that the main objectives for the excavations here had to be abandoned and replaced by similar ones, relating to the evidence for an unsuspected phase of occupation on the west side of the brook at OB2 (35).

This phase of occupation was the most substantial on the site and is associated with the construction, use, and abandonment of a Romano-British enclosure and associated features on the crest of the valley slope on the west bank of Ochre Brook.

A small number of undated, small pits and gulleys pre-date the main R-B occupation of the site. The latter is represented by a ditched enclosure, traces of a post built building and a series of rubbish pits. The incomplete rectilinear plan of the enclosure suggests minimum dimensions of approx 50m by 30m with the interior of the enclosure subdivided by a shallow ditch aligned parallel to the western enclosure ditch. Within the interior of the enclosure was a rectangular arrangement of post-holes forming a structure 11.5 m long east-west by 4.5 m wide, which was aligned on the enclosure ditches. Traces of daub and burnt stone within the demolition fills suggest the structure was walled. Further post-holes within the interior may indicate subdivisions to this structure. The function of the building is uncertain but the relatively large quantity of pottery from the vicinity suggests that it is probably domestic.

About 10m to the west of the main building was a probable two-post structure. Other post-holes, in isolation or small groups may represent the fragmentary remains of fence lines, tethering posts or other structural elements. North-east of the main structure was a series of domestic rubbish pits, heavily truncated by later ploughing. Two pits contained quantities of *tegulae* in addition to pottery and charcoal. A marked concentration of tile was noted in the ditch segments close to the enclosure entrance including two consular-stamped tiles. The presence of wasters and unusual stamped tiles in quantity may indicate that tile production was taking place close to the site.

The nature of the site is as yet uncertain. There is no military metalwork and no coins, the buildings appear to be constructed of earth-fast posts with packing stones or tiles in the post-holes. The tiles may have been re-used from a military site nearby but none have yet been discovered. There are no known military sites within this part of former south-west Lancashire north of the Mersey, the nearest being ?Wigan, Kirkham and Chester, and the area is generally considered to have been a backwater (Jones 1971, 244). The Tarbock site also lies at some distance from the western of the two main Roman arterial routes west of the Pennines, which ran from Northwich to Wigan and beyond to Lancaster (Margary 1967, 367-8).

The third period of activity on the site is represented by the accumulation of a substantial deposit of colluvium which accumulated on the edge of a silted up, former watercourse in the valley flood plain just east of the enclosure. The date and duration of the deposition process are unknown, but the colluvium contained R-B pottery and abraded Roman tile fragments, suggesting it must have accumulated in the Roman or later periods. The alluvial silts within the former watercourse also contained a consular-stamped R-B tile fragment. In all, there were four, extremely rare, tile fragments bearing consular stamps of Verus (167 A.D.) and two fragments bearing legionary tile stamps of the Twentieth Legion Valeria Victrix. The alluvial silts of the channel also contained many natural wood fragments, although none of it was suitable for dendrochronological dating.

Objective b) was only partially met. Neither the transect coring prior to the start of excavations, nor the sections of four trenches on the valley floor, produced evidence of peat deposits which might allow palynological analysis.

The next major phase of activity is represented by a series of three, very large pits, up to 10m in diameter, cutting through the infilled enclosure ditch and into natural boulder clay to a depth of at least 2m. They may have functioned as quarry pits for clay. One contained a number of structural pieces of worked wood, including an unusual radially-split plank, which has produced a dendrochronological *terminus post quem* of 1235 AD for the felling of the timber.

This suggests that this and, by implication, the other structural pieces may have been associated with Daggers Bridge farm, which lies c.75m to the north of the Roman enclosure. This is made more likely by evidence from around the demolished post-medieval farm, which implies that the farm has late medieval origins. This consisted of a stratigraphically early oval rubbish pit, the top of which had been severely eroded by water action. To the south of this lay an east-west ditch which possibly marked the curtilage of the farm, and which contained a little late medieval pottery. This had silted up rapidly through material washing in downslope and the same erosion process had partly destroyed the upper cut of the feature. The underlying subsoil is sand at this point and it is unlikely that the feature remained in use for long due to the unstable nature of the ground.

Three early post-medieval pits were cut in the area of the boundary ditch. All contained pottery, charcoal and bone and were interpreted as refuse pits for the farm to the north.

## A2 Factual Data

### *Structural*

#### i) Quantity of records

490 Contexts + 58 from watching brief  
126 Plan and section drawings + 28 from watching brief

#### ii/iii) Provenance, range and variety of material

The features associated with the structures on the site include an R-B external enclosure ditch, internal post-holes relating to a building and possibly ancillary structures, rubbish pits and internal slots and ditches; a medieval and post medieval ditch and three late medieval borrow pits. A colluvial layer was present across most of the site, in places

sealing some of these features, while some contexts relate to two former channels in the flood plain of the Ochre Brook.

### *Artefactual*

#### i) Quantity of material

54 Roman ceramic rim and base sherds.

c.650 R-B body sherds

4 *Tegulae* fragments bearing consular stamps of Verus (167 A.D.)

2 *Tegulae* fragments bearing legionary tile stamps of the Twentieth Legion Valeria Victrix.

30 storage boxes of R-B tile fragments

20 sherds of late medieval pottery

10 pieces of late medieval worked structural wood (as yet unrecorded) from the watching brief, including a fine 3<sup>th</sup> plank

#### ii) Provenance

The greater part of the R-B ceramic material came from stratified deposits associated with the enclosure ditch, ~~rubbish~~ pits and post-holes. Although the pits had been truncated by earlier post-medieval ploughing, the material from the pits was largely uncontaminated. Some material, particularly fragments of R-B tile came from a colluvial deposit which lay across the lower part of the valley slope and over the final alluvial silting of the palaeochannel at the foot of the slope. Although a very small quantity of post-medieval pottery came from this deposit it contained little residual material other than 3 flint flakes.

Rapid scanning of the main body of material suggests an AD 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century date for the bulk of the pottery.

#### iii) Range and variety

The bulk of the material from the site is R-B ceramics including black burnished ware, local sandy wares and a small amount of samian. A large amount of tile, including stamped *tegulae*, came from the main features as well as the colluvial layer. The moderately large assemblage of pottery (for the region) came mostly from stratified features associated with the farmstead, which were all completely excavated and sampled for environmental evidence.

A small amount of late medieval pottery came from the limited number of medieval contexts on the site which were also completely excavated, except for the clay borrow pits which were partially excavated by machine during the watching brief stage and which produced the late medieval worked wood.

#### iv) Storage and conservation

The pottery is moderately soft and friable but will easily take a degree of handling and long term storage for it has no conservation implications. Much of the tile is fragmentary and weathered, although the main stamped tiles are in good condition.

The late medieval structural timber sections are suitable only for recording and will not need conservation, except for the plank which is in good condition and exhibits traces of workmanship which are thought worthy of conservation. This piece is at the Sheffield University laboratory where it was sent for dendrochronological dating, the other material is held in tanks at Liverpool Museum.

#### v) Primary sources

The Merseyside SMR includes primary documentation for the nature of the late medieval landscape in this part of Tarbock which will have some bearing on the interpretation of the medieval element of the excavations.

### *Palaeoecological*

#### i) Quantity of material

30 Wood samples (natural)

79 Bulk environmental samples, including two pollen monoliths. Over half of the samples have been sub-sampled for processing and assessment of their flots has taken place, with c.32 further samples, which could not be treated in the original assessment stage, left to be sub-sampled.

A pollen core 1m deep, in two monolith tins.

#### ii) Provenance

The natural wood samples came from one of three trial trenches placed on the boundary between the old channel and the base of the dryland slope which should provide a reasonably representative sample of material from this context. This material is earlier than the colluvial layer which accumulated at some time during or after the Roman period.

The pollen monoliths also come from this trench.

The bulk soil samples come from virtually all significant deposits associated with the main structures on the site and the palaeochannel. Although the R-B features had been truncated by post medieval ploughing, there was no evidence of contamination of the R-B features other than occasionally by field drains.

#### iii) Range and variety

The environmental evidence from the assessment consists of an important collection of charcoal, seeds, weeds, wheat and barley grains in contexts relating to the main R-B structure and rubbish pits.

The bulk samples for the palaeochannel produced no such evidence, but the cores from the palaeochannel have produced pollen smears that show that evidence should be available which will allow the changing landscape to be identified in the pre Roman or early R-B period, although absolute dating from these deposits is required for this to be clearer.

#### iv) Storage and conservation

The natural wood from the palaeochannel has no potential for dendrochronological dating and is not being kept in the long term, although it could be used to obtain a radiocarbon date for the silting of the palaeochannel.

## A3 Summary statement of potential

### *Structural*

Although both the main structural elements of the site, the enclosure ditch and the rectilinear building were not recovered in total, the importance of the structural evidence from the site is still considerable in the light of the little that is known about the nature of R-B rural settlement in the North West. The only extensive excavations of enclosures or plans of rural buildings in the region are found at Tarporley, Cheshire and Irby, Wirral and slightly further afield at Prestatyn, North Wales. The extensive pitting over the site has also produced contexts of great importance for associated pottery and palaeoecological evidence.

### *Artefactual*

#### a) pottery

Excavations at Ochre Brook, Tarbock, produced one of the largest collections of Romano-British pottery in the region which has several important implications for the interpretation of the nature of activity on the settlement and for the

wider organisation of farmsteads in the rural landscape. Study of the pottery assemblage will also provide dates for the use of the farmstead, and may be useful in differentiating different phases in the use of the enclosure.

#### b) tile

The stamped legionary tiles, alongside a much larger quantity of unstamped *tegulae* and rather fewer *imbrices*, is unexpected, as the site has no characteristics consistent with a military establishment. McWhirr lists sites where XX<sup>t</sup> legion stamped tiles have been found: Carlisle, Manchester, Prestatyn, Heronbridge, Caernarvon, Ffrith, Caerhun, Caersws, Wilderspool, Chester and Holt (McWhirr 1979b, 256). To this list are added stray finds at Whittlebury, Northants (which McWhirr considers may be part of a collection) and Silchester (Hassall and Tomlin 1977, 441), and Hassall and Tomlin (1993, 316) record a tile stamp probably reading LEG XXV from Scalesheugh, Cumbria (NY 449496). This material has important implications for understanding the regional pattern of industrial organisation, the organisation of the rural landscape and its relationship to the military occupation in the area. It is worth noting that very small quantities of tile have been recovered from at least two other rural sites in the county, one near the Ochre Brook site, at Brunt Boggart, Tarbock (see below), the other at Irby in Wirral (Philpott 1993). The stamped tile is also of intrinsic value on account of its rarity.

#### *Palaeoecological*

The evidence from the site consists of two main elements.

i) The bulk samples from the enclosure ditch, pits and post holes have produced an important variety of grain and various types of seeds from the assessment. The analysis of this processed material would provide evidence about the use of the enclosure and Romano-British farming practice, which is available from no other site in the region, other than Irby and further afield from North Wales at Prestatyn (Blockley 1989).

The assessment report indicates that the extra work on analysing all the existing flots sampled for the assessment would make this site of great importance for understanding Romano-British landuse in the region and provide a useful comparison with the picture from Irby.

ii) The pollen core from the palaeochannel is only of limited potential as dating for the sediments is not forthcoming, other than R-B or later on stratigraphic grounds. The best way of dating the sediments would be from the natural wood contained in them, but although the two may reasonably be assumed to be roughly contemporary, the nature of the association is not absolutely clear. There is a slight possibility that the wood could possibly be derived from earlier contexts upstream which river erosion transported into the silting channel at a significantly later date. The case for trying to date the sediments by this method and undertaking the pollen analysis is accordingly weakened. Given the reduced support for the analysis stage of the project this evidence is therefore judged to be of lower priority in what needs to be done to complete the site report.

#### ii) Integrated assessment report

The excavations have produced fairly good structural evidence of a farmstead enclosure of the R-B period. This is enhanced by the fact that many of the structural elements recovered from the site contained both artefactual and palaeoecological evidence. The ceramic assemblage from the site is the second largest one in a rural context in the region after Irby, and the environmental evidence provides a varied range of evidence for farming practice on the site. This association of evidence will allow a rounded picture of the date, nature, landuse and development of the farmstead during the R-B period. Additional pollen evidence from the nearby stream will not now be available to provide evidence of the wider landscape in which the farmstead operated, although without dating evidence it cannot be shown to be contemporary with the use of the site in any case.

The excavation of enclosures of this type is rare in the region and so the existence of this site is important. Additionally, no other published regional rural site in the lowlands has provided such a range of evidence for this period, the nearest such site being Prestatyn in North Wales (Blockley 1989), and now Irby on the Wirral. The landscape of Wirral appears to have developed at a different rate from that to the east of the Mersey and so it will be important to compare the types of activity taking place on each site, as representative of different geographical parts of the region, in terms of origins, date, associated agricultural practice, and end of occupation on each site.

## BRUNT BOGGART, TARBOCK

### A1 Background

#### i) Academic Objectives

This site had been identified from a dense concentration of late medieval pottery from fieldwalking and sub-surface features from evaluation. The aims were:

- a) to identify the layout and function of the potential settlement
- b) to enhance the very poor regional understanding of ceramic production and chronology for the late medieval period locally
- c) to characterise economic activity on the site through macro-botanical analysis and to provide material suitable for C14 analysis to date the site.

#### ii) Summary of Results

The earliest activity on the site is attested by one probable and two certain fragments of Mesolithic flint, but no features associated with this period were identified. The earliest archaeologically visible feature on the site was also prehistoric, consisting of an isolated, short, curved linear feature, the primary fill of which contained three sherds of crude, hand-made, possibly Bronze Age pottery.

The main phases of archaeological activity recovered from the site, however, relate to the historic periods. The earliest is of Romano-British date, attested by the discovery of a small, but significant group of pottery. The R-B finds are concentrated in one fairly confined locality in the vicinity of a major ditch which measured up to 1.3m deep and 3m wide.

The period for the construction of the ditch and its initial silting is uncertain and could belong to three possible dates; it may represent a feature belonging to the R-B occupation of the site, which appears to have been fairly substantial from the amount of pottery found; it may be a post-Roman feature but pre-dating the medieval occupation of the site; the third would see it as a medieval feature associated with the main phase of activity on the site.

Determination of the duration of the R-B occupation awaits a detailed study of the finds, but the period of occupation is likely to fall within the late 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, since the finds include samian ware, which is unlikely to post-date c. 200 AD, black-burnished ware, which does not occur in quantity in the north before the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, and a dolphin (Colchester-derivative) brooch, a type usually assigned to the later 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

The major phase of activity at Brunt Boggart is associated with the medieval period and consists of several phases. Tentatively assigned to the first medieval phase are two parallel north-south ditches 66m apart, the eastern one of which has a 3m wide gap for access. The eastern ditch had cut through a spread of pebbles embedded in the upper surface of the clay subsoil; the material around and above the pebbles contained Roman and medieval pottery sherds. The possible Roman ditch was only partly silted by this period and still represented a substantial feature which would have subdivided the area between the smaller medieval ditches into two equal portions of about 33m width.

Two structures were tentatively defined within the two enclosures, on the basis of spatial patterning into coherent, if rather irregular, rectangular arrangements of stratigraphically compatible contexts, although the dimensions of their component post-holes are not uniform. It is suggested that each represents a rectilinear timber post-built structure and each is located as a single building within the two separate enclosed plots near the modern road frontage of Water Lane. The eastern structure is aligned north-south with dimensions of 7m by 5m; the western structure measures 14m by 5m with its long axis oriented east-west and is associated with a probable surviving cobbled surface.

A strong cluster of finds overlapping the eastern ditch, coincides with the location of a group of possible post-holes. There is a suggestion that this represents a further building of which not all the post-holes were recovered but further work may clarify this. If this is correct, the structure overlies the infilled eastern ditch.

Finds from the site as a whole, notably pottery, indicate that the medieval occupation fell broadly within the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Local Cistercian Ware, the contemporary 'coarse' wares and other ceramic types characteristic of the 16<sup>th</sup> century are absent, and those diagnostic of the 15<sup>th</sup> century appear to form a relatively minor component of the total finds assemblage, suggesting that occupation had ceased some decades before the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The start of the medieval occupation is more difficult to determine since the chronology of local pottery types is not well



understood before the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The rather limited structural evidence may indicate that occupation of the plots was not sufficiently long-lived to involve shifting of the buildings within them.

## A2 Factual data

### *Structural*

#### i) Quantity of records

527 individual context records  
88 plans, 148 section drawings  
955 colour slides, 200 b/w photographs

#### ii/iii) Provenance, range and variety of material

The range of features is relatively small, being confined largely to a limited range of negative features and the fills. They include three ditches, which mark two probable adjacent tenements, post-holes, stake-holes and possible beamslots associated with two structures, one in each of the tenements, and quarry and other pits and miscellaneous features. There is limited survival of deposits other than fills; an extensive brown clay loam deposit under the modern ploughsoil may represent the base of an earlier soil/occupation layer.

#### iv) Condition

The great majority of features were heavily truncated by ploughing. Survival of negative features was variable and largely dependent upon their depth. Structural remains were relatively few in number and with the exception of deep negative features were not well-defined or preserved. Few layers survived on the site, and they were heavily truncated, while the great majority of features were negative, notably ditches, quarry pits, smaller pits and post-holes as well as a number of features of indeterminate function.

#### v) Primary sources

Documentary evidence from medieval and early post-medieval deeds and other sources exist for the township of Tarbock and provide some evidence as to the organisation of the landscape at this time. Some documentary research on Tarbock township was undertaken during the compilation of a survey of the archaeological potential of the Knowsley District (Cowell 1982). The main source is documents in the Lancashire Record Office, Preston, but additional archive sources may contain relevant data.

Aerial photographs provide some information on the existence of buried features within the immediate vicinity of the excavated site, in particular a double-ditched linear feature (probably a trackway) which runs northward from the excavated site towards a large oval enclosure. Detailed analysis of all aerial photographs held in local archives (notably the Joint Countryside Advisory Service at Maghull, Merseyside which contains the coverage commissioned by the now defunct Merseyside County Council) and correlation with excavated features will enhance the understanding of the immediate landscape of the site.

### *Artefactual*

#### i) Quantity

The site at Brunt Boggart was identified as a result of a fieldwalking programme which yielded several hundred pieces of late medieval pottery. Further evaluation by trial trenching produced a limited number of additional examples of medieval ceramics from archaeological deposits. A total of 1097 artefact fragments were recovered during the 1993 excavations. These were divided into three categories; special finds, the general finds and the bulk-sieved finds.

#### a) Special Finds

589 artefacts under four broad types: ceramics, lithics, glass, and metal.

b) General Finds  
503 artefacts mainly ceramic

ii) Provenance

The recovery of artefacts during the excavation was accomplished by two methods. As features were excavated, finds were retrieved by hand, sorted, recorded and processed. In addition, the soil samples taken for environmental analysis were initially screened for artefacts by bulk-sieving through a 4mm sieve. The artefacts recovered by site assistants during excavation were either given general find status or special find status. Finds qualified for general status if they were of obvious post-medieval or modern origin or if they were recovered from topsoil or unstratified material. Special find status was assigned to those artefacts whose origin was initially believed to be medieval or earlier and which were recovered from archaeological deposits.

There is a moderate amount of contamination of the contexts on this site which takes the form of agricultural disturbance such as the laying of field drains and plough damage which both result in the truncation of archaeological deposits and movement of finds. Root penetration and animal burrowing were also found to a considerable degree across the site.

The late medieval pottery comes mainly from a thin layer beneath the ploughsoil overlying the natural clay. This may represent the base of an occupation layer associated with the structures in each plot and the pottery is assumed to represent part of the rubbish disposal on the site. This material has been point plotted and its spatial distribution is taken to be of significance in interpreting the activity on the site.

R-B pottery came from this layer in the area of the main ditch and appears to be residual, while R-B pottery from the ditch may also be residual, although dating of the primary silting of this ditch should clarify this.

iii) Range and Variety

*Artefactual*

The chronological range of the special finds covers two periods of prehistory, represented by fragments of lithic and ceramic artefacts, the Roman period, which includes pottery, tile and metal artefacts, while the medieval and post medieval periods are represented by pottery fragments.

The ceramics from the site provided an assemblage of varied fabrics from several periods. They include: two sherds from a Bronze-Age vessel; Romano-British grey ware, black-burnished ware and colour-coated ware totalling c.120 pieces; late medieval and post-medieval sherds in a variety of fabrics; c.six tile fragments from the Romano-British period, and modern examples; clay tobacco pipe fragments; earthenware brick fragments and sherds from porcelain vessels.

The lithic evidence took the form of two flint fragments spot-dated to the Mesolithic period; a single fragment of Welsh chert; a fragment of a whetstone and heat-cracked stones.

Three finds of metal were recovered including a fragment of lead, slag from a smelting process and a copper-alloy brooch identified as a Roman dolphin type. The skeletal remains are represented by 11 fragments of animal bone, most of which are burnt.

The range of the general finds group of material is similar to that of the special finds and includes pottery fragments from the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods; fragments of glass, clay tobacco pipe, daub, earthenware field drain and brick; pieces of bone, metal, coal and stone.

iv) Condition

The entire collection has been cleaned, stabilised and marked and is bagged, boxed and labelled. It is at present located at the Field Archaeology Section, Liverpool Museum. The single exception to this is the Roman dolphin brooch which is currently undergoing conservation at the Conservation Department of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside.

The condition of the artefacts is reasonable, although most have suffered from weathering. There are no problems of preservation bias nor of long term storage with this material.

*Palaeoecological*

## i) Quantity of material

81 bulk earth samples were collected of which 26 have been treated as coming from significant archaeological contexts. 16 of the original group of samples have been processed and assessed, 7 of which belong to the priority group. Samples other than the priority group have now been discarded.

## ii) Provenance

Samples of a maximum of up to 20 litres were collected from the fills of discrete features and both ditches and gullies. The samples were processed on site in order to recover and identify carbonised material for dating and macro-botanical remains for the classification of economic activity on site. Processing involved wet sieving through a 4, 2 or 1 mm mesh and/or flotation.

The material from those samples already processed and subsequently assessed has been limited for this site. The evidence relates to small fragments of charcoal which have come from a prehistoric feature, a late medieval or earlier ditch, a late medieval or later pit, which also contained a grain of wheat, and a barley grain from a post-hole fill associated with a potential late medieval structure. Other unprocessed samples include further samples from the prehistoric feature, from a probable late medieval pit and small samples from post and stake holes associated with the two potential structures on the site, the latter of which are too small to warrant further action.

Three of the unprocessed samples relate to the primary and secondary fills of a ditch containing R-B artefacts, although the artefacts may be residual. If they are the ditch is likely to be either early or later medieval.

## iv) Condition

The environmental data from the excavations is limited. The charcoal recovered on site during excavation of features and as a result of sample processing comprised small fragments which powder to the touch, often mixed with mineralised magnesium oxide. The grain, seeds and nuts were all carbonised and although some were intact many were crushed or ripped. The shell was recovered in a poor condition, extremely fragmented and fragile. Similarly the bone was recovered in small fragments, burned and mineralised. Opportunities for species identification will be minimal.

The bulk samples that have not yet been processed are stored in bags in the Museum garage on Johnson Street in relatively stable conditions. The processed samples are stored as residues, bagged and are at Durham University.

**A3 Summary Statement of Potential***Structural*

Although this evidence is limited, the original aim to identify the layout and function of the potential settlement has been met to some degree. The interpretation of the two buildings is tentative but the distribution of finds and the layout of the enclosures provides some backing for the interpretation. The paucity of rural evidence of this type for the medieval period in the region, however, enhances the potential importance of the Brunt Boggart site.

The discovery of R-B evidence was unexpected and so the original objectives have been widened to include this phase of occupation. The rarity of rural R-B sites in the region and the fact that two such sites have been found close to each other along the M57 route (see Ochre Brook site above) makes the academic potential of the evidence from the two sites together of extremely high value. Dating of the silting of the main ditch will phase the digging of this feature more securely. One alternative explanation is that an earlier ditch was incorporated into the layout of a medieval farmstead. This has important implications for the question of continuity of settlement and landuse in the area which cannot be addressed yet because of the uncertainty of residuality of the R-B material.

### *Artefactual*

The Romano-British features from this site are limited but the regional importance of the pottery and tile assemblage from the nearby site of Ochre Brook makes it worthwhile to study the smaller assemblage from this site to provide evidence for the organisation of the R-B landscape in the region.

The structural evidence for the medieval features on the site is probably treated in sufficient detail in the site archive, but its relationship to the pottery from the site could enhance its interpretation. This assemblage consists of c.1100 medieval sherds c.60% of which is point plotted. This is the largest assemblage of such pottery from a rural site in the region. This makes the pottery important in relation to regional ceramic studies, as hardly any excavated rural sites are known in the region, and should provide the first indications of local production and organisation.

### *Palaeoecological*

This is limited in scale but may cover three phases of the site's history. Most evidence may result for the later medieval landscape where it will set the farm in its wider context, but small samples for the potential R-B ditch and the small prehistoric feature may give limited insight for these periods.

### *Dating*

Processing of the material for the R-B and prehistoric contexts may also provide carbonised material for dating. This is of interest for the R-B ditch in that it may show when the ditch was originally cut and therefore help explain the relationship between the R-B phase of occupation and the medieval one, and for the prehistoric period it may allow an associated date for the first surviving (potential) Bronze Age pottery from the county.

#### ii) Integrated assessment

The aims for the late medieval phase of settlement on the site reflect the original objectives of the project and will fulfill them in a limited way. Although the interpretation of the two buildings is tentative the distribution of pottery finds and the layout of the twin enclosures may provide some supporting evidence for the nature of the farmstead. The pottery assemblage is perhaps the most important element of the site as it may enhance the structural interpretation as well as providing information relating to industrial production and distribution. The limited palaeoecological evidence may provide some context for the landuse associated with the farmstead. Against the background of the existing knowledge of the nature of settlement and landuse in the later medieval period in the region, however, the academic impact is greater. There are no published late medieval rural farmsteads extensively excavated in the region, other than moated sites, nor are large pottery assemblages associated with the small scale work so far done in the region. This evidence is also enhanced by an existing body of information relating to the medieval landscape of the township of Tarbock (Cowell 1982).

The R-B landscape outside the main military centres is very poorly researched in the North West and the opportunity to study two adjacent sites (with Ochre Brook), albeit one of them in fairly limited form, is of great importance for questions of organisation of the landscape, possibly the scale of militarisation of the countryside, and the nature and organisation of the ceramic industry in the region. The excavations at Ochre Brook have produced the first substantial evidence for a R-B rural farmstead north of the Mersey. The nearest rural sites to have seen any excavation are cropmark enclosures at Southworth Hall Farm, Croft, Halton Brow, Runcorn, and Winwick, all in Cheshire. In each case excavations were very limited and apart from a pit at Southworth Hall no internal structures were located.

The evidence from Brunt Boggart can therefore be seen in this context and the implications for settlement density are most interesting, particularly as only the Brook House Farm enclosure (see below) was located through aerial photography, the traditional means of locating late prehistoric/R-B rural enclosures. Two other sites have been identified in the vicinity at Tarbock and Cronton (R Philpott pers comm). The scarcity of pottery in general from R-B sites in the region enhances the importance of examining all the R-B material from the excavations along the M57. This will provide dating evidence for the use or disuse of the sites, and some indication of the local economy and status of the inhabitants of the sites.

## BROOK HOUSE FARM, HALEWOOD

### A1 Background

#### (i) Academic Objectives

This site was an oval, double ditched enclosure identified from aerial photography and shown to contain sub-surface features on evaluation. Large scale, intensive excavations were not proposed on this site, so a coherent body of structural evidence was not held to be a likely outcome. Consequently, the main aims were:

- a) to date the enclosure as a priority
- b) to identify its function from palaeoecological evidence, and possibly from artefactual evidence.
- c) the proximity of waterlogged deposits in the Ditton Brook (at DB4 and DB5 see above), if contemporary with the most likely date for the enclosure ie. the late prehistoric/Romano-British period, might also help in the interpretation of the site.

#### ii) Summary of Results

The external ditch circuit of the enclosure was sectioned on the east side where its southern butt end, as identified from the air, was separated by a bank, c.1.5m wide, from a previously unrecognised ditch running east-west at right angle towards the internal ditch circuit. The east-west ditch, which was flat bottomed and c.3m wide and c.1.2m deep, ran almost the full width of the area between the two circuits of ditch, a distance of c.30m, and continued eastwards outside the enclosure, probably forming a field or driveway boundary.

A gap of c.3m separated the western terminal of this ditch from the main north-south internal ditch. The latter was divided into two sections by a narrow transverse clay bank or causeway, which was set c.1.5m to the south of the alignment of the east-west ditch. The internal ditch section to the south of the causeway had a wide, flat bottom, and was c.1.5m deep from the clay subsurface where the ditch was c.5m wide. The lowest 1m of fills were moderately organic and contained a number of lengths of natural wood, but no artefacts. Dendrochronological dating of these timbers was not possible.

To the north of the causeway, the ditch was deeper, c.3.5m, and of U-profile. The lower 2.5m of ditch fill consisted of alternating heavily organic and silty clay layers. Two organic layers towards the middle depth of the fill contained a number of pieces of natural and worked wood. Three samples were sent for dendrochronological analysis, but proved to be undateable. One piece of the worked wood, a block with chamfered upper face and central hole, appears unique in the country. Its use is not known, but a stand for a statue, possibly wooden, is a not unreasonable guess. It cannot be dated by dendrochronology, but Richard Darrah has suggested a date in the Iron Age would not be impossible. A clay layer, which post dated the accumulation in which the wood occurred, contained samian pottery and a sherd of probable late prehistoric date. This suggests the later silting of the ditch, deriving from the bank material, occurred in either the Romano-British period or later.

Assessment of a number of the organic fills from the internal ditch for insect remains shows that they have good preservation of a rich and varied ecological value. Initial impressions suggest a natural or semi-natural vegetation in the vicinity of the enclosure whilst the ditch was waterlogged, with faint traces of human activity, possibly associated with grazing. If the Roman or later silting of the ditch can be interpreted as being linked to a phase of activity in the enclosure, then the insect information might point to this occurring after a period of abandonment or partial dis-use of the enclosure.

A number of features were recognised in the area between the two circuit ditches on the east side of the enclosure. Most can be interpreted as natural, probably associated with tree falls. One, however, may represent part of a structure. Only a small section of its circumference was visible in the excavation trench, where it consisted of a curved narrow gully or ditch with a number of post hole fills in the silted up clayey fill. A narrow gap was marked by expanded terminals to the ditch. Although the silting was quite light and homogenous, and no domestic debris was noted, its form suggests that this may represent a structure. No finds or material suitable for dating or environmental evidence came from the feature.

Inside the enclosure, two main areas of features were noted, although the narrowness of the trench made it difficult to recover significant areas of the plan of these potential structures. Adjacent to the internal ditch, respecting the former position of an internal bank, were several phases of occupation. The latest phase was represented by four large, stone-packed post-holes set in a small rectangular arrangement c.2m by 2m. To the west and south of this, five smaller, similar stone packed post-holes were arranged in an L-formation. It is likely that these two elements are contemporary.

To the west, traces of two faint, linear hollows at right angles to each other may continue the rectilinear arrangement of this phase, which may be equated with a building.

One of the large post-holes of this structure cut through a small area, of c.8m by 6m, of orange clay. This is interpreted as decayed rampart material. No dating evidence came from this feature but it may equate with the first, significant, non-organic silting in the deeper ditch section. The rampart decay or the structure that post-dates it may therefore represent a late R-B or early medieval phase of use of the enclosure. A few smaller post holes with the same clay fill as this rampart material may also represent a late phase of the occupation of the site.

Stratigraphically beneath this feature lay a poorly defined shallow hollow, of which only a short curved segment on the east side survived. This was full of a dark, partially organic layer, presumed to be occupation debris, which included a few, small, weathered fragments of daub and late prehistoric pottery. No structural elements were identified bounding this sunken area.

To the south of this a small segment of a possible structure was located which continued into the unexcavated area. It consisted of a small segment of a narrow, curving, interrupted ditch. This contained a fill of burnt material including small fragments of bone. A small area (c.2m by 2m) of possible occupation debris lay to the south of this ditch against the baulk of the excavation trench. The relationship of this feature to the rectangular structure and the hollow to the north could not be demonstrated stratigraphically. It is almost certainly earlier, however, than the rectilinear arrangement, as the deposits associated with this structure were very similar to those of another probable structure c.40m to the west, which is dated to the late prehistoric period from stratified pottery.

This latter feature lay towards the centre of the enclosure and included a four post structure, associated with a segment of gulley that probably represents part of a larger feature which continued into the unexcavated area to the south. Not enough of this feature was visible to be sure that it represented a building, although this seems a reasonable interpretation. The feature had also undergone a phase of reconstruction. The main gulley contained the largest collection of finds from the site, including a whetstone and 22 pieces of late prehistoric pottery (probably Cheshire Very Coarse Pottery (VCP)). Two other contexts in this group contained a further six pieces of this pottery. This pottery dates generally to the Iron Age in the North-West.

A series of scattered features also lay around this structure. The two most significant lay to the east, where two lengths of ditch about 10m apart, although not parallel, ran north-south across the trench. They contained the same type of fills as the gulley feature and have been interpreted as being of the same late prehistoric date. They both terminated c.4m north of the southern baulk and it is difficult to distinguish whether they represent interior divisions of the enclosure or are structures.

To the west of the main prehistoric features lay 3 irregular pits that were difficult to phase. A number of shallow hollows in this area were also interpreted as tree boles. The watching brief also identified a number of similar features close to the northern section of the internal ditch. Several of these contained charcoal fills which may represent woodland clearance by fire.

## A2 Factual Data

### *Stratigraphic/structural*

- i) Quantity of records/material
  - Contexts-450
  - Plans-24
  - Sections-22
  - Photographs-Colour Slides-202

- ii) Provenance

The structural records relate to three sections across the main enclosure ditches and associated field boundary, and within the enclosure, gulleys, post-holes, and stake-holes associated with parts of four structures, intermittent areas of occupation layers, two short sections of shallow ditches, and three isolated pits.

## *Artefactual*

### i) Quantity

Pottery: Prehistoric 50 sherds	Romano-British c.6 sherds
medieval 4 sherds	post medieval 28 sherds
flintwork 4 pieces	stonework 1
wood-worked 2 pieces	-natural 10 pieces

### ii) Provenance

#### a) pottery

Most of the larger sherds of late prehistoric pottery came from stratified contexts associated with probable structures. The best came from a four post structure, associated with a segment of gulley that represents part of a larger feature which continued into the unexcavated area to the south. The main gulley contained the largest collection of finds from the site, including a whetstone and 22 pieces of late prehistoric pottery (probably Cheshire Very Coarse Pottery (VCP)). Two other contexts in this group contained a further six pieces of this pottery.

Brief visual inspection suggests that the late prehistoric pottery consists of two different fabrics. Recent work in the North-West lowlands has identified several sites where Iron Age or less firmly dated 'late prehistoric' pottery has been recovered. One if not both of the main fabrics from Halewood material appears to be VCP (Very Coarse Pottery).

Smaller, extremely eroded sherds mainly came from general layers overlying the main structures adjacent to the internal ditch, which probably represent the extremely fragmentary remains of former soil or occupation deposits and which could not be linked to any structural phase in this area. The medieval and post medieval pottery is all from the topsoil or the layer immediately beneath which covered most of the site and is interpreted as the remnants of a post medieval ploughsoil.

#### b) worked wood

The main internal ditch varied in depth from c.1.5m deep to the south of a narrow causeway to c.3.5m to the north. The lower 2.5m of ditch fill in the latter part consisted of alternating heavily organic and silty clay layers. Two organic layers towards the middle depth of the fill contained a number of pieces of natural and worked wood.

One piece of the worked wood, a block with chamfered upper face and central hole, appears unique in the country and is thought probably to be of late prehistoric date from the craftsmanship, although a Romano-British date is not ruled out. Its use is not known, but a stand for a statue, possibly wooden, is a not unreasonable guess. A clay layer, which post dated the accumulation in which the wood occurred, contained samian pottery and a sherd of probable late prehistoric date. This suggests the later silting of the ditch, deriving from the bank material, occurred in either the Romano-British period or later. The other piece of wood is less important, being only a short length of a worked stave or such, from the same layer.

### iii) Range and variety

The amount of artefactual evidence from the site was very limited and mainly consisted of late prehistoric pottery. Other minor sources of evidence came from the worked wood. The natural wood, varied in size from medium to large branches. There was also a whetstone and a little unstratified flint.

### iv) Storage and conservation

The pottery from the site is fragile but stored securely and there should be no long term problems of storage, although handling of the material has to be restricted.

The natural wood, which is not to be retained, is currently stored at Liverpool Museum in polythene and wet tanks. The chamfered block has been transferred to the York Archaeological Trust store.

*Palaeoecological*

## i) Quantity and range/variety

## a) pollen:

There are two pollen cores, the one from the north of the causeway in the main ditch is 1.5m deep, the one from the south of it is 1m deep.

## b) insects:

This involves four bulk samples, of c.10 L each, from the main internal ditch of the enclosure.

## c) palaeobotanical evidence:

This involves 35 bulk earth samples, of between c.10L and 40L each, most of which are still to be processed.

bone: 41gms, 84 pieces of burnt bone

## ii) Provenance

## a) pollen:

The two pollen cores are from deeply stratified sections of the main ditch, which was sealed by an c.0.8m layer of post medieval plough soil. The contexts from the deeper northern section of the ditch have also been used to provide the material for the insect analysis. These organic layers are thought to span the late Iron Age, but until confirmation has been received from radiocarbon dating, there is a possibility that the contexts are Romano-British.

## b) whole earth samples:

These have come from the main negative features associated with the four potential structures in the interior of the enclosure, from the isolated pits and from the shallow internal ditches. The isolated structures and ditches, which are probably late prehistoric from the associated pottery, have produced good samples with little sign of contamination. There is no evidence for residuality either in these contexts. Those contexts associated with the probable late prehistoric hollow and the overlying rectilinear arrangement of stone packed post-holes appear to be more mixed and dating is not evident for the rectilinear group of post-holes. The samples from the inner and outer enclosure ditch and interlinking boundary ditch are all from good stratified contexts, particularly from the deep inner ditch. Finds were limited from these contexts so dating is difficult but the very small amount of pottery from the inner ditch suggests that the organic layers may be late prehistoric or Romano-British in date. The burnt bone is very fragmentary and comes mainly from stratified contexts associated with the two earliest structures and the shallow internal ditches. Assessment has shown that no further analysis of it is possible.

## iv) Condition

Assessment of a number of the organic fills from the internal ditch for insect remains shows that they have good preservation of a rich and varied ecological value. These samples are held at the EAU in York. The other bulk samples are stored in cool dark conditions at Liverpool Museum, although their long term preservation is obviously limited under these conditions. The pollen samples are well packed and currently stored at Durham University.

### A3. Summary Statement of Potential

#### *Structural*

As envisaged in the original project design, the structural evidence from the site is limited. The narrowness of the trench meant that only parts of potential structures were recovered, so little can be said about the internal organisation of the settlement in the enclosure. There is some stratigraphic evidence, however, that several phases of occupation are represented by those features recovered. Many of the structural elements are associated with dating and artefactual evidence most of which comes from the earliest phase of settlement in the area excavated.

#### *Artefactual*

Although the pottery assemblage consists of only c.50 sherds of Cheshire VCP it is a reasonably large assemblage in the context of its rarity in the region, and it occurs in stratified contexts associated with probable structures from the interior, which should be dateable.

Iron Age pottery is very scarce in the North West Lowlands and has only been recognised in any quantity in the last few years in the region. Analysis of the fabric may show it as having the same origin as the Beeston Castle *et al.* material, which is thought to come from the Middlewich area, Cheshire. Very little is known of the economy, settlement pattern, trading and social connections in the Iron Age in Merseyside and the lowland North West and examination of this material to determine the likely source is a priority in regional terms. The value of the pottery assemblage would be enhanced by petrological analysis to characterise and to attempt to determine the source of the material. The pottery is not particularly diagnostic of date; few groups are known from the North West of England and the chronology is not well understood. The Halewood site lacks any other diagnostic dating evidence and radiocarbon dating of deposits associated with pottery will provide a valuable chronological peg on which to hang this material.

#### *Palaeoecological*

Assessment of the evidence has shown that there is material that will allow the immediate environment of the farmstead to be recreated from pollen analysis of the ditch fills, which may incidentally identify if a potential sequence of recutting exists in the ditch. Insect evidence has been shown to be of great potential value to the site and will allow a very close interpretation of the immediate environment of the enclosure. It may also provide complementary evidence to the pollen. The botanical samples from the structural features will need further assessment which is warranted by the age and importance of the other environmental evidence from the site, and the nature and context of the fills associated with them. No other site of this type in the region has this range of potential palaeoenvironmental evidence which will meet one of the main aims of the excavations.,

#### *Dating*

There is no evidence from the excavations that has allowed the site to be dated; none of the timbers from the ditch were suitable for dendrochronological analysis, and hardly any diagnostic finds, apart from the pottery, which has wide date ranges spanning the whole Iron Age period, have come from the site to allow any of the phases to be confidently dated.

Bone, charcoal, wood, and plant material can, however, be used to meet the other main objective for the site by providing material for radiocarbon dates. These would be targeted at two structures probably representing the earliest phase of occupation of the site from the interior, while organic material from the main ditch can also be used to obtain radiocarbon dates from three organic fills representing the primary silting of the ditch which include the two layers in which the wood was found. This might allow the enclosure and the palaeoecological evidence associated with it to be assigned to an approximate archaeological period. This may also indirectly provide an approximate date for the potentially late prehistoric carved wooden artefact (statue base?) which appears to be unique in the country. The piece should also be directly radiocarbon dated. The pits proposed for dating also produced the bulk of the small pottery assemblage. There are few pottery assemblages of this type from North-West England and the dating for them is limited. If associated material from the contexts with pottery on the site were dated, it would allow both the earliest

phase of the site to be assigned a more secure archaeological period, and would provide date brackets for this pottery type to the north of the Mersey.

## ii) Integrated assessment report

### a) Original research aims

As envisaged in the original project design the layout of the interior of the farmstead was not adequately recovered, but the phasing of the internal features and the ditch fills will need to be undertaken so that the dating, palaeoecological, and artefactual analysis can be set in some sort of context. The associated carbonised material from the site could provide dates for the earliest structural phase, which will also indirectly provide dates for the pottery assemblage. This will fulfill one of the main aims of the excavations and will be of great regional value as only one other enclosure site, at Great Woolden Hall, Cheshire (Nevell 1989), in the region has associated radiocarbon dates.

The pottery assemblage from the site is one of only six in the region, and after Irby and Beeston Castle it is the next largest. Dates for the enclosure will come from contexts which include VCP and should help place the enclosure in the context of ceramic production and distribution in the area. The dates for the silting of the enclosure ditch will provide additional information about the settlement history of the enclosure and the palaeoecological evidence should provide a reasonably detailed picture of environment and landuse at this time, all of which should make this the most significant site of its type in the region.

### c) Regional potential

Very little is known of the dating, settlement pattern, economy, trading and social connections, and the artefactual basis for the Iron Age in Merseyside and the lowland North West. Only the hill settlement of Beeston Castle in Cheshire has produced adequate material from excavations, while smaller excavated sites such as Great Woolden Hall, Cheshire (Nevell 1989) the early phase of occupation at Irby, Wirral (Philpott 1993) do not have the range and quality of the Brook House Farm evidence. The size and form of the enclosure at Halewood is rare in the region and suggests that this may have been an important site within the local site hierarchy. The pottery suggests it was occupied during the Iron age although specific dating is required from this site as the pottery has wide date ranges in the region. This will be important for tracing the origins of this type of settlement. Beeston Castle and pollen evidence from the Merseyside lowlands suggests that important changes to the landscape may have started in the late Bronze age. It will be important to see if certain types of Iron age sites could have originated in this period and then remained as important centres into the R-B period. Other sites of this type are known at Great Woolden Hall to the west of Manchester (Nevell 1989), although the only dates for this site are late Iron age, and although it has a different form, the site of Irby, Wirral which has significant phases of occupation associated with VCP. Other sites potentially of this class which are often thought to be of this period on form (Longley 1987), although they have not been excavated and do not have independent dating, lie in north Cheshire.

All the excavated sites of this type, most notably at Irby, also have some evidence for Romano-British occupation on them. These contrast with a class of site found on the M57, at Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart, as well as through recent work at a nearby site in Halewood at Court Farm (Philpott pers comm), that originated locally only in the late 1st or 2nd century AD as settlement distribution expanded. The Brook House Farm site therefore may be an important site in understanding the development of late prehistoric and Romano-British landscape in the area. The dating of the site and indirectly of the pottery assemblage, will make this site important in charting the development of settlement, while the palaeoecological evidence will provide some guide as to function and landscape setting of the site. This type of evidence is limited to only two sites of this general LBA/IA/RB period in the area, at Beeston and Irby.

## DITTON BROOK, DITTON

### A1 Background

#### i) Academic Objectives

There were two sites here that had been identified by earlier prehistoric flintwork from fieldwalking and evaluation. The aims were to:

- a) identify the existence, nature and date of Mesolithic settlement at three sub-sites (designated DB2, DB3 and DB4 (subsequently LM site code 39)). This was to be achieved partially from an assessment of the technology and typology of the flint assemblage, and partially from structural remains, if they were identified.
- b) the potential for this possible prehistoric evidence was held to be greatly enhanced by its proximity to adjacent waterlogged deposits in the Ditton Brook stream bed (sub-sites DB4 and DB5 (see Fig 0)). The main aim of the work in the river valley was to retrieve palaeoecological evidence to identify the impact that prehistoric activity had on the natural environment. A second aim was to determine the morphological development of the valley/channels so that the physical changes that have taken place within them could be related to the nature and timing of the human activity on the sites.
- c) to identify if the alluvial deposits at DB4, and possibly DB5, masked elements of the human activity that had taken place on the adjacent dryland areas.
- d) to place this information in the context of other research underway in the county based on field survey and associated palaeoecological studies (North West Wetland Survey; Liverpool Museum), and programmes of excavation (Liverpool Museum).

There were also two limited aims which were dependent on time considerations:

- e) to study the relationship between the surface/plough zone material and underlying features
- f) to assess later cultivation effects on the archaeology of these areas

#### ii) Summary of Results

##### Ditton Brook South (LM Site code 38)

This site was identified from a programme of trial trenching on the dryland areas of the brow of the valley slope on the southern side of the river (DB4 South in the project design). It was located, at a height of c.8m OD, where the valley slope curves round to the south, mirroring the direction of the early channel. The main evidence came from the distribution of c.250 pieces of Mesolithic flintwork in a sandy layer immediately beneath the top-soil. This occurred across the main trench but was concentrated around a small hollow, c.0.9 by 0.6m in diameter. The irregular nature of the lower fills of this hollow suggest it was formed by a tree-fall. The final silting comprised a yellow sand, c.80mm deep, which probably accumulated after the tree-fall deposits had settled in the hollow. The struck flint in the hollow was concentrated in this layer, with little found in those beneath it.

It may not be clear until after the detailed analysis of the nature and distribution of the flintwork if this is material that was eroded into the hollow or was deposited in it through activity in the vicinity. The distribution of flint appeared to fall off in density around this feature, although this will also have to be confirmed by detailed analysis of the finds distribution. Another small concentration of flintwork, probably indicative of another small site, was located in the evaluation trenches c.15m to the north-west of the main trench, but there was not time to investigate this further.

A pollen core was obtained from DB5 on the north edge of the former channel, which was analysed by Dr J Innes of Durham University, using Liverpool Museum funds. The diagram did not reveal any traces of potential woodland clearance in the vicinity, but has provided good evidence for the local environment at this time, which was dominated by alder carr, and it has also shown that the early flooding of the valley was freshwater and not marine or brackish influenced.

A small trench on the south side of the valley close to the sampling site produced three pieces of struck flint from an evaluation trench, but there was not sufficient time to investigate this sub-site properly.

### Ditton Brook North (LM Site code 39)

This site lay on the opposite slopes of the Ditton Brook valley, on the north-eastern edge of the ridge that flanks the river c.200m north of DB4 South (above). The ridge here dips away in a slight embayment into the river valley at a height of c.8m OD. One large trench (I) was dug from the top of the ridge down into the valley floor covering sub-sites DB2 and DB4 on the alluvial deposits. A second, smaller trench (II) was dug c.35m to the north of this, on sub-site DB3, placed on the higher ground at the northern edge of the embayment.

Seventeen pieces of struck flint, of Mesolithic date, had been found in small evaluation trenches on the ridge slope of sub-site DB2 in 1991. It was possible that further material from this site would be found in large scale excavations across the slope, and possibly even into the wet organic deposits of the Ditton Brook (sub-site DB4 (North)). This proved not to be the case. Only a further 28 pieces of struck flint were found in the two 1993 trenches. The majority of this material is of Mesolithic date, but there are also a number of pieces that may be of slightly later, possibly Neolithic, date. The flint work was found scattered thinly across the trenches, coming mainly from the larger Trench I. The material lay in a deposit of hill wash overlying the natural boulder clay (see below), although the occasional piece came from tree hollows that were located in each of the trenches. There was no indication of any clustering of flintwork that could have represented former locations for settlement or similar activity.

That part of the trench that lay in the valley floor (DB4 (North)) was unproductive of prehistoric and environmental evidence. The conditions for excavation were extremely difficult in this part of the trench, as the Ditton Brook is influenced by tidal action which led to increasing amounts of water seeping up from the river daily and adding to the standing water problem, so that pumping could not cope with the influx. This area was therefore largely left in terms of excavation of the organic deposits in the light of the small amount of flint material found on the adjoining dryland slopes.

Several features were noted in the main trench (I) although they were all of relatively recent date. Immediately adjacent to the edge of the alluvial deposits a ditch had been cut parallel to the stream. Two sherds of late medieval pottery came from the secondary silting of the ditch. This may represent an early field boundary marking the edge of the flood plain in the valley. The fills of the ditch were not alluvial in origin. This ditch was recut in the late medieval period or later.

After the final silting of the ditch a sandy clay colluvial layer, thickening towards the brook (maximum excavated depth c.0.6m) covered this part of the slope. It may have been connected with a phase of soil movement down slope, in response to increased woodland clearance or ploughing. Immediately over this layer, on a moderate slope, had been set a roughly square arrangement of rounded pebbles measuring c.4m by 3m. The function of this feature is not known, but it is of late post-medieval date.

This feature had been covered by a layer of hill wash which was also found across most of the natural clay in the trench. Mostly 19<sup>th</sup> century china and cream ware pottery, and glass came from this layer, although near the bottom of a deep part of this layer in one test pit, 1x1m square, three sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery were found, reflecting earlier episodes of ploughing.

Another ditch ran north-south through Trench I. It was c.0.9m deep and about 2.9m wide. This has been interpreted as a post-medieval field boundary.

## A2 Factual data

### *Structural*

#### i) Quantity of records

Site 38: Contexts-126

Plans -10

Sections-2

Photographs -colour slides-50

b/w-20

## ii) Provenance

There was no structural evidence from this site, although a shallow pit formed the focus to the distribution of worked flint, the patterning of which may provide some clue to the nature of settlement/activity on the site.

### **Site 39: Contexts-90**

Plans-8

Sections-3

Photographs-colour slides-52

## ii) Provenance

Structural evidence relating to the prehistoric evidence from this site was not recovered, with the flint material coming from a deposit of hill wash overlying the natural boulder clay, although the occasional piece came from tree hollows that were located in each of the two main trenches. There was no indication of any clustering of flintwork that could have represented former locations for settlement or similar activity. The main structural evidence from this site related to the late medieval and post medieval periods associated with two ditched field boundaries. A roughly square arrangement of rounded pebbles measuring c.4m by 3m, of post medieval date lay in a colluvial layer over one of the ditches.

### *Artefactual*

#### **Site 38: flintwork- 250 pieces**

#### **Site 39: flintwork- 28 pieces**

pottery-late medieval- 2 sherds

post medieval-8 sherds

19<sup>th</sup> century- not kept

## ii) Provenance

### **Site 38:**

The Mesolithic flintwork was found in a shallow sandy layer immediately beneath the top-soil. It was not clear if this was the truncated lower part of a former soil or part of a colluvial layer. The flint occurred across the main trench but was concentrated in and around a small hollow, c.0.9 by 0.6m in diameter. The irregular nature of the lower fills of this hollow suggest it was formed by a tree-fall. The final silting comprised a yellow sand, c.80mm deep, which probably accumulated after the tree-fall deposits had settled in the hollow. The struck flint in the hollow was concentrated in this layer, with little found in those beneath it.

### **Site 39:**

The flintwork from this site was found scattered thinly across the two main trenches, coming mainly from the larger Trench I adjacent to the brook. The material lay in a deposit of hill wash overlying the natural boulder clay (see below), although the occasional piece came from tree hollows that were located in each of the trenches. There was no indication of any clustering of flintwork that could have represented former locations for settlement or similar activity.

Two sherds of late medieval pottery came from the secondary silting of a ditch immediately adjacent to the edge of the alluvial deposits in the Ditton valley. This may represent an early field boundary marking the edge of the flood plain of the brook. This ditch was recut in the late medieval period or later.

The post medieval pottery came from a sandy clay colluvial layer, thickening towards the brook (maximum excavated depth c.0.6m) which covered the lower part of the slope. It may have been connected with a phase of soil movement down slope, in response to increased woodland clearance or ploughing.

Overlying the colluvial layer was a layer of hill wash. Mostly 19<sup>th</sup> century china and cream ware pottery, and glass came from this layer, although near the bottom of a deep part of this layer in one test pit, 1x1m square, three sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery were found, reflecting earlier episodes of ploughing.

### *Palaeoecological*

A pollen core was obtained from DB5 on the north edge of the former channel of Ditton Brook, which was analysed by Dr J Innes of Durham University, using Liverpool Museum funds. A report has been produced. No other waterlogged material was recovered from the trenches on either side of the brook as extreme waterlogging prevented easy access.

## A.3 Summary Statement of Potential

### *Structural*

There were no features from either site that could be associated with domestic structures although on DB38 a shallow natural feature, probably a tree hollow, formed the focus for the concentration of struck flint.

### *Artefactual*

The flint assemblages from both sites are quite small, but that from DB38 is important in regional terms as it appears to represent, in its distribution pattern, a focus of settlement. Very few Mesolithic sites have been excavated in the lowlands of the North West and so this site perhaps has more importance in this regional context. The nature of the occupation on the site as recovered from the excavation, appears to be fairly typical of much of the site evidence in the southern part of the county as suggested by the surface material. This element is therefore important in the interpretation of much of the other Mesolithic evidence from the region.

Not enough flintwork, nor diagnostic types were recovered to date the site securely other than in general early prehistoric terms, with a *probable* Mesolithic date. This imprecision about the date may in future, as research develops, be an important feature as it could provide local comparative material for various questions about the development of farming, continuity from hunter gatherers and in the continuing search for firm traces of the early neolithic occupation of this period.

## A4. Storage and curation

- I) The archives for all the excavations will reside in Liverpool Museum. The immediate responsibility for the finds Curators. There is an agreed policy for the treatment and storage of the paper archive with NMGM Conservation and paper archive will be the responsibility of the chief excavators of the sites, who are also the relevant Museum section. The main requirement for the finds will be racking space for about 40 storage boxes of artefacts. The palaeoecological flots will be stored as part of the relevant archive. The two pieces of worked wood, after conservation, will be kept at the Conservation Centre of NMGM and may find their way into a projected display in the near future.
- ii) There are no plans to discard any of the ceramic or lithic material as the rarity of local collections give this material good research value. The structural wood from the pit at Ochre Brook will be discarded after recording, although selected pieces may be kept for NMGM reference purposes, and most of the natural wood from Brook House Farm will be discarded. Future discard policy will be decided on the basis of developing research priorities in association with the work of the Museum Field Section.

## A5 Publication and presentation

The importance of the results along the route partially reflects the amount of information recovered from some sites, eg Ochre Brook Romano-British settlement, which is substantial for a rural site of this period in the North West, or Brook House Farm, Halewood which, if adequate dating were forthcoming, would be of great regional value for landscape studies in the (potentially) late prehistoric period. The importance of the results is also derived from the range of evidence that has come from the whole route. In the North West this is quite rare and it serves to show how far surface evidence may underrepresent the actual archaeological picture and highlights a few points that may be of wider relevance to research in the region eg the relationship between Romano-British settlement and that of certain types of late medieval farmsteads, or methods of site identification, which this work has illustrated.

### i) Publication synopsis

It is intended that the report should be presented as a monograph incorporating the results of the work along the route. To be presented in a period format.

#### **Ch 1. Background (R Cowell)**

History of research in the Tarbock area outlining results from survey and evaluation prior to the present excavations.

2 pages text

#### **Ch 2 Early Prehistoric (R Cowell)**

This will be included in summary form so as to emphasise the important point of the range and density of sites along the route in contrast to the generally low expectations of such work in the North West. This is an important feature of the programme of excavations and of relevance to other workers in the region. It will also form the basis for a section on techniques of discovery and investigation, which is another important feature for other workers in the region. The main results section, will however, be largely synthetic. The detailed results from the three main early prehistoric sites along the route (Ditton Brook North and South, and the evaluation/fieldwork at Ochre Brook) will be laid out in a separate volume devoted to private Mesolithic research in the county from excavations and other fieldwork, published either through PPS or Liverpool Museum.

This chapter will outline the main results of the early prehistoric excavations along the M57 and integrate them into a discussion of their implications using excavated evidence by the author at Ditton Brook North (site 1) in 1986 and fieldwork in the general vicinity since 1981.

A note on the Bronze Age pottery from Brunt Boggart, Tarbock will also be included, with a short discussion.

2-3 pages Mesolithic text

<1 page Bronze age pottery

#### *illustrations*

Route plan showing the sites

Site plan Ditton Brook (south) with flint density plot

evaluation methods plan

<1 page flint illustrations

pottery illustration (with decoration)

Map of Mesolithic period in Mersey Basin

#### **Chapter 3 Late Prehistoric (R Cowell)**

This will present the data from Brook House Farm, Halewood, which will incorporate:

- a) the presentation of the structural evidence from the site.
- b) presentation of finds evidence; pottery, stone, wood
- c) evidence from pollen assessment
- d) evidence from insects assessment

- e) synthesis of evidence with discussion summarising evidence for this type of site in the North West and how the Brook House Farm site extends understanding of the late prehistoric period in the Mersey Basin.

This will now be seriously weakened by the reduction of support for the project. This means that the following will not be treated adequately:

- f) the evidence from those whole earth samples for which the resources are not available to process and assess, which will include:

- i) the palaeoecological evidence (insects/plant) from the structures and ditches, pollen from the ditches
- ii) the C14 dating evidence for the structures and ditches
- iii) thin section analysis of late prehistoric pottery

- a) four pages text
- b) Table and 1-2 pages text
- c) Table and 1-2 pages text
- d) Table and 1 page text
- e) 4-5 pages text
- f) 1-2 pages text

#### *Illustrations*

Location plan

Site plan

Three cross-sections of enclosure ditches

Five cross-sections of potential late prehistoric features which included finds

illustration of wooden artefact (?statue base)

Map of Iron age period in Mersey Basin

not now included because of reduced support:

?Stylised reconstruction drawing of immediate landscape from palaeoecological evidence

#### **Ch 4 Romano-British (R Philpott)**

This will present the evidence from the Ochre Brook, Tarbock settlement and the more restricted evidence from Brunt Boggart, Tarbock, with a short reference to the Brook House Farm site.

It will incorporate;

- a) structural report R-B settlement, Ochre Brook
- b) results and discussion of the analysis of the plant evidence from structure and enclosure ditch from Ochre Brook
- c) presentation of finds evidence; Romano-British pottery and tile, Ochre Brook
- d) presentation of Brunt Boggart Romano-British evidence, some structural, mainly finds distribution
- e) synthesis and discussion of M57 evidence, outlining wider context of Romano-British rural settlement in Mersey Basin

- a) 4 pages text
- b) Table, 3-4 pages text
- c) Table, 3-4 pages text
- d) 2-3 pages text
- e) 4-5 pages text

#### *Illustrations*

Location plan of the two sites

Romano-British phase plan from Ochre Brook

3 cross-sections of Ochre Brook enclosure ditch

12 cross-sections of main Ochre Brook pits and post-holes

Cross-section of Brunt Boggart R-B ditch

1 page illustration of Romano-British pottery from Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart

Illustration of R-B brooch from Brunt Boggart  
 Illustration of legionary tile stamp from Ochre Brook  
 Map of Romano-British period in Mersey Basin

## Chapter 5 Medieval period (R Philpott (with R Cowell discussion))

This will present the evidence from the Brunt Boggart and Ochre Brook, Tarbock excavations. This will incorporate;

- a) presentation of Brunt Boggart structural evidence
- b) finds report from Brunt Boggart, mainly pottery
- c) presentation of Ochre Brook medieval structural evidence
- d) finds report from Ochre Brook
- e) synthesis and discussion

The discussion section will incorporate material from an unpublished account of the medieval landscape written in the early 1980s as part of the setting up of the Merseyside SMR (Cowell 1982). This will allow the farmstead to be set in the context of its contemporary landscape within the township and also bring out elements of regional relevance in the relationship between the medieval landscape pattern and the potential Romano-British pattern of settlement.

- a) 4 pages text
- b) Table and 3 pages text
- c) 2 pages text
- d) table and 1 page text
- e) 5 pages text

### *Illustrations*

Site locations in relationship to each other  
 Brunt Boggart site plan  
 1 page Brunt Boggart pottery illustrations  
 Phase plan for Ochre Brook  
 Cross-section of OB late medieval borrow pits  
 Map of township

## Chapter 6 Conclusions (R Cowell with R Philpott)

2-5 pages text

An overview of the importance of the excavations in regional terms drawing out themes associated with the main academic advances illustrated by the excavations, such as the implications for the Romano-British settlement pattern east of the Mersey, the way in which the Iron age is now being recognised in the region, the possible link between Romano-British and Saxon estates, the problems with and approaches to site recognition, methods of evaluation, and potential of the collected evidence not yet fully investigated. All this is of great regional importance, as to my knowledge, none of this has been treated in such depth or with the same quality of evidence anywhere in the region yet.

It is hoped that a popular version of this report could be produced (which the Local Authority is keen to see) which would concentrate on the theme of a small area of landscape as it evolves over 8000 years. This would follow the same period approach, with summaries of the main evidence from each site. This (and the main report) will also, perhaps for the first time, illustrate that rural archaeology in the North West need not always be small scale and restricted.

NMGM are to fund approximately half of the writing up process through the funding of the two authors as this work can be shown to relate directly to the research aims of NMGM. Knowsley BC are not funding any costs of the second stage as they were unable to support the total cost for the first stage excavation and initial archive. This would have been less successful without the additional support of English Heritage and NMGM who made up the total asked for in the original submission. Knowsley made it clear that they would provide no support additional to the sum given for the first stage. They would however be prepared to see if they could support a submission for a popular booklet on the excavations.

## A6 Consolidated Aims and Objectives

### A6.1 Post-excavation research design

#### Ochre Brook

a) Research aims and archaeological contribution

All these aims are new as the discovery of a site of this period was unexpected.

- 1) to provide a description of the layout of a rural R-B settlement:

Ochre Brook is the first Romano-British rural site to be investigated in any detail from Merseyside north of the Mersey. The nearest rural sites to have seen any excavation are cropmark enclosures at Southworth Hall Farm, Croft (Philpott et al 1993), Halton Brow, Runcorn (Brown et al 1975), and Winwick (N Higham unpub report, Cheshire SMR), all in neighbouring parts of Cheshire. In each case excavations were very limited and, apart from a pit at Southworth Hall Farm, no internal structures were recovered. This site is, after Irby on the Wirral, therefore, one of the best in the region for the identification of the structural nature of rural farmsteads. Its importance is enhanced by the other classes of evidence from the site ie pottery and palaeoecological, which are also to be subject to further analysis.

- 2) to date the occupation of the site:

The site will be dated through the analysis of the pottery from the pits and enclosure ditches from the site. The scarcity and previously small scale investigation of sites of this type in the region make it a priority that the range of structural, artefactual, and palaeoecological evidence from Ochre Brook is dated adequately. Most of the work for the Romano-British period in the North West has been directed at the military occupation of the area. An understanding of the origins and development of the pattern of rural settlement in the region is accordingly superficial. This site will therefore have an important role in developing this understanding, elements of which will be useful for application to the interpretation of results from aerial photography in the area.

- 3) to provide an account of the nature and scale of industrial organisation in the region:

These two aims will be achieved through the analysis of the pottery and the tile. Nearly 700 sherds of R-B pottery were recovered, which makes this one of the three most prolific lowland rural sites in the region, along with Irby, Wirral and Tarporley, Cheshire (both unpublished). Only Prestatyn in North Wales has a larger assemblage (Blockley 1989). Analysis of the pottery will allow, not only a closer dating of the activity on the site, but will aid an understanding of local economy and society through comparison with the industrial ceramic production from Wilderspool, Warrington which is the main kiln area for this part of the region.

The reduction in support from EH for the research archive/publication means it will not be possible now to identify if production of tile was taking place in the area, or if it was acquired directly from the manufacturer from a site such as Holt, Clwyd. This would require petrological analysis of the tile from Tarbock for which there is no support.

- 4) to provide an account of the general landuse and environment associated with the site:

This will come from the full analysis of samples prepared for the assessment from the structural features in the enclosure. This type of evidence is very rare in the region, only found at Irby and in North Wales at Prestatyn (Blockley 1989), and so will, along with the other evidence from the site, greatly enhance the meagre understanding of R-B rural settlement in North West England.

The second element of the palaeoecological evidence will now have to be downgraded as it cannot be treated adequately. The wood from the adjacent channel deposits predates a phase of extensive soil creep associated with R-B tile and pottery. This could have been used to provide the earliest date after which this soil creep could have taken place. The dates would also have been of importance for the associated pollen evidence from the channel which could

have provided evidence for the wider landuse and vegetation of the immediate area. The pollen analysis also ~~will have~~ to be left now.

5) to explain the nature of settlement distribution in this area:

The importance of the Ochre Brook site for rural R-B settlement in the region is enhanced by the proximity ~~activity~~ during the Roman period on two nearby sites investigated as part of this project, Brunt Boggart, Tarbock c.1 km to the south and Brook House Farm, Halewood c.4 km to the south. Implications for settlement density are most interesting, particularly as only one site was located by aerial photography, the traditional means of locating late prehistoric/Romano-British rural enclosure sites. Two other sites are indicated in the vicinity, at Cronton where aerial photography located one certain curvilinear enclosure while another possible example may lie in the same field as a Roman copper-alloy attachment found previously by a metal detectorist. Roman pottery is also recorded from the site of the Ditton railway station c.2km to the south. This small area of land is therefore as important as the Irby ~~area~~ on the Wirral (Philpott 1993) for the association of several rural settlements and patterns of landuse and chronology.

6) to summarise the medieval occupation of the site:

This evidence is very limited and on its own says little on the nature of the medieval occupation. The association of medieval and Romano-British evidence on the same site, however, is also paralleled on the Brunt Boggart site (see below) which is a phenomenon hard to parallel elsewhere in the region for rural sites. The nature of the relationship between the two periods of occupation has provided a new insight into understanding the nature and development of the early medieval landscape in the region, a topic which has been hardly researched up until now. The growth in understanding from this relationship, when allied to new evidence of Romano-British sites from aerial photography will have implications for future landscape analysis and the targeting of fieldwork in the region.

b) Data-collection for analysis

i) pottery analysis

This involves c.700 sherds of 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery. This will be the main method of dating the site and providing information about the industrial organisation in the region, as well as identifying some elements of the scale of this organisation.

The scarcity of pottery in general from Roman sites in the region enhances the importance of examining all the Roman material from all three sites which produced such finds (Ochre Brook, Brunt Boggart and Brook House Farm). This will provide dating evidence for the use (or re-use) of the sites, and some indication of the economy and status of the inhabitants of the sites.

The medieval pottery numbers only about 20 sherds but it will need cataloguing as a basis for the discussion on the relationship between the two periods of occupation on the site.

ii) tile analysis

This involves approx 30 boxes of material, consisting of many fragments but including 6 stamped tiles. This will allow further elements of the industrial organisation in the region to be identified as well as the scale of militarisation in this part of the region.

iii) palaeoecological analysis

This involves the full analysis of 18 existing flots from the site that have produced seeds etc from the assessment samples. A further c.3 bulk samples ranging in size from c.10L to 25L relating to the Romano-British enclosure ditch will also be prepared and analysed for comparison with the internal features.

The pollen core from the palaeochannel will not now need to be prepared and analysed.

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iv) structural phasing

The interpretation of the basic stratigraphic groups needs checking against the site records and a structural narrative for the site needs to be produced. This will provide structural evidence for only the third rural R-B site in the lowlands of the region and allow the pottery and palaeoecological evidence to be integrated.

The medieval part of the site numbers only c.30 contexts which relate to a boundary ditch and some borrow pits. This can be done quite quickly as a basis for the discussion of the medieval evidence and its relationship to the earlier and later activity on the site. It will also have some relevance to the discussion of the medieval evidence from the Brunt Boggart site (see below).

v) late medieval wooden plank

This individual piece needs detailed recording and conservation as it displays interesting technological details and may form part of a projected display in Liverpool Museum.

c) The work undertaken on the M57 project can be integrated into the wider pattern of Romano-British settlement as identified from programmes of aerial photography jointly undertaken through Liverpool Museum and Cheshire County Council (Collens 1994), and through detailed excavations at a farmstead on the Wirral at Irby (Philpott 1993). The implications of the medieval evidence from the site can also be integrated into landscape survey of the surrounding townships already carried out by Liverpool Museum (Cowell 1982).

## Brunt Boggart

### a) Research aims and archaeological contribution

- 1) to illustrate the layout of a late medieval farmstead:
- 2) to see this in the context of late medieval landuse and landscape:
- 3) to identify patterns of ceramic production and organisation in the region:

There are no published late medieval rural farmsteads extensively excavated in the region, other than moated sites, ~~nor~~ are large pottery assemblages associated with the small scale work done in the region. This work will therefore make ~~a~~ limited, but in the local context, quite solid impact on understanding of the nature of settlement and landscape in ~~the~~ region in the late medieval period.

The pottery forms one of the largest rural assemblages from the region, particularly from north of the Mersey. It ~~seems~~ unlike known material in Cheshire although sherds similar to some Cheshire red/grey wares may be present. The presence of several distinct fabric groups from the Brunt Boggart site could make it, in conjunction with other smaller groups from the region, the basis of a fabric and form series for the region. The absence of post medieval fabrics from the site means that the surface material could also be profitably included within the fabric groupings.

- 4) to identify the relationship of the R-B activity from the site to that at nearby Ochre Brook in terms of chronology and the organisation of the ceramic industry in the area:

The R-B landscape outside the main military centres is very poorly researched in the North-West and the opportunity to study two adjacent settlements, albeit one of them in a fairly limited form, is of great importance for questions of organisation of the landscape, possibly for the scale of militarisation of the countryside, and for the nature and organisation of the ceramic industry in the region.

- 5) to identify the relationship between the medieval and Romano-British phases of settlement on the site:

This is a new and quite unexpected objective as previously the origins of the late medieval rural landscape were thought to have originated in the immediate pre-Conquest period in a few favoured areas, and after the Conquest in many areas in the east of the county. The idea that medieval farmsteads lie on the same sites as R-B counterparts ~~may~~ not seem that strange in areas of the country that were more densely populated at an earlier period, but in the more 'empty' landscapes of large parts of the North West to find such evidence is, to my knowledge, unique. It therefore has the potential to open up a debate, on the nature of continuity of settlement from the R-B period. This debate is strong in other parts of the country, but not so evident in this region because of the lack of data on which to base such arguments.

### b) Data-collection for analysis

#### I) late medieval pottery

This involves c. 1100 sherds, approximately two-thirds of which have been plotted in 3D, with c. 400 more from the fieldwalking associated with the discovery of the site. An interesting feature of this site is that very little post-medieval pottery came from either the excavations or the fieldwalking, suggesting that the site was largely abandoned by the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The fieldwalking material can therefore be used to provide a larger assemblage for study.

This analysis will also be of value in forming the basis for a regional pottery form and fabric collection for the late medieval period which is currently lacking.



## ii) R-B pottery and tile

This would be most profitably studied within the context of the ceramic analysis for Ochre Brook and includes c.120 sherds and half a dozen tile fragments. Although it is a small group of material the unexpected proximity of two sites of this type is of great regional importance and similarities of dating, ceramic production, and trade etc between the two sites can be studied.

## iii) palaeoecological evidence

The palaeoecological evidence is very limited from the assessment stage due to the small size of available samples from many of the structural features on site and the general disturbed and inorganic context of many other features. It is now not thought worth attempting to identify aspects of the nature of medieval agriculture practised on the site from remaining samples which would need processing for further assessment.

The dating of organic material from the primary silts of the main ditch (see below) would have been of value in the interpretation of the palaeoecological evidence from the associated levels, to determine if they are of Roman or later date, and would have allowed the environmental evidence to be attributed to the correct phase. This is to be left as a statement of potential in the report.

Two samples from the prehistoric feature would have warranted processing and the flots combining with the two samples already processed and scanned because of the rarity of prehistoric pottery and palaeoenvironmental evidence from the region. With the reduction in support this is not now proposed.

## iv) dating

Radiocarbon dating of the primary organic fills of the main ditch might have provided a *terminus ante quem* for the digging of the ditch. This would be of value in interpreting the degree of continuity between the R-B and medieval phases of settlement, in providing an associated date for the environmental evidence from the ditch, and possibly on the problem of residuality of R-B material in the upper fills of the ditch. This is not now to be a feature of this phase of the project.

The rarity of prehistoric pottery in the region and the presence of charcoal in the flots already scanned from the prehistoric feature would also have made it worthwhile to obtain a radiocarbon date for this feature and associated ceramic evidence. The revised nature of the report will not now allow this to be done.

## Brook House Farm

### a) Research aims and archaeological contribution

Several elements of the evidence recovered from the Brook House Farm site appear important in developing the original research objectives of the project. Unfortunately, because this stage of the project is now restricted to a report to assessment level then all these aims are going to be severely curtailed and the potential importance of the site is much diminished.

- 1) to date the earlier phases of occupation on the site and thus provide scarce information on the dating of enclosed farmsteads in the north-west:

The late prehistoric period in North West England is very poorly understood owing to a lack of excavated sites and the paucity of artefactual evidence through which sites might be recognised and characterised. A number of enclosures have been identified from the air in the region, but their chronology is poorly understood even where sites are relatively profuse, and can span the period from the Bronze Age to the Roman period (Bewley 1994). Dating of such a site as Brook House Farm would therefore have wider implications for understanding the nature and development of the settlement pattern and landscape across the region.

There was one phase of settlement, rather fragmentary in nature, which was later than the features associated with the VCP. It is not clear if this is Romano-British in date, although a few finds from the site in general suggest that there may have been some continuity of occupation. Although the evidence is not as good as at Irby on the Wirral, most R-B sites to the east of the Mersey recently excavated by Liverpool Museum in the county (Ochre Brook, Brunt Boggart, Court House Farm, Halewood (R Philpott pers comm)) appear as if they are R-B creations. If there can be shown to be some continuity of occupation at a site like Brook House Farm then this may help identify the nature of R-B expansion, perhaps during the 2nd century. Clear relationships between the dating of the ditch fills and the internal features are therefore necessary.

- 2) to identify the palaeoenvironmental setting in which the farmstead operated:

The potential for palaeoenvironmental evidence is perhaps as good on this site as for any other site of the late prehistoric period in the region. Only at Beeston Castle, Cheshire is there comparable material, although this may relate to a specialist site. The Brook House Farm evidence could allow a unique ecological picture to be built up of the landscape in which the settlement was located, but the usefulness of this information would to a large extent depend on being able to adequately date the site.

- 3) to date and characterise the pottery assemblage from the site:

The Iron Age in the North West is almost invisible archaeologically with the artefactual evidence being restricted to c.6 sites with small assemblages of VCP, which was probably produced in north Cheshire. This is only the second assemblage north of the Mersey and so in the general vacuum of the local Iron Age the impact of the analysis of the Merseyside material will potentially have a greater significance than its assemblage size might suggest.

If such an assemblage could be adequately dated (and given the paucity of dating evidence for the period in the region, even relatively broad dating brackets would be useful) it would be of value in placing the work in Cheshire, south of the Mersey into a wider context as dating of the associated features and comparison of ceramic type and fabric with other sites would help extend the chronology and pattern of industrial organisation and trading patterns in the late prehistoric period.

## Ditton Brook

### a) Research aims and archaeological contribution

The original research aims of the sites at Ditton Brook were largely unrealised. Palaeoecological evidence contemporary with the Mesolithic flintwork was not forthcoming from the excavations and the size and composition of the flint assemblage makes specific dating of the site difficult. Neither were any features located which could provide contexts suitable for radiocarbon dating.

#### *Artefactual*

The main element of academic importance, however, mainly at Ditton Brook South, which will fulfill some of the original objectives, is the flintwork. Its typological analysis and distributional plotting and interpretation, will provide some evidence for the nature of the activities carried out on the site, which will fit into the pattern of settlement of this period being built up in the county, where c.80 such flint assemblages are known.

This will serve to identify the specific nature of the activity at the main site and provide some information as to the nature and possible chronological variation in the patterns of raw material exploitation, which may also, through comparative data from other fieldwork, be of value in determining the nature of early prehistoric landuse across the county.

#### *Palaeoecological*

The pollen diagram produced by Durham University did not reveal any traces of potential woodland clearance but has provided good evidence for the local environment at this time, which was dominated by alder carr, and it has also shown that the early flooding of the valley was freshwater and not marine or brackish influenced.

### c) regional research potential

The analysis of the flint data, particularly from Ditton Brook South (38), will provide useful comparative information in the light of pre-existing and current research by Liverpool Museum into the early prehistoric period in the county. This evidence relates mainly to surface sites and so an understanding of the nature of sub-plough zone levels is important. The Liverpool Museum programme has also seen other sites excavated, both in the Ditton Brook valley and at another river valley location in the county, at Croxteth Park, as well as sites on Wirral, so comparisons could now start to be made between sites of this period. It will also be useful for setting the large amount of information from the North West Wetland Survey in the Sefton coastal area into a broader regional context. As an understanding of Mesolithic settlement and landuse patterns depends on identifying a number of different specialist site types in different locations, the accumulation of such evidence is crucial for building up the regional and sub-regional pattern, for which Merseyside currently provides the most evidence in the lowlands (Cowell and Innes 1994). The artefactual evidence is enhanced by the fairly detailed sub regional vegetational record for the county (Cowell and Innes 1994).

The evidence resulting from the study of the relationship between surface material, the nature of discovering and evaluating the evidence and the presence of sub soil features at Ditton Brook will also be of value for the interpretation of surface material from field survey undertaken in the county, and in the region such as is currently underway under the auspices of the North West Wetland Survey.

## A7. Methods Statement

### i) recording strategies

#### *Structural evidence*

**Tasks 2 and 3.** A detailed narrative of the nature and development of each site will be drawn up.

The initial interpretation of Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart will be checked against the relevant matrix and site records, and a detailed narrative provided for the stratigraphic groups. The initial assessment report will need little development for the final reports on these sites, although some interpretations will need checking and a slightly more positive archaeological narrative will need writing for the latter.

**Task 4.** To provide a detailed narrative account of the nature and development of the site at Brook House Farm.

As envisaged in the original project design for this site the layout of the interior of the farmstead was not adequately recovered, but the phasing of the internal features and the ditch fills needs to be defined better than at present for an accurate narrative to be written. The initial structural groupings for Brook House Farm are not secure and some checking against the matrix and site records is needed. The structural narrative needs to be written on the basis of the secure phasing. The pottery finds (VCP) from the enclosure features will be used to provide approximate dating evidence based on the published parallels for the region.

There is no need for structural reports for any of the Ditton Brook sites. Any account of the nature of prehistoric settlement on the sites will come from flint technological and spatial analysis (see Tasks 8 and 9). The post medieval evidence will be left in its current form in the site archive.

**Task 5.** Preparation of site phasing plans and drawings for publication.

All site plans will be entered onto computer using autocad as a method of storing them and to provide the basis for the phasing plans at Ochre Brook, Brunt Boggart, and Brook House Farm to accompany the interpretation of the sites. The autocad site plans will also be completed to relate them to the OS grid for publication purposes.

The results from the pottery analysis (see tasks 6, 7) will also be used to confirm the details of the phasing narrative at Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart (above).

#### *Artefactual*

**Tasks 6 and 7.** The analysis of R-B and medieval ceramic material will be undertaken.

This will involve:

For Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart the quantification of all tile and pottery sherds will be carried out under the following headings for the R-B material (6) and the medieval material (7):

- a) quantification of pottery by ware group and context, with context dates
- b) identification of diagnostic sherds
- c) listing of tile occurrence by form and context
- d) identification of stamps and other marks

This will provide dates for the two sites and give some indication of the level of status of each site. The potential for characterising the pottery and tile fabrics and assigning them to known kiln sites, or differentiating them from products of known kiln sites, will be difficult to accomplish now as the lack of petrological analysis which was originally envisaged to fulfill this aim, will not now be undertaken.

The study of the tile from Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart, especially in view of the presence of wasters and stamped tiles, will now have to be compared by eye with known products from Holt in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, and not through petrological analysis.

- e) selection of pottery vessels and tiles for illustration

**Task 7a.** Produce sub regional reference collection of medieval pottery from 6 excavated sites in Merseyside.

This is a separate Liverpool Museum financed project but as the results will be of relevance to the interpretation of the Brunt Boggart site it has been programmed to run alongside the writing up of the M57 excavations. The

project will involve the identification and grouping of fabric types from sealed dateable contexts from excavations at West Derby, Prescot, Newton High St, Roby, and if they have been deposited in the Museum by then, from Eccleston Hall and Fazakerley.

**Tasks 8 and 9.** To identify the character of the early prehistoric settlement at Ditton Brook.

This will involve the basic cataloguing of selected technological features of the small lithic assemblage onto a Liverpool Museum database (8) which will allow a basic interpretation of the kinds of activity being carried out on site. This will be necessary, mainly for Ditton Brook (south), as the main means of analysing the nature of prehistoric settlement in the valley. Data fields will also allow for co-ordinate plotting of flint at Ditton Brook (south) which, through spatial analysis (9) may provide some guide as to whether patterning of material is visible on this site.

*Palaeoecological*

Despite the greater potential of this material the analysis of this evidence will now be restricted to two elements; pollen assessment and analysis of already processed and assessed botanical evidence.

**Tasks 10, 11 and 12.** To identify the nature of agricultural practice at the Ochre Brook site.

For Ochre Brook, 18 samples have already been assessed and show that the evidence is of value in understanding the agricultural practices associated with the farmstead. The specialist feels that this will be of regional importance and it is therefore worthwhile to spend a little more time on a more detailed analysis of the processed samples rather than just reporting on the assessment providing far more important information from only a small amount of extra work. In this context it would also be worthwhile processing three extra unprocessed samples (10) from the watching brief phase of the project to this standard as they are from the enclosure ditch and would complement the evidence from the internal features.

The specialist will now only be involved with the final report of the analysis (12) as she has not enough time free in the immediate future to be able to undertake all aspects of the analysis until c.1999. The counts and identifications will now be undertaken by an assistant (11).

**Tasks 13 and 13a.** To provide an assessment of the potential for the organic deposits in the ditch to provide an overview of the vegetation surrounding the enclosure at Brook House Farm from the pollen.

The pollen evidence consists of two cores from the main ditch at Brook House Farm. These will be assessed to determine whether the evidence exists for a more detailed analysis of specific levels in the ditch should funding be available in the future. This will be linked to the similarly restricted evidence associated with the insect assessment. The assessment will also provide a broad indication of the vegetation surrounding the enclosure at different levels but with the dating of the levels in the ditch also not now being supported the implications of this evidence will be very restricted.

These monolith samples will be prepared (13) and approx. 14 samples will be taken for assessment (13a).

**Task 14.** To provide extra information about the vegetation surrounding the enclosure at Brook House Farm.

4 samples from Brook House Farm that have been assessed for insect evidence will be reported on. This is one of the most important groups of evidence from the site and the lack of resources for a full analysis of the samples will restrict interpretation of the site's function. Taken in conjunction with the non analysis of fills from features within the enclosure for macro botanical remains, this means that the potentially most important evidence from a regionally rare, little understood type of site will have to be left out.

**Tasks 15 and 16.** To record details of the worked wood from Ochre Brook and Brook House Farm.

At Ochre Brook the dated, radially cleft plank is regionally unique and exhibits traces of interesting woodworking techniques. It will need to be drawn and photographed (15) and a short account written on the woodworking techniques (16). This piece will be a useful indicator to help refine the dating of the broad axe and groping iron as tool types in the late medieval period.

At Brook House Farm the chamfered block from probable late prehistoric levels is unique and will need to be drawn, photographed (15) and described (16).

Ochre Brook also produced four structural timbers which provide local examples of late medieval woodworking techniques after c.1200 AD and come from the same group of contexts as the radial plank. They are of local interest.

and help the interpretation of the later history of the site. It is not now possible to spend the time drawing, photographing, and describing them.

### *Conservation*

**Task 17.** The radially cleft medieval plank and the late prehistoric chamfered block are regarded as being important enough for conservation and the long term aim is to display the items in Liverpool Museum. The structural timbers from Ochre Brook will not require conservation.

### *Dating*

The dating of the occupation at Ochre Brook (Task 6) and Brunt Boggart (Task 7) will rely on pottery parallels.

The non support of radiocarbon dating for the Brook House Farm site is another impediment to realising the potential of the excavated evidence here. Dating will now rely on published dated parallels with the pottery from the internal features. This will be included in Task 4, where research into published pottery assemblages and any other sites known about but not yet published e.g Irby will be undertaken.

### *Publication*

**Task 18.** To prepare a draft detailed account of the excavations for publication

Artwork to be prepared for publication report. It will involve line drawings of plans and sections and some autocad work for location maps for each of the sites, finds drawings, including R-B vessels and tile from Ochre Brook, R-B brooch and medieval pottery from Brunt Boggart, the wooden base from Brook House Farm, and flint from Ditton Brook. Pottery illustrations will be outlines only.

**Task 19-23.** A report to be written according to the guidelines laid down in Section A5.

Table 1: Summary Statement of Methods and Tasks

	<b>Method</b>	<b>Task (see A6.1)</b>
1.	Structural reports checked and site narrative written for Ochre Brook, Brunt Boggart, and Brook House Farm and plans entered into autocad	2, 3, 4, 5
2.	Romano-British pottery and tile catalogued and grouped according to ware and context for Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart	6
3.	Medieval pottery from Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart catalogued and grouped according to ware and context. This is separate from, but will use the results of, a Liverpool Museum project to produce a reference collection of local medieval material.	7, 7a
4.	Dating of Ochre Brook enclosure, Brunt Boggart medieval internal features and Romano-British activity, and Brook House Farm from published pottery parallels.	4, 6, 7, 7a
5.	Lithic analysis and cataloguing of material from the two Ditton Brook sites in order to write site narrative	8, 9
6.	Assessment of pollen from samples for internal ditch at Brook House Farm, and botanical analysis of processed material from internal features and ditches at Ochre Brook	10, 11, 12, 13, 13a
7.	Production of report of assessment of insect evidence from enclosure ditch at Brook House Farm	14
8.	Wood recording and analysis of two pieces from Brook House Farm and Ochre Brook	15, 16
9.	Prepare a draft report on the excavations for publication, to include artwork	18-23

## A8. Resources

### A8.1 Staffing and equipment

#### i) Project team

*Project Director: R Cowell*

*Tasks: 1, 4, 9, 19, 20, 22, 23*

Project management (1), particularly to include liaison with specialists, writing the site narrative for Brook House Farm and comparison with published pottery parallels for dating of the site (4), to catalogue the *technological features* of struck flint from Ditton Brook for the archive and for the analysis stage of the site narrative (9), most aspects of the final report (19, 20, 22, 23).

*Assistant Director: R A Philpott*

*Tasks: 2, 3, 21, 22*

To check structural reports and write site narratives for Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart and to advise on site narrative for Brook House Farm, and to write several aspects of the final report (21, 22)

*Archive assistant:*

*Tasks: 4, 8*

To check and improve the basic stratigraphic groups from the site matrix for Brook House Farm for the structural report and to catalogue the *locational* information of flintwork from Ditton Brook from site records.

*Draughtsman: M Faulkner*

*Tasks: 5, 15, 18*

To input selected plan and section data from Ochre Brook, Brook House Farm, and Brunt Boggart into autocad (5) and draw wooden artefacts for archive (15). To use autocad drawings as basis for phase plans and site plans for final publication. Line drawings of maps, finds, plans and sections for final report (18).

Specialists; archive

*Pottery and Tile: R-B, G Dunn Chester Archaeological Service*

*Tasks: 6*

To quantify Romano-British pottery from Ochre Brook by ware group and context, with context dates, plus identification of diagnostic sherds (principally rims) using obvious published parallels. Produce a report with information in tabular and textual form with recommendations for sherds to be drawn.

Listing of occurrence of tile from Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart by form and context; identification of stamps using obvious published parallels; quantification if practicable; produce a report in tabular, catalogue and free text form.

*Medieval pottery: J Speakman Liverpool Museum*

*Tasks: 7 and 7a*

Quantification of medieval pottery from Brunt Boggart by ware group and context plus identification of diagnostic sherds using obvious published parallels (This will be a more time consuming project than that for the Romano-British pottery as a type series does not exist for the region in medieval pottery studies as it does for that of Romano-British pottery). Produce a report in tabular and text form. Produce a report on affinities of the site within this part of the region, using information produced from Task 7a (below).

Set up Liverpool Museum medieval pottery reference collection from 6 excavated sites in Merseyside. The latter is a Liverpool Museum research project and will be funded privately, but the results when applied to the basic cataloguing of the pottery from Brunt Boggart will significantly enhance the report.

*Lithic analysis: R Cowell**and Assistant**Tasks: 8, 9*

To quantify by class and type the flintwork from Ditton Brook North and South. To produce a catalogue of the ~~site~~. In association with the spatial analysis, to produce a report on the significance of the material for the function ~~of the~~ site and its relevance to other assemblages in the region.

Assistant to computerise the flint distribution from Ditton Brook South to facilitate the spatial analysis of the ~~site~~.

*Palynologist: J P Huntley, University of Durham**with assistant**Tasks: 10, 11, 12, 13, 13a*

To analyse for botanical content 18 samples from Ochre Brook which have already been processed and assessed, produce a report to archive standard.

To include within the report, the analysis of 3 extra samples from the watching brief on the Romano-British ~~ditch~~ from Ochre Brook. These will need processing (10) prior to analysis (11) and the report being written (12).

A full assessment of the pollen from two internal ditch sections from Brook House Farm. This will involve the preparation of 14 samples in all (13) and their assessment, and produce report (13a).

*Palaeoecologist (insects): H Kenward and F Large, Environmental Archaeology Unit, York**Tasks: 14*

To produce a report on the significance of the material already assessed from the internal ditch from Brook ~~House~~ Farm.

*Wood: R Darrah**with draughtsman M Faulkner**Tasks: 15, 16*

To draw and photograph (15), and describe and analyse (16) the prehistoric wooden artefact from Brook ~~House Farm~~ and the medieval plank from Ochre Brook

*Conservation: Ian Panter, York Archaeological Trust**Task: 17*

To conserve the wooden base from Brook House Farm and the late medieval plank from Ochre Brook

Table 3: M57-A562 Link 1996-7: Timetable and Staffing

Task No	Depends on	Task	Staff	Days	archive completion	24.3	31.3	7.4	14.4	21.4	28.4	5.5	12.5	19.5	26.5	2.6	9.6	16.6	23.6	30.6	7.7	14.7
					WK 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1	NA	Project Management	RC	10d	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	
2	NA	Ochre Brook: Structural Rep	RAP	10d	----	----	----	1														
3	NA	Brunt Boggart: Struct'l Rep	RAP	10d				1														
4	NA	Brook House Farm: Structural Report	RC Assistant	10d 15d	----	----	----	----	----													
5	NA	Input of autocad site info	MF	20d	----	----	----	10														
6	2, 3, 5	Roman pottery and tile cataloguing and analysis	JD	5d 3d				2							----	----	----	----				
7	7	Brunt Boggart: Med pottery catalogue/analysis	JS	5d				1								----	----	----	----			
	7a	Sub regional medieval pottery ref collection (NMGM)	JS	20	----	----	----	1														
8	N/A	Catalogue flint from Ditton Brook	Assistant	3d	----	----	----	2														
9	8	Lithic analysis: Ditton Brook	RC	3d	----	----																
10	N/A	Preparation of 3 bulk samples for Ochre Brook	Technic'n	1d												----	----	----				
11	2, 5, 10	Identification and counts of botanical remains from Ochre Brook samples	Assistant to JPH	10d												----	----	----	----			
12	2, 5, 10, 11	Report on analysis of botanical evidence from Ochre Brook	JPH																			
13	4, 5	Prepare pollen samples, identifications and counts for BHf	Assistant to JPH	10d															----	----	----	
13a	13	Assessment report on analysis of pollen samples from BHf	JPH																			
14	N/A	Report on assessment of insect samples for BHf	FL/HK	3d										----	----							
15	N/A	Record wood from Ochre Brook and BHf	MF	5d										----	----	----						
16	N/A	Analyse and report on structural wood	RD	3d										----	----	----						
17	N/A	Conserve wood	IP	5d	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	

Table 4: M57-A562 Link 1996-7: Timetable and Staffing

					21.7 to 1.9	1.9	8.9	15.9	22.9	29.9	6.10	13.10	20.10	27.10	3.11	10.11	17.11	24.11
Task No	Depend on	Task	Staff	Days	Break	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	NA	Project Management	RC			----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
12	10, 11	Report on analysis of botanical evidence from Ochre Brook	JPH	5d		----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
13	13a	Assessment report on analysis of pollen samples from BHF	JPH	5d		----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
		<i>Report Production</i>																
	2-7	Artwork	MF	50d		----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
19	8, 9	Intro/prehistoric	RC	5d				----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
20	4, 5, 13, 13a, 14, 15, 16	Iron Age	RC	12d										----	----	----	----	----
21	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12,	Romano-British	RAP	12d										----	----	----	----	----
22	2, 3, 5, 7,	Medieval	RAP/ RC	12d										----	----	----	----	----
						1.12	8.12	15.12	22.12	29.12	5.1	12.1	19.1	26.1	2.2	9.2	16.2	23.2
Task No	Depend on	Task	Staff	Days	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	
	NA	Project Management	RC		----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
18	2-7	Artwork	MF	50d	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
22		Medieval	RAP/ RC	12d	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
23		Conclusions	RC	13d										----	----	----	----	----

**A.8.2 Budget**

Table 2: Summary of Costs

	Name	Grade	Daily rate	Days	Cost	Task Nos
<i>Research archive</i>						
Structural reports	R Cowell	Cur E	115.86	5d	579.30	4,
	R A Philpott	Cur E	108.05	5d	NMGM	4,
		Cur E		10d	1080.50	2, 3
		Cur E		10d	NMGM	2, 3
	Assistant	Cur F	54.26	15d	813.90	4
		Cur G	44.82	3d	134.46	8
CAD technician/ draughtsman	M Faulkner	Cur F	54.26	25d	1356.50	5, 15
Management/liaison	R Cowell	Cur E	115.86	5d 5d	579.30 NMGM	1 1
<i>Archive: Specialists</i>						
Lithic analysis	R Cowell	Cur E	115.86	2d	NMGM	9
		Cur E		1	115.86	9
Romano-British pottery	G Dunn		65.00	8d	520.00	6
Medieval Pottery/R.B. tile	J Speakman	Cur F	54.26	5d	271.30	7
Medieval pottery		Cur F	54.26	20d	NMGM	7a
Pollen/botanical	J. P. Huntley Assistant		25.00 (x 3) 100.00	5-10d (1d) 20d	AMLab 75.00 2000.00	12, 13a 10 11, 13
Insects	H Kenward F Large		149.50	0.5d 1.5d	298.98	14
Wood	R Darrah M Faulkner	Cur F	93.33 54.26	3d 5d	280.00 271.30	16 15
Conservation	I. Panter			5d	AMLab	17
<i>Report</i>						
Text	R Cowell	Cur E	115.86	15d	1737.90	19, 20, 23
	R Philpott	Cur E	108.05	15d	NMGM	19, 20, 23
		Cur E		12d	1296.60	21, 22
		Cur E		12d	NMGM	21, 22
Artwork	M Faulkner	Cur F	54.26	50d	2713.00	18
<b>Total</b>					<b>14123.90</b>	
<b>Overheads @ 25%</b>					<b>3530.97</b>	
<b>Total</b>					<b>17654.87</b>	

Computer for autocad	Bureau charge @ £40 pw for 8 weeks	320.00
Report/archive materials		30.00
Specialists travel		50.00
Management/liaison travel	Chester, Durham	150.00
<b>Total: non-staff costs</b>		<b>550.00</b>
<b>Total EH project costs</b>		<b>18204.87</b>
<b>In addition NMGM Contribution (inc 25%)</b>		<b>8382.98</b>

### Project Costs 1996-7

Structural reports	R Cowell R A Philpot Assistant	Cur E Cur E Cur F	115.86 108.05 54.26	5d 5d 5d	579.30 540.25 271.30	4 2 4
Management/ liaison	R Cowell	Cur E	115.86	1d	115.86	1
CAD technician	M Faulkner	Cur F	54.26	5d	271.30	5
Computer charge					40.00	5
<b>Sub Total</b>					<b>1818.01</b>	
<b>Overheads @ 25%</b>					<b>454.50</b>	
<b>Total</b>					<b>2272.51</b>	

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