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Archaeological Investigations at Marne Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire:

Phase 3: Evaluation (Part I: text)

by

Archaeological Services
University of Durham

On behalf of
GVA Grimley and
Mmistry of Defence

ASUD Report 911
June 2002

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Archaeological Investigations at Marne Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire

see also
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for Part II

Phase 3: Evaluation

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1 Summary

The project

- 1 1 This report presents the results of a trial trenching evaluation conducted in advance of proposed development at Marne Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. The works comprised the excavation of 26 trenches on the airfield at Marne Barracks, together with appropriate post-excavation assessment and formulation of recommendations for further work. Limited post-excavation analyses of materials north of the runway have now also been undertaken, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the draft evaluation report.
- 1 2 The works were commissioned by GVA Grimley on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, and conducted by Archaeological Services University of Durham (ASUD) in accordance with a Project Design provided by ASUD and approved by The Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council.

Results

North of the runway

- 1 3 Seven trenches were excavated in the northern part of the airfield. Areas of soil dumping and truncation of deposits were identified.
- 1 4 In the north-eastern part of the area, one ditch dating to the late Bronze Age was identified beneath an area of landscaping infill, and two ditches dating to the late Iron Age period were identified beneath existing ridge and furrow remains near the motte and bailey castle at Castle Hills. A post-Roman ditch was also identified in this area.
- 1 5 Medieval ridge and furrow was present in the north-eastern part of the airfield.
- 1 6 A post-medieval ditch was identified in the north-eastern part of the area.
- 1 7 Other ditches of unknown date were also identified.
- 1 8 Recent structural evidence was located to the north-western part of the area.

South of the runway

- 1 9 19 trenches were excavated in the southern part of the airfield. Areas of redeposition and truncation of deposits were identified.
- 1 10 Later prehistoric features identified included a palisade trench and a substantial ring-ditch with stone walling.
- 1 11 Roman building materials, pottery, bone and quem-stone fragments were recovered from a pit. Several Roman boundary ditches were identified and a small quantity of unstratified Roman tile and residual pottery was recovered.
- 1 12 A limited amount of ridge and furrow remains were encountered and a small quantity of well-worn medieval pottery, mainly unstratified or from redeposited soils, was recovered. One medieval pit was identified.

- 1 13 A number of post-medieval finds were recovered from the topsoil, which included pottery, glass and claypipe. A linear boundary ditch was filled with mortared stones and may have been part of a boundary wall associated with Oran Road
- 1 14 Many of the features identified during the trial trenching could not be dated, these include ditches, pits, postholes, a trackway and stakeholes

Recommendations

- 1 15 GVA Grimley, on behalf of the MoD, commissioned post-excavation analysis and radiocarbon datmg of materials from the north-eastem part of the airfield as recommended in the draft evaluation report. The results of those analyses are therefore reported on here. It is understood that there are currently no proposed developments in this area that would require ground disturbance, and consequently no further works are recommended for that area
- 1 16 Dependent on the precise locations of proposed developments on the southem part of the airfield, and subject to advice from the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council, it is recommended that further excavation and recording work be carried out in three areas prior to development. If no further excavation is required it is recommended that specific analyses and dating techniques are undertaken on existing material, in order to obtain dates for selected features and to provide environmental and economic information. This will provide a chronological framework for the past use of this area and enable discussion of the archaeological resource within local and regional contexts

2 Project background

- 2 1 In 1999 the Ministry of Defence (MoD), through the Defence Estates (DE), commissioned GVA Grimley to prepare an Establishment Development Plan (EDP) for Mame Barracks, Catterick Garrison, to guide the long-term expansion and redevelopment of the Barracks over the period 2000-2015
- 2 2 A key recommendation of the resulting EDP was the need to undertake a programme of non-intrusive and intrusive archaeological investigations at the Barracks (GVA Grimley 2000). The first phase of those investigations, 'Phase 1 Assessment', has been completed and reported on (ASUD 2001a). The Phase 1 works included a comprehensive desktop assessment of the archaeological resource both at Mame and in the broader Catterick area (Figure 1), a geomagnetic survey of 41ha of airfield, a topographic study of Castle Hills Scheduled Ancient Monument and its surroundings, and an auger survey of the northern part of the base. The information gathered during those investigations was collated and discussed and an appraisal of the archaeological resource at Mame was provided, both by archaeological period and by reference to the proposed development zones identified in the EDP.
- 2 3 Many of the features identified during the assessment stage are believed to be of potential national or regional significance, while the potential of some areas of the barracks remained largely unknown. Consequently, further phases of investigation were recommended. Phase 2 comprised further geophysical surveying over twelve areas within the northern part of the base in order to identify the nature and extent of likely archaeological features. Geomagnetic, electrical resistivity and ground-probing radar techniques were employed. These works are reported on in our 'Phase 2 Geophysical evaluation' report (ASUD 2001b).
- 2 4 The surveys detected several ditch features of possible archaeological interest, as well as former RAF buildings. The majority of the ditch features are probably part of the former, post-medieval field system, while the date and function of other ditches remains unknown. Following discussions between the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), MoD, GVA Grimley and ASUD, it was decided that these features did not merit further investigation as they were likely to reflect the relatively recent development of the site.
- 2 5 This document details the results of the 'Phase 3 Evaluation'. The evaluation comprised the archaeological excavation of 26 trial trenches on the airfield, the majority of which were located in order to sample probable archaeological features identified in the geomagnetic survey (Figure 2), together with appropriate post-excavation assessment. This report also includes the results of post-excavation analyses and dating of selected materials from features within an area of highlighted potential to the north of the runway.

The site

- 2 6 Mame Barracks, formerly RAF Catterick, is situated immediately south of Catterick Village in North Yorkshire and is bounded to the west by the A1 and to the east by the River Swale (NGR centre SE 247 970). The Royal Flying

Corps first moved onto the site in September 1914 and it remained in use by the RAF until Land Command took over in 1994. The site occupies approximately 158 hectares and contains 122 buildings and 84 Service Family Quarters.

- 2.7 With the exception of Castle Hills, the land is predominantly level with a mean elevation of c 53m AOD. The solid geology of the area comprises Carboniferous Millstone Grit and Permian Magnesian Limestone, which is variously overlain by Boulder Clay, river gravels or alluvium, with a limited area of glacial sands and gravels immediately west of Castle Hills.

Archaeological background

- 2.8 The investigations mentioned below, and numerous others relevant to the site, are described in more detail in the Phase 1 report (ASUD 2001a). Archaeological investigations in and around Catterick over recent decades have identified numerous sites of national importance. Much work in recent years has concentrated on the Roman town of *Cataractonium* and its hinterland, however, there have also been significant discoveries of sites from the Neolithic period onwards. The construction, and subsequent and proposed modifications, of the A1 Catterick by-pass (Wilson 1994), together with extensive quarrying activities, have been the main stimuli for archaeological investigations in the area, recent works prior to proposed extensions to Scorton Quarry (NAA 2000) and Pallett Hill Quarry (Brewster & Finney forthcoming), and prior to quarrying within Catterick Racecourse (Moloney 1996), have revealed many significant prehistoric, Roman and later features.
- 2.9 With specific regard to Mame Barracks, the site is bounded on the west by the nationally important but unscheduled remains of the Roman roadside settlement at Bainesse Farm (Wilson 1984, Wilson 2002), currently of unknown extent, and on the east by the scheduled Norman motte and bailey castle known as Castle Hills. It is believed that Castle Hills may also include the remains of an Anglian royal villa and cemetery, and possibly earlier native British features. Previous intrusive investigations at the Barracks have revealed the presence of Roman buildings (Hildyard 1955, Cramp, in Wilson *et al* 1996), a Roman pottery kiln (Busby *et al* 1996), Anglian burials (Wilson *et al* 1996), an Anglian sunken-featured building, or '*Grubenhaus*' (Taylor-Wilson, in Wilson *et al* 1996), numerous pits and part of a Romano-British field system (GeoQuest Associates 1994). The extents of the settlements, field systems and cemeteries are all currently unknown.

Summary of the archaeological resource

- 2.10 The known archaeological resource at the site and its potential, prior to this evaluation, was described in detail in the Phase 1 Assessment report (ASUD 2001a). In summary the resource comprised:
- Roman buildings, possibly part of a villa complex
 - Roman building plots, part of Bainesse settlement
 - Roman pottery kiln, part of Bainesse settlement
 - Roman field system, probably associated with a villa

- Anglian burials, part of one or more cemeteries
- Anglian sunken-featured building, possibly part of a larger settlement
- Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation
- Norman motte and bailey castle, Castle Hills
- Post-medieval road, buildings and field boundaries
- Tracks, enclosures and possible structures (undated, possibly prehistoric)
- Miscellaneous ditch and pit features (undated, possibly prehistoric)

2 11 Based on the available evidence it was anticipated that the following archaeological remains might also be present

- Prehistoric features and artefacts
- Further Roman buildings, comprising a possible villa
- Further Roman building plots, part of Bainesse settlement
- At least one other Roman pottery kiln
- More of the Roman field system
- Further Anglian burials
- More Anglian sunken-featured buildings
- Pre-Norman earthworks at Castle Hills
- Post-medieval field boundaries

2 12 Many of the features above have the potential to be of national or regional significance (further discussion of potential in ASUD 2001a) In particular, the archaeological resource at Mame Barracks has the potential to elucidate the settlement history and political development of the area, particularly for the period covering the end of Roman influence to the Norman Conquest. The ridge and furrow remains together with the post-medieval road and field boundaries can be considered of local significance

Objective

2 13 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent, depth and potential significance of any surviving archaeological features within the proposed development area, with particular regard to specific research questions detailed below (Section 3), in order that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in advance of development

Dates

2 14 The evaluation fieldwork was undertaken between 3rd September and 12th October 2001. The post-excavation works and reporting were undertaken between 15th October 2001 and 30th May 2002

Personnel

2 15	Project Manager	Duncan Hale
	Site works manager	Daniel Still
	Excavation staff	Jamie Armstrong David Graham
		Ollie Cooper Andy Platell
		Jane Gosling

Specialists

Ceramics	Dr Chris Cumberpatch/Dr Steve Willis
Faunal remains	Louisa Gidney
Clay pipe	Daniel Still
Glass	Richard Annis
Flints	Dr Mark White
Building materials	David Schofield/John Senior/Daniel Still
Industrial residues	Dr Jacqui Cotton
Quern-stones	David Schofield/John Senior/Daniel Still
Ecofacts	Dr Jacqui Cotton
Radiocarbon	Dr Darden Hood, Beta Analytic, Florida
Illustration	David Graham/Linda Bosveld
Reporting	Duncan Hale/Daniel Still, with specialist contributions

Acknowledgements

- 2 16 Archaeological Services would like to thank Lt Col (Retd) NC Cheesman (Project Sponsor Team) and Mr G Prince of GVA Grimley for facilitating this work. The cooperation and assistance afforded by Major J Bond (QM 5 Regt) and Mr Neil Campling at the Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council, is also greatly appreciated

Archive

- 2 17 The site code is MBC01, for Mam Barracks Catterick 2001. The archive will be temporarily retained with Archaeological Services but it is anticipated that it will be deposited in the Northern Army Museum (NAM) in due course

3 Research design

Research framework background

- 3 1 Research objectives have become increasingly incorporated within the planning environment for archaeological projects in recent years, and their development by County Archaeologists and specialist groups led to the English Heritage publication *Frameworks For Our Past* (Olivier 1996), concerning the development of research frameworks. Many regional research frameworks are now under construction, including one for Yorkshire which is being developed by the Yorkshire Archaeological Research Framework Forum (YARFF). Until the framework is completed, project-specific research objectives are considered crucial for providing focused approaches and for determining appropriate methodologies when dealing with large quantities of archaeological data in specific areas.

Research objectives

- 3 2 The Phase 1 works have raised many questions about the archaeological resource, particularly on the airfield. Broad research questions include
- *Is there any prehistoric settlement on the airfield?*
 - *What is the extent of the Roman Bainesse settlement?*
 - *What is the extent of the Roman field system?*
 - *Is there evidence for continuity of settlement from one period to another?*
 - *Do Roman or Anglian burials extend onto the airfield?*
 - *What is the extent of the Anglian activity?*
 - *Do earlier archaeological features survive beneath the medieval ridge and furrow? or beneath areas of infill on the airfield?*
- 3 3 It may be possible to answer some of these questions by targeting specific aspects of the known archaeological resource
- *What is the date and function of the enclosures and trackways identified during the geomagnetic survey? Is there evidence for structures and occupation within the enclosures?*
 - *What are the dates and functions of the other ditches and pits so far identified on the airfield?*
 - *What are the dates and functions of the two rectangular features in the western part of the airfield?*
 - *Is there any evidence for pre-Norman settlement and activities in the eastern part of the airfield near the Castle Hills monument?*
 - *Is there any further evidence for Anglian settlement on the airfield?*
 - *What is the nature and date of the cluster of magnetic anomalies near the centre of the airfield?*
- 3 4 The classes of artefacts and ecofacts that might be expected to survive include pottery, metalwork and coins, slag, glass, bone and antler, carbonised seeds and other plant remains. Questions to be asked of these materials include
- *Does the material culture from a particular context reflect the function of the feature?*
 - *Do any of these materials represent evidence for trade?*
 - *Do any of these materials represent evidence for local industrial activities?*
 - *Which trades and industries are represented for different archaeological periods?*
 - *Does the faunal assemblage provide evidence for local industries and economy?*
 - *How does the faunal assemblage change over time?*
 - *Does the data vary spatially or chronologically across the site?*
 - *How do the plant remains reflect crop husbandry practices and economy?*

- *How do these change over time?*

Overarching aims

- 3 5 In addition to answering these specific research questions, the overarching aims of the evaluation were to
- *identify the nature and extent of the varied archaeological resource*
 - *provide added value information to existing knowledge*
 - *interpret the resource in the context of the known archaeological and historical framework*
 - *assess its information potential and significance*
 - *assess the impact of the development on the resource*
 - *provide mitigation strategy recommendations as appropriate*

4 Methods statement

- 4 1 The excavation works have been conducted in accordance with a Project Design provided by Archaeological Services (ASUD 2001c) and approved by Mr Neil Campling at the Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council

Permit to dig

- 4 2 ASUD applied to the Works Services Manager at Catterick Garrison for a 'permit to dig' in advance of conducting archaeological trial trenching on the airfield at Mame. No works were undertaken prior to the issuing of the permit

Mechanical excavation and re-instatement

- 4 3 A cable avoidance tool (CAT Scan) was used over each trench location to check for sub-surface services prior to any ground disturbance. The turf at each location was carefully removed with mechanical turf-lifting equipment, or by hand, and stored next to the trench for re-instatement. The modern topsoil and any overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching blade, under strict archaeological supervision. Turf, topsoil and subsoils were stored separately on heavy-duty polythene sheets until re-instatement.
- 4 4 Due to the use of the airfield by gliders at weekends, no trenches were left open at these times. Any trenches opened on a Monday were backfilled by the Friday of that week. Upon completion, each trench was backfilled subsoil first, then topsoil. The material was mechanically compacted before re-laying of the turf. The Army supplied a water bowser for wetting re-laid turf. Any mts left by the JCB were also backfilled. High visibility markers were placed over each backfilled trench and each Friday a plan showing the locations of excavated trenches was left at the Guard House for collection by the glider squadron.

Archaeological excavation

- 4 5 Following machining, each area was hand-cleaned by archaeologists for the identification of archaeological deposits, which were subsequently excavated

- by hand All features were sampled A metal detector was used in an attempt to recover finds from the spoil, and to scan deposits before excavation
- 4 6 The excavations were recorded using the ASUD Iconic Formation Process Recording System, an advanced version of single context recording The strength of the system relies on the explicit recognition of formation process traits on site during excavation
- 4 7 Archaeological features were planned individually at a scale of 1 20, sections at a scale of 1 10 The stratigraphy within each trench was recorded even where no archaeological features had been identified All trench locations and levels were recorded with total station surveying instrumentation Photography was by bracketed colour transparency and monochrome 35mm stills, which were processed by our in-house photographer, Mr T Woods
- 4 8 Weekly site meetings were held between ASUD and Lt Col NC Cheesman (Project Sponsor Team, Catterick) An interim report on the works was provided within two weeks of completion of fieldwork (ASUD 2001d)

Archaeological science programme

- Environmental sampling*
- 4 9 An environmental sampling programme was implemented in order to meet the research objectives outlined Initially, 30 litre bulk soil samples were retained from all clearly defined archaeological deposits encountered on site This included the fills of all cut features During post-excavation, 5 litre sub-samples were processed and assessed, and recommendations for further analysis and scientific dating were produced (ASUD 2001e) Animal bone was collected by hand during excavation, a 100% sample has been retained

Artefacts

- 4 10 A wide range of finds was recovered from the trial trenching, spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods, a 100% finds recovery policy was implemented during the fieldwork All the finds have been retained for the project archive

5 Evaluation results

- 5 1 26 trenches were excavated m total, seven to the north of the runway (referred to as N1-N7) and 19 to the south of the runway (referred to as S1-S19) In so far as it is possible, the results are presented in broadly chronological order for each area

North of the runway

- 5 2 Seven trenches were excavated in the northern part of the airfield to investigate probable archaeological features and areas of unknown potential highlighted by the Phase 1 geophysical survey
- 5 3 The earliest evidence for human activity recovered comprised two unstratified and undiagnostic flint flakes from Trenches N6 and N7 These can be assigned

- a broad Neolithic/Bronze Age date. The earliest stratified evidence comprised ditch F16 in Trench N5. The ditch was very shallow, having been truncated by more recent activities. No finds were recovered from the fill (15) and the plant macrofossil evidence was sparse but sufficient for accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon dating. This has produced a conventional radiocarbon age of 2700 ± 40 BP (2 sigma cal BC 920 to 800, Beta-166801) placing the ditchfill, and hence the end of the ditch's use, at the very end of the Bronze Age/early Iron Age.
- 5.4 Also in the north-east part of the area a layer of re-deposited soil was present within Trenches N6 and N7, below which archaeological features survived in N6. The natural subsoil was identified up to 0.9m below the ground surface in this part of the airfield. Within Trench N6 two ditches were excavated (F27 & F31), there was some evidence for cleaning out of one of the ditches. Although no finds were recovered from the ditches they were stratigraphically earlier than the medieval ridge and furrow remains in this area and plant macrofossil evidence suggested that they may date to the late Iron Age/Romano-British period. Full analysis and scientific dating was recommended for these plant remains (ASUD 2001e). This work has now been completed (Section 8) and the ditchfills are dated to the late Iron Age/very early Roman-British period as follows:
- context 26 (F27) 2010 ± 40 BP (2 sigma cal BC 100 to cal AD 70, Beta-166802)
- context 30 (F31) 1980 ± 40 BP (2 sigma cal BC 50 to cal AD 100, Beta-166803)
- 5.5 Postholes were also identified cutting the subsoil in N6, indicating the survival of structural remains probably contemporary with the above ditches.
- 5.6 Another shallow, truncated, ditch (F14) was excavated in N5. No finds were recovered but charcoal from the fill of the ditch has been dated as follows:
- context 13 (F14) 1550 ± 40 BP (2 sigma cal AD 420 to 610, Beta-166800)
- This places the ditchfill within the immediate post-Roman/Anglian period.
- 5.7 Some evidence for surviving ridge and furrow cultivation was identified in Trench N6, and slight earthwork remains were also visible in the eastern part of the area. The ridge and furrow is presumed to be medieval in date.
- 5.8 Ditch F18, traversing Trenches N4/5, contained post-medieval pottery.
- 5.9 In the north-western part of the area a possible structural feature was sampled (Trench N1). Six equally-spaced linear features were identified, filled with a mix of brick, tarmac, slag and stone. These are likely to be part of a recent military structure. Other recent features identified include a field drain and evidence of modern fencing in the north-eastern part of the airfield (Trench N7).
- 5.10 Ditch F10 in N2 and a gully F12 in N5 remain undated. Ditch F10 lies parallel and adjacent to the former Oran Road, and so may be post-medieval.

- 5 11 Further re-deposited soils were identified in Trench N3, an area known to have been deliberately raised by the introduction of spoil during levelling of the airfield. The natural subsoil was up to 0.9m below the ground surface. No archaeological features were identified in this trench.
- 5 12 Areas of truncation and made ground were identified in this northern area.
- South of the runway***
- 5 13 Nineteen trenches were excavated in the southern part of the airfield to investigate probable archaeological features and areas of unknown potential highlighted by the Phase 1 geophysical survey.
- 5 14 The only evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the area comprised a Neolithic flint blade recovered from the topsoil in Trench S7. This stray find indicates activity in the area during the Neolithic period.
- 5 15 Two features from Trenches S10 and S12 in the southern part of the airfield may date from the later prehistoric period. In Trench S10 a palisade trench was identified traversing the western part of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. This consisted of a linear slot 3.1m+ m length with stakeholes in its base. Two sherds of Iron Age Tradition pottery from a hand-made jar were recovered from the feature and can be broadly dated 500BC-300AD, although they are considered most likely to be of late Iron Age date (Cumberpatch pers comm.). However, the fill of the palisade trench also contained large volumes of charred plant macrofossils, including rye and oat cereal grains, neither of which are typical crops for the Iron Age/Roman periods. Indeed, rye has never before been identified from an Iron Age context in northern England, and only once from a Roman context. These crop species are both more typical of the Anglo-Saxon period. There is therefore some uncertainty over the dating of this feature and it is strongly recommended that full analysis and scientific dating of the charred plant macrofossils should be undertaken, as well as further analysis of the pottery. The palisade is on a markedly different alignment to other ditch features within the trench, which may reflect different phases of activity in this part of the site.
- 5 16 Within Trench S12 two sections were excavated across a circular ring-ditch with a diameter of c. 20m. This substantial feature was identified during the geophysical survey of the airfield and confirmed during trial trenching. The ditch was up to 3m wide and 1.1m deep. It had two fills, the upper fill consisting of a substantial stone wall made up of angular stone of varying sizes, without any bonding. Pottery sherds were recovered from within the matrix of the wall, broadly dating to 950BC-150AD. Within the interior of the structure a layer of silt was identified, possibly a deliberate re-deposition of material, however no finds were recovered from the layer. A single pit, containing no artefactual evidence, had been cut into this layer.
- 5 17 Material culture dating to the Roman period was recovered from five trenches S9, S10, S12, S15 and S18. In Trench S9 a large pit (F106), 1.6m in length and 1.3m in width, contained four fragments of broken quem-stone, two worked sandstone blocks, tufa fragments, animal bone (including a horse skull) and a

single sherd of Sandy Greyware (a regionally copied and produced version of Black Burnished Ware), dating to the 2nd-4th centuries. The building materials are almost certainly derived from a structure which was located near the trench, or possibly even from the 'villa' buildings to the north-west, beneath the existing Roman Catholic Chapel. One of the worked sandstone blocks is reddened and cracked from burning and so it may be that the building materials come from a structure which had been destroyed by fire. From a narrow gully (F126) within the same trench, more building material was recovered, in the form of two small fragments of Roman tile.

- 5 18 Two boundary ditches, both aligned approximately north-south could also date from the Roman period. In Trench S10 a single sherd of a Roman flagon was recovered from a ditch (F122). In Trench S12 a rim sherd from a dish or bowl was recovered from another ditch (F209), dating to the 2nd-4th centuries AD.
- 5 19 The only other Roman finds comprised an unstratified fragment of *tegula* (tile) from Trench S15, and residual pottery sherds from within both a ditch fill and re-deposited layers in Trench S18.
- 5 20 Material evidence for medieval activity is sparse, although the geophysical survey had already determined the airfield to have been an agricultural area during that period by identifying extensive ridge and furrow cultivation remains (ASUD 2001a).
- 5 21 A pit (F116) in Trench S9 had cut through earlier, possibly Roman, features and contained medieval and (residual) Roman sherds of pottery.
- 5 22 In Trench S18 stratigraphic layers were identified up to 1.3m below the existing ground surface. Some of these layers, including the lowest (82/85), which was beneath a ditch feature (F84), contained sherds of well-worn medieval pottery. The upper layers within this trench had been extensively re-worked and are likely to have been deposited during the levelling of the airfield in the 1930s.
- 5 23 The only other finds of medieval material culture included unstratified sherds, recovered from either the topsoil or from re-deposited layers. Unstratified early medieval/medieval sherds were most common in Trenches S3 and S18, on the western side of the airfield.
- 5 24 Features dating to the post-medieval period included, possibly, ditch F84 in Trench S18. This contained a residual sherd of Roman pottery and cut through deposits containing medieval pottery in an area of considerable re-working of deposits. Limited quantities of unstratified post-medieval glass, pottery and clay pipe stem were recovered from across the airfield during the trial trenching.
- 5 25 Two rows of 6 inch nails in Trench S5 are believed to represent more recent activities. These may have been used to peg down a target during bombing practice.

- 5 26 The survival of archaeological deposits was variable across the southern part of the airfield. During the construction of the airfield, soils were extensively re-worked and subsequently many features became either truncated or buried below varying depths of re-deposited soils. This process has removed much of the earthwork evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation. Areas affected by landscaping have been highlighted in the Phase 1 assessment report (ASUD 2001a). The central part of the airfield was identified as being of high archaeological importance, within this area a large number of boundary ditches were identified and some structural indicators recorded in the form of building materials, postholes and a palisade trench. These all indicate a settlement focus, though there is a lack of material culture, possibly due to truncation of deposits. Features in this area lie close to the ground surface.
- 5 27 There is evidence for both later prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the southern part of the airfield, including the recovery of building materials from the pit in Trench S9. The recovery of quern-stones, also from this feature, indicates that cereal processing was being practised on the site.
- 5 28 The two areas highlighted as being of medium archaeological importance in the original assessment report (ASUD 2001a) have also been proven to have important archaeological features surviving. The function of the later prehistoric ring-ditch, containing a stone wall, in the extreme southern part of the airfield is currently not clear, it may have been a large round-house or a specially marked out area. This can be re-assigned as an area of high archaeological significance.

Dating of features

- 5 29 Some of the features identified during the trial trenching can be very broadly dated by ceramic or other artefactual evidence, or by stratigraphic relationships. Following recommendations in the draft evaluation report (ASUD 2001e), AMS radiocarbon dates have now been obtained for four ditch features excavated north of the runway near Castle Hills. These dates are summarised as follows:

Table 1 AMS dating of features from MBC01 north of runway

Sample data	Measured radiocarbon age	Conventional radiocarbon age	2 sigma calibration, 95% probability
Context 13 (F14) Beta - 166800	1550 +/- 40 BP	1550 +/- 40 BP	Cal AD 420 to 610 (Cal BP 1530 to 1340)
Context 15 (F16) Beta - 166801	2720 +/- 40 BP	2700 +/- 40 BP	Cal BC 920 to 800 (Cal BP 2870 to 2750)
Context 26 (F27) Beta - 166802	2010 +/- 40 BP	2010 +/- 40 BP	Cal BC 100 to AD 70 (Cal BP 2050 to 1880)
Context 30 (F31) Beta - 166803	1950 +/- 40 BP	1980 +/- 40 BP	Cal BC 50 to AD 100 (Cal BP 2000 to 1860)

- 5 30 However, many of the features identified during the evaluation of land to the south of the runway are still undated, largely due to the lack of material culture recovered. It would be possible to date some of these features by radiocarbon (AMS) dating of recovered organic remains such as charcoal, grains and seeds.

Radiocarbon dating of post and stakeholes is not recommended unless remains of the post/stake are available for dating, other materials within these features are not necessarily contemporary with the features. The following table indicates the current dating status of each feature, and its potential for scientific dating. Features are listed as dateable if there are materials within their fills which are suitable for radiocarbon dating, the numbers of the appropriate fill contexts are given in the 'Dateable' column. Context numbers in brackets indicate that no material is available for dating. Where the dating of a feature is based upon the presence of very limited ceramic material (one or two sherds) the appropriate fill numbers are also provided, for possible verification of date by radiocarbon determination.

Table 2 Dating of features from MBC01

Key

- AMS C14 determination
- a based on artefacts
- m based on plant macrofossils
- s based on stratigraphy
- n/a not applicable

(stakehole fills have not been assigned separate context numbers)

Trench	Feature	Feature type	Dated	Dateable
N1	F4	Linear features	recent	n/a
N2	F10	Ditch	?post-medieval	(9)
N4/5	F18	Ditch	post-medieval (a)	n/a
N5	F12	Gully	-	(11)
N5	F14	Ditch	post-Roman/Anglian (AMS)	n/a
N5	F16	Ditch	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (AMS)	n/a
N6	F27	Ditch	late Iron Age/early Roman (AMS)	n/a
N6	F29	Furrow	medieval	n/a
N6	F31	Ditch	late Iron Age/early Roman (AMS)	n/a
N6	F34	Posthole	-	n/a
N6	F36	Posthole	-	n/a
N6	F38	Posthole	-	n/a
N7	F44	Ceramic dram in F45	post-med/recent	n/a
N7	F45	Cut for field dram	post-med/recent	n/a
N7	F46	Fence spike socket	recent	n/a
S1	F63	Furrow	medieval	n/a
81	F65	Furrow	medieval	n/a
S1	F67	Furrow	medieval	n/a
S2	F50	Ditch	-	(49)
S2	F52	Trackway	-	(54, 53)
S2	F40	Ditch	-	51, 48, 47
S2	F72	Posthole	-	n/a
S3	F57	Ditch	-	(56)
S4	F77	Ditch	-	76

Trench	Feature	Feature type	Dated	Dateable
S5	F178	Ditch	-	(177)
S5	F180	Ditch	-	(179)
S5	F182	Ditch	-	(181)
S5	F184	Ditch	-	(183)
S6	F161	Ditch	-	(160)
S6	F163	Pit	-	(162)
S7	F168	Ditch	-	(167)
S9	F104	Posthole/small pit	-	103
S9	F106	Pit	Roman (a)	105
S9	F108	Pit	-	107
S9	F110	Gully	-	109
S9	F116	Pit	medieval (a)	115
S9	F118	Posthole	-	n/a
S9	F120	Posthole	-	n/a
S9	F126	Gully	?Roman (a)	125
S9	F128	Gully	-	127
S9	F151	Cut feature	-	(150, 149)
S10	F122	Ditch	Roman (a)	121
S10	F124	Palisade trench	late Iron Age (a) / early med (m)	123
S10	F131	Ditch	-	130, (129)
S10	F135	Ditch	?Roman (a), post-F143 (s)	134
S10	F137	Ditch	-	136
S10	F138	Stakehole	late Iron Age (a) / early med (m)	139
S10	F140	Stakehole	late Iron Age (a) / early med (m)	141
S10	F143	Ditch	pre-F135 (s)	(142)
S10	F145	Ditch	-	(144)
S10	F147	Posthole	-	n/a
S11	F157	Ditch	-	(156)
S12	F172	Ditch	-	(171)
S12	F174	Stone wall, eastern part	late prehistoric (a)	191
S12	F176	Ditch/wall cut	late prehistoric (s)	175
S12	F186	Ditch	-	185
S12	F204	Pit	-	(203)
S12	F205	Stone wall, western part	late prehistoric (a)	237
S12	F207	Gully	-	(206)
S12	F209	Ditch	Roman (a)	(208)
S12	F239	Ditch/wall cut	late prehistoric (s)	238, 237
S13	F189	Posthole	-	n/a
S13	F192	Stakehole, fence F199	-	n/a
S13	F193	Stakehole, fence F202	-	n/a
S13	F194	Stakehole, fence F202	-	n/a
S13	F195	Stakehole	-	n/a
S13	F199	Fence line	-	n/a
S13	F200	Fence line	-	n/a
S13	F201	Fence line	-	n/a
S13	F202	Fence line	-	n/a
S13	F212	Stakehole, fence F202	-	n/a
S13	F215	Stakehole, fence F201	-	n/a

Trench	Feature	Feature type	Dated	Dateable
S13	F216	Stakehole, fence F201	-	n/a
S13	F217	Stakehole, fence F201	-	n/a
S13	F222	Stakehole, fence F200	-	n/a
S13	F223	Stakehole, fence F200	-	n/a
S13	F224	Stakehole, fence F200	-	n/a
S13	F225	Stakehole	-	n/a
S13	F226	Stakehole	-	n/a
S13	F227	Stakehole, fence F199		n/a
S13	F228	Stakehole, fence F199	-	n/a
S13	F229	Stakehole, fence F199	-	n/a
S13	F230	Stakehole, fence F199	-	n/a
S13	F231	?stakehole/burrow/root	-	n/a
S13	F232	?stakehole/burrow/root	-	n/a
S13	F233	?stakehole/burrow/root	-	n/a
S14	F86	Ditch	-	(87)
S15	F89	Ditch	-	88
S1S	F84	Ditch	?med/post-med	83, (81)

6 Trench descriptions

Introduction

- 6 1 A total of 26 trenches were excavated on the airfield, targeted according to anomalies highlighted during the Phase 1 geophysical survey shown in Figure 2. A list of contexts with descriptions and associated finds/soil samples is provided in Appendix 1

Trenches located to the north of the runway

- 6 2 Seven trenches were excavated to the north of the runway (N1-N7)

Trench N1

- 6 3 This trench was located to sample probable structural remains. Natural subsoil, a yellow/brown sandy silty gravel (02), was encountered at a depth of 0.3m below the ground surface. Cut into the subsoil were six linear features (F04), evenly spaced approximately 5m apart and traversing the width of the trench on a north-south alignment. These recent features each measured 0.3m in width and contained a mixed fill of brick, tarmac, slag and stone (03). Directly overlying the subsoil was topsoil (01), a mid-brown sandy loam. No finds were recovered from the trench.

Trench N2 (Figure 3)

- 6 4 This trench was positioned across two ditch anomalies. The natural subsoil, an orange/yellow silt sand with gravel (08), was encountered 0.2m below the ground surface. In the eastern part of the trench a ditch (F10), with an associated slight bank immediately to the west, traversed the trench on a north-south alignment, measuring 4.4m in width and 0.3m in depth. The feature was filled by a mid-brown/orange, mixed gravel and silt (09). Directly overlying the subsoil was the topsoil (07), a mid-brown sandy loam. No archaeological finds were recovered from the trench.

Trench N3 (Figure 3)

- 6 5 The area where this trench was located had been deliberately mfilled during the levelling of the airfield Air Ministry drawings indicate made ground to a depth of 0 75-1 0m at this location (ASUD 2001a, Figure 3) The excavation aimed to identify the nature of re-deposited material and the survival of any archaeological remains buried beneath The natural subsoil, a mid-brown sandy silt (06) was encountered 0 9m below the ground surface Directly overlying this was a layer of mid-brown gravel (19), 0 1m in depth Above the gravel layer was a layer of re-deposited material, a mid-brown silt (05), 0 8m in thickness, overlain by topsoil No archaeological features were identified within the trench and the only find comprised a sherd of unstratified post-medieval pottery

Trench N4 (Figure 4)

- 6 6 This trench was placed across a curvilinear ditch/enclosure feature The natural subsoil (21), a dark orange clay, was encountered 0 42m below the surface In the northern part of the trench a linear ditch (F18) was identified, measuring 0 13m in depth, 1 4m in width and 3 4m+ in length This cut was filled by a light brown silty clay containing <50% white mortar (17) Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the feature The topsoil, a mid-grey/brown silt (20), directly overlay the natural subsoil

Trench N5 (Figure 4)

- 6 7 This trench was located across a possible double-ditched trackway The natural subsoil, a mid-dark brown gravelly silt was encountered 0 32m below the ground surface The linear ditch/foundation cut (F18) identified in Trench N4 also traversed the western part of N5, and contained post-medieval pottery Two other ditches and a gully also cut into the subsoil, all traversing the trench on an approximate north-south alignment These were all very shallow features, having been truncated perhaps during the levelling of the airfield In the eastern part of the trench, a ditch (F16) cut the natural subsoil, measuring 2 5m in width and 0 28m in depth This was filled by a mid-grey/brown silt (15), with some gravel inclusions but no artefactual evidence In the western part of the trench a ditch (F14) and a gully (F12) cut the natural subsoil The ditch was 1 7m wide, 0 15m in depth, and filled by a mid-brown silty clay (13) The gully was 1m wide, 0 05m m depth and filled by a mid-brown silty clay (11) There were no finds from the ditches or gully A layer of mid-brown silt (22) overlay these features, possibly deposited during landscaping operations for the construction of the airfield Directly overlying this was the topsoil, a mid-grey/brown silt (20)

Trench N6 (Figure 5)

- 6 8 This trench was sited across ridge and furrow remains identified in the north-eastern part of the airfield The mid-brown sand and gravel natural subsoil (25) was encountered up to 0 9m below the ground surface Two ditches and a posthole were cut into the subsoil The ditches F27 and F31 both traversed the trench on an east-west alignment and were filled by an orange/brown silty clay with some charcoal inclusions (26, 30) The former (F27) measured 3m in width and 0 35m in depth F31 was 1 9m wide and 0 15m deep Cutting the

subsoil in the northern part of the trench was the posthole F34, 0.3m wide and 0.15m deep. This was filled by a mid-orange/brown silty clay (33). In the southern part of the trench an organic layer of mottled dark grey/brown loamy clay silt (32) directly overlay the natural subsoil, up to 0.2m in depth. This layer appeared to have been waterlogged, forming a laminated humic layer. In the northern part of the trench a grey/brown silty sand layer (39) overlay the natural subsoil, forming a discontinuous deposit of up to 0.1m in depth. This may have been a layer of re-deposited soil, from cleaning of the ditch F27. Two postholes (F36 and F38) cut context 39 to a depth of 0.12m and were both filled by an orange/brown silty clay (35, 37). A layer of light-mid brown sandy silt (24) overlay the entire length of the trench to a maximum depth of 0.8m. An east-west aligned furrow (F29, 28) was seen to cut context 24 during machining but could not be identified in section. Context 24 was overlain by topsoil, to a depth of 0.3m below the ground surface and consisted of a grey/brown silty loam (23). The only find from the trench was one unstratified piece of flint.

Trench N7 (Figure 5)

- 6.9 This trench was also located to record ridge and furrow remains and to investigate the preservation of archaeological deposits beneath. The natural gravel subsoil (43) was identified at up to 0.88m below the ground surface. This was directly overlain by an orange/brown silty clay subsoil layer (42), up to 0.64m in depth and covering the entire length of the trench. In the western part of the trench a north-south aligned field drain (F45) had cut this layer, measuring 0.44m in width and 0.32m in depth. This was filled by a ceramic field drain (F44). The topsoil comprised a grey/brown silty loam (41) and was up to 0.23m in thickness. A modern fence spike (F46) had cut the topsoil to a depth of 0.56m below the surface. No evidence for ridge and furrow or other archaeological features was identified in the trench. The only find was a piece of flint from the top of the subsoil layer, context 42.

Trenches located to the south of the runway

- 6.10 Nineteen trenches were excavated to the south of the runway (S1-S19).

Trench S1 (Figure 6)

- 6.11 This trench was placed to record ridge and furrow remains and identify any features beneath. The light brown silty natural subsoil (61) was up to 0.4m below the surface. Three furrows cut the natural subsoil, traversing the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment (F63, F65, F67). These were spaced at 7-8m intervals. The southernmost furrow, F63, measured 1.16m in width and 0.25m in depth and was filled by a mid-dark brown silt (62). The central furrow, F65, was 2m wide, 0.29m deep and filled by a mid-brown sandy silt (64). The northernmost furrow, F67, was 1.73m wide, 0.12m deep and filled by a green/brown clay sand (66). Context 66 was overlain by a layer of re-deposited gravel (68). The topsoil was up to 0.4m in depth and consisted of a light brown sandy loam (60). No finds were recovered from the trench.

Trench S2 (Figure 6)

- 6 12 This trench was located to sample two ditches, possibly forming a droveway. The natural subsoil (240) was at a depth of 0.35m below the ground surface and consisted of an orange/brown silty clayey sand. This had been cut by two ditches, F40 and F50. The former traversed the southern part of the trench on a north-west/south-east orientation, measuring 0.6m m depth and 2.04m m width, and had a u-shaped profile. The primary fill of the ditch was a black sandy silt up to 0.15m thick (51), above which was a secondary fill consisting of a dark brown/black silty sand (48) up to 0.25m thick. The upper fill of the ditch comprised mid-orange/brown silty sand up to 0.3m in depth (47). The second ditch (F50) was flat-bottomed and traversed the northern part of the trench on the same alignment as F40. This ditch measured 0.34m in depth, 2.34m in width and was filled by a dark orange/brown silty sand (49). Between these two ditches a 5.2m wide trackway was identified (F52). The construction of the trackway comprised two layers, an initial bedding layer consisted of dark brown sand with some gravel inclusions (54) and was up to 0.3m thick. Above this was a compact orange/brown gravel layer (53), forming the trackway surface. Covering the entire length of the trench was an orange/brown silty clay sand layer of re-deposited material (70). A posthole (F72) had been cut through context 70 and the trackway in the central area of the trench and measured 0.29m in depth, 0.24m in width and was filled by a mottled dark brown silty sand (71) with some packing stones at the base (c. 0.1m in diameter). The topsoil was a light brown sandy loam up to 0.24m in depth (69). The only finds from the trench were unstratified and comprise a small sherd of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of clay pipe stem.

Trench S3 (Figure 7)

- 6 13 This trench was located to investigate a potential ditch identified during the geophysical survey. The natural subsoil (241) was at a depth of up to 0.53m below the ground surface and consisted of a green/grey clay. This was directly overlain in the central part of the trench by a mid-brown gravel layer (59), up to 0.07m in depth. Above this context and covering the entire length of the trench was a light to mid-brown silt layer of re-deposited soil (58), up to 0.35m in depth. A ditch (F57) cut into context 58, traversing the trench on north-west/south-east orientation. This flat-bottomed ditch was 0.22m in depth, 0.8m wide and filled by a mottled mid-brown silty clay (56). The topsoil was up to 0.32m in depth and consisted of a light brown sandy loam (55). The only finds from the trench were unstratified and comprise four sherds of pottery (spanning the ?early medieval to 18th century) and an undiagnostic piece of slag.

Trench S4 (Figure 7)

- 6 14 This trench was positioned to investigate a potential ditch feature identified during the geophysical survey. The natural subsoil was at a depth of 0.8m below the ground surface. A ditch (F77) had been cut into the subsoil, traversing the trench on a north-south alignment, measuring 2.86m in width and 0.28m in depth. This was filled by a dark grey/black clayey silt (76). Two subsoil layers overlay the entire length of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt 0.25m thick (75) and a mid-light brown clayey sandy silt 0.24m thick (74).

The topsoil measured 0.25m m depth and consisted of a mid-dark brown silt (73) No finds were recovered from the trench

Trench S5 (Figure 8)

- 6 15 This trench was placed over possible structural remains. No evidence for such remains were identified within the trench. The natural subsoil of the trench was up to 0.2m below the surface and consisted of an orange sand with silt and clay lenses (211). Three ditches were excavated in the northern part of the trench. A u-shaped ditch traversed the trench on an east-west alignment (F178). The ditch measured 1.1m in width, 0.15m in depth and was filled by a mid-dark brown sand (177). Two sections were excavated across a north-south aligned ditch (F180, F182), the width of the ditch varied between 0.5-0.8m and the depth was 0.2-0.25m. The fill comprised a mid-dark grey/brown sand (179, 181) containing frequent large rounded stones. In the north-west part of the trench the butt-end of a ditch was identified (F184). The ditch was aligned east-west, with a u-shaped profile and measured 0.8m in width by 0.15m in depth. The fill of the ditch consisted of an orange/brown sand (183). The topsoil consisted of a grey/brown silt (210). The only finds from the trench were modern 6 inch nails, which had been hammered into the topsoil forming two lines of nails traversing the trench on an east-west alignment and may have been used to tie down targets for bombing practice. These almost certainly account for the magnetic anomalies identified in this area.

Trench S6 (Figure 8)

- 6 16 This trench was located across a possible double-ditch trackway and enclosure. The natural subsoil was up to 0.25m below the ground surface and consisted of a light-mid brown silty loam with lenses of gravel (159). A ditch cut the natural in the western part of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (F161). The ditch measured 0.7m in width, 0.3m in depth and was filled by a mid-dark brown silty loam (160). Close to the ditch a pit was identified (F163), 0.5m in diameter and 0.4m in depth, and was filled by a mid-dark brown silty loam (162). The fills of these features were very similar in colour and texture to the natural subsoil and so it was therefore difficult to distinguish the features in section. The topsoil was a mid-brown silty loam (158). No finds were recovered from the trench.

Trench S7 (Figure 9)

- 6 17 This trench was located across a possible double-ditched trackway or enclosure boundary. The natural subsoil was 0.3m below the ground surface and consisted of a mid-orange/brown silty sand (165). A shallow ditch was identified in the northern part of the trench (F168), measuring 2m m width and 0.2m in depth, and was filled by a dark orange/brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks (167). Overlying the natural was a layer of dark orange/brown sandy silt (166), interpreted as layer of re-deposited material. The topsoil was a dark brown loam (164) c 0.3m deep. The only finds from the trench comprised unstratified pottery (medieval/post-medieval) and an unstratified Neolithic flint blade.

Trench S8 (Figure 9)

- 6 18 This trench was located over a potential ditch/enclosure feature. The natural subsoil was 0.1-0.15m below the ground surface. Several layers of natural subsoil were identified. The lowest layer was a light brown silty sand (114) which was overlain by a light brown sandy gravel (113), which in turn was overlain by a light brown sandy silt (112). The topsoil was a mid-brown silt (111). No features or finds were encountered in this trench.

Trench S9 (Figures 10 & 11)

- 6 19 This trench was placed across two possible ring-ditches. The natural subsoil was 0.15m below the ground surface and consisted of an orange/brown sandy gravel (152). In the western part of the trench the subsoil was cut by a linear gully traversing the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment (F110). The gully measured 0.5m in width and 0.1m in depth, and was filled by a mid-orange/brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions (109). A posthole/small pit (F104) was identified cutting the natural in this part of the trench, to a depth of 0.07m. This was filled by a mid-dark brown silty loam with charcoal flecks (103). Only part of the posthole was exposed in the trench as the remainder was behind the baulk. In the central part of the trench a feature (F151) was identified in section cutting the natural subsoil, measuring 0.37m in width and 0.11m in depth. The lower fill of the feature was a red, burnt sand, 0.03m deep (150). The upper fill consisted of a dark grey sandy silt and contained c 30% charcoal (149). This feature was identified in the northern baulk but was not present in the southern section of the trench. In the eastern part of the trench three pits, two gullies and two postholes were identified. The trench was extended to the north in order to expose the whole of the largest pit feature (F106). The pit was broadly rectangular in shape, measuring 1.6m in length by 1.3m in width and 0.3m in depth, with rounded corners and a flat bottom. The fill of the pit consisted of a mid-brown sandy silt (105). Bone, Romano-British pottery and three fragments of broken quem stone were recovered from the pit. Two worked sandstone blocks were also identified: a large boulder measuring 0.6m x 0.3m x 0.28m with rough tooling on two sides, and a smaller broken block measuring 0.2m x 0.18m x 0.18m, with four worked sides. Some degraded stone (possibly structural) was also recovered. The second pit (F108) was circular, with steep sides and a flat bottom. The pit measured 0.6m in diameter, 0.15m in depth and was filled by a mid-brown sandy silt (107). Two gullies cut the subsoil at the extreme eastern end of the trench (F126, F128). The former measured 1m in length, 0.44m in width and 0.05m in depth and was filled by a dark brown sandy silt (125). Tile, possibly Roman, was recovered from the fill of this feature. The second gully measured 2m in length, 0.9m in width and 0.2m in depth and was filled by a light orange/brown silty sand with occasional green/brown clay lumps and charcoal flecks (127). These were both cut by an oval pit (F116), which measured 1.8m in length, 1.4m in width and 0.25m in depth. The fill of the pit consisted of a dark brown silty loam with charcoal flecks (115). Finds from the backfill of the pit include bone and Roman (?Crambeck Ware, 285-400AD) and medieval pottery. The Roman sherd is presumed to be residual and may have been derived from one of the underlying gullies during the original excavation of this pit in the medieval period. Two further postholes (F118, F120), of similar size (c 0.3m in diameter and 0.04-0.05m in depth), were both

filled by a mid-grey/brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones (117, 119) These are likely to have formed part of a structure or fence line The topsoil consisted of a mid-brown silt (148) The unstratified finds from the trench comprise a quem stone fragment and post-medieval pottery and glass

Trench S10 (Figures 12 & 13)

- 6 20 This trench was positioned to sample a potential ditch/enclosure feature and any associated interior features The natural subsoil was up to 0 2m below the ground surface and consisted of an orange/brown sandy gravel (133) In the western part of the trench a palisade trench was identified on a north-east/south-west alignment (F124) The feature was 3 1m in length, 0 35m wide and 0 1m deep and filled by a mid-brown silty loam with occasional charcoal flecks (123) Some sherds of late Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature Two stakeholes (F138, F140) were identified cutting the base of the palisade slot These were both 0 14m deep and their fills (139, 141) were identical to context 123 Six ditches and a posthole were also identified in the trench, cutting the natural subsoil The ditches all traversed the trench on an approximate north-south alignment The u-shaped ditch F122 was 0 6m wide, 0 25m deep and was filled by a mid-dark brown sandy silt (121), with rounded stones (<0 1m in diameter) and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the feature The curvilinear ditch F143 was 0 65m wide, 0 3m deep and was filled by a mid-dark brown silty loam (142) This feature had been cut by another ditch (F135), which measured 0 7m m width and 0 2m m depth and was filled by a mid-dark brown silty loam (134) The fill also included occasional charcoal flecks, mortar and mortared stones A concentration of stone (up to 0 2m diameter) with mortar was present in the northern section of the trench This material must have been derived from a structure nearby The ditch F137 was 0 5m wide, 0 2m deep and came to a butt-end within the trench The fill of the ditch consisted of a mid-dark brown silty loam (136) The ditch F131 was 1 11m wide, 0 15m deep and had a flat-bottomed profile The lower fill of F131 consisted of a light orange sand with gravel inclusions (130) and was 0 05m thick At the base of the ditch was a line of sub-rounded stones, but these did not appear to form any packing and there was no indication of any postholes being present The upper fill of the ditch was 0 1m thick, comprising a mid-dark grey sandy silt, and contained a cattle-sized vertebra (129) In the eastern part of the trench ditch F145 measured 1 6m in width and 0 28m in depth The feature was filled by a mid-brown silty sand with some gravel inclusions (144) The posthole F147 was revealed in section m the middle part of the trench and measured 0 5m in diameter and 0 17m in depth The fill of the posthole consisted of a dark brown silty loam, with stone padding at the base and green/brown clay lumps to the sides of the fill (146) The topsoil consisted of a mid-brown silt (132)

Trench S11 (Figure 14)

- 6 21 This 10m² trench was located in the area of a dipolar magnetic anomaly cluster Dipolar magnetic anomalies in geophysical surveys typically reflect ferrous objects within the ground However, upon excavation of the trench only one small unstratified ferrous fragment was recovered It may be that

ferrous litter in the topsoil, rather than discrete finds of archaeological interest, accounts for the response in the geophysical data. The natural subsoil was 0.3m below the ground surface and consisted of a mid-brown silty loam and gravel (154), which overlay a second layer of natural subsoil, a light grey/yellow silt (155). A possible shallow, flat-bottomed ditch was identified cutting the natural in the western part of the trench (F157). This feature was 1m wide, 0.15m deep and was filled by a light brown silt (156). The topsoil was a dark brown loam (153). A small fragment of unstratified iron/slag was the only find recovered from the trench.

Trench S12 (Figures 15 & 16)

- 6.22 This trench was positioned to sample a ring-ditch. The natural subsoil was 0.35m below the ground surface and consisted of a mid-brown silty sand with gravel (170=197=198). In the eastern part of the trench four shallow ditches/gulches cut the natural subsoil (F186, F172, F207, F209), all traversing the trench on north-south alignments. These all had similar fills, consisting of mid-dark orange/brown sandy silts (185, 171, 206, 208) and measured between 0.85-1.3m in width and 0.1-0.25m in depth. Roman pottery was recovered from context 208. Above these features was a layer of mid-brown sandy loam, possibly a ploughsoil layer (244). In the western half of the trench two sections of a large ditch were excavated (F176=F239), both parts of the ring-ditch feature identified in the geophysical survey. The ditch measured 2.3-3m in width and 0.8-1.1m in depth, the largest part of the ditch was the eastern section (F176). The lower fill of the ditch was 0.3m thick and consisted of a dark brown silty loam with occasional pale yellow/grey lenses and some stone inclusions (<0.15m diameter) (175=238). Above this the ditch had been filled with a large amount of angular stone (<85%), which formed the footings for a wall (F174=F205) measuring 0.5-0.8m deep and 1.8-2m wide. The stones had not been worked and were roughly laid, ranging from small-sized stones (0.06m diameter) to large boulders (0.5m diameter). Some of the stones in the eastern wall section showed signs of plough damage, the topsoil above both sections of the stone wall was very shallow (approximately 0.05m). The soil matrix around the stones consisted of a mid-dark brown silty loam (191=237), which contained several sherds of later prehistoric pottery and occasional charcoal and burnt bone. Above the wall foundations was a layer of stone tumble (173) up to 0.4m in depth, consisting of a mid-brown sandy loam with 60% medium and 10% large-sized sub-angular stones. Within the interior of the walled ring-ditch was a 0.4m thick layer of compact light brown silty sand (196), possibly an area of re-deposited soil or a habitation surface. A pit cut through this layer in the southern baulk of the trench (F204), measuring 1.16m in length, 0.56m+ in width and 0.16m in depth. This was filled by a mid-grey/brown clayey silt, with some gravel lenses and clay lump inclusions (203). The topsoil was up to 0.35m deep and consisted of a mid-brown silty loam (169). Unstratified post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench S13 (Figure 17)

- 6.23 This trench was located to sample a possible ring-ditch. The subsoil was 0.1m below the ground surface and consisted of a light-mid orange/brown silty sand (213). In the southern part of the trench a second layer of natural subsoil was

identified, consisting of a mid-brown gravel (214) Seventeen stakeholes were excavated in the trench (F192, F193, F194, F195, F212, F215, F216, F217, F222, F223, F224, F225, F226, F227, F228, F229, F230), measuring between 0 05-0 18m in diameter and 0 05-0 3m in depth All the fills of the stakeholes were dark grey/brown sandy clay loams, with occasional small pebble inclusions Some of the stakeholes formed linear features interpreted as fence lines (F199, F200, F201, F202) A posthole was also identified (F189), which was also filled by a dark grey/brown sandy clay loam (190) Several animal burrows/areas of root disturbance were also identified (F219, F220, F221, F234, F235, F236) It was unclear if three of the features were stakeholes or caused by animal/root action (F231, F232, F233) The topsoil was a mid-brown silty loam (218) No ditches were identified during the excavation of this trench and no finds were recovered

Trench S14 (Figure 18)

- 6 24 This trench was placed over a possible pit feature The natural subsoil consisted of a mid-brown slightly silty gravel (101) The natural subsoil was cut by a ditch (F86), on a north-west/south-east alignment The ditch measured 1 6m in width and 0 5m m depth and came to a butt-end within the trench The ditch was filled by a brown silty loam (87) Covering the entire length of the trench was a layer of re-deposited soil (100), to a depth of 0 14m, which consisted of a light orange/brown sandy silt The topsoil was a light brown silty loam (99) No evidence for a pit was identified in the trench and no finds were recovered

Trench S15 (Figure 18)

- 6 25 This trench was placed across a double-ditched trackway An abrupt change in the subsoil was noted in the middle of the trench, changing from gravel (98) in the eastern half to mid-brown silty sand (97) in the western half Cut into the latter was a possible ditch (F89), measuring 2m in width and 0 2m m depth, which was filled by a mid-dark brown silt (88) Above the subsoil were two layers of re-deposited soil (102, 96) The former consisted of a dark brown silt and was 0 15m thick The second layer consisted of a sandy gravel, 0 2m thick The topsoil was 0 3m m depth and consisted of a light brown silty loam (95) The only finds recovered from the trench were unstratified and comprise 18th century pottery and a small fragment of 'Roman tegula'

Trench S16 (Figure 19)

- 6 26 This trench was placed in an area of ridge and furrow detected by the geophysical survey No evidence for ridge and furrow remains were identified in section and no other archaeological features were identified in the trench The natural subsoil consisted of a light brown silt (94) This was directly overlain by the topsoil, consisting of a mid-brown silt (93), 0 2m m depth No finds were recovered from the trench

Trench S17 (Figure 19)

- 6 27 This trench was placed in an area of possible ridge and furrow remains No evidence for ridge and furrow was identified and no archaeological features were encountered The natural subsoil consisted of a reddish-brown sandy silt,

with frequent small stones (243) This was directly overlain by the topsoil, a mid-brown silty loam (242), 0 1m in depth No finds were recovered from the trench

Trench S18 (Figure 20)

- 6 28 This trench was placed within an area of re-deposited material The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1 3m and the natural subsoil was not encountered The lowest layer identified was a light-mid brown silt (82=85) which contained medieval, and possibly Roman, pottery sherds and was excavated to a depth of 0 25m but was not bottomed This layer had been cut by a ditch traversing the trench on an east-west alignment (F84), measuring 1 7m in width and 0 25m + m depth, and was filled by a mid-dark brown silt with occasional stone inclusions (83) Two sherds of Soft Orange Sandy Ware (Roman, 40-80AD) were recovered from this fill However, since this context is stratigraphically later than 82/85 the sherds are regarded as residual Over the entire length of the trench was a buried soil layer (81), consisting of a mid-brown silt, 0 3m deep Directly overlying context 81 was a layer of re-deposited hght-mid brown clayey silt (80), 0 45m deep, containing medieval and possibly early medieval pottery Overlying context 80 was a second layer of re-deposited soil, consisting of a yellow/brown sandy silt gravel (79), 0 3m deep The topsoil was a mid-brown silty loam (78), 0 3m in depth

Trench S19 (Figure 20)

- 6 29 This trench was located within an area of unknown potential The natural subsoil of the trench was 0 32m below the ground surface and consisted of an orange/brown silt, 0 5m in depth and containing frequent stone and grit inclusions (91) A second natural subsoil layer was identified below context 91 and consisted of a mid-brown sand, 0 52m in depth (92) The topsoil was a mid-brown silt (90) No finds were recovered or archaeological features identified in the trench

7 Artefactual evidence

Ceramics (Dr Chris Cumberpatch & Dr Steve Willis)

- 7 1 The pottery assemblage consisted of 95 sherds of pottery, brick, tile and other material weighing 409 grams The details of the assemblage are summarized in Appendix 2 Table 1

Discussion

- 7 2 The pottery from the majority of contexts was in extremely poor condition, with only the small quantities of recent (18th century and later) pottery being relatively unabraded Earlier fabrics were soft and appeared to have undergone severe abrasion, leading to many being unidentifiable to type This would seem to imply that they were derived from disturbed contexts which had been subject to repeated re-working, possibly as a result of cultivation and later landscaping None of the medieval pottery was identifiable to type although broad date ranges were assigned on the basis of technical characteristics Three sherds of probable early medieval date were recovered, two from a topsoil context (55, in S3) and one from a layer of re-deposited material (80, in S18)