Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

Modern living in an historic environment

Iron Age hillside enclosures at Doddington Road, Earl's Barton, Northamptonshire

Charlotte Walker BSc ACI*f*A

01327 843586
iain@isheritage.co.uk 07742 901760
charlotte@isheritage.co.uk 07840 334082
www.isheritage.co.uk

Iron Age hillside enclosures at Doddington Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire

Charlotte Walker BSc ACI*f*A

Summary

A small set-piece excavation was undertaken in order to fulfil a condition placed on planning approval for a development at Doddington Road, Earls Barton. Previous evaluation had found a small number of ditches and gullies, dated to the middle Iron Age, at the southern end of the development site and the ensuing excavation was focussed in this area.

The excavation exposed more of the features recorded during the evaluation, but few others were present. The ditches and gullies extended beyond the excavation limits and are likely to have been part of a wider boundary system or enclosures. Most of the features contained few finds apart from a ditch aligned north to south. Much of the pottery, all dated to the late Iron Age, was retrieved from the fill of this ditch and a later recut, along with fire-cracked cobbles and burnt clay. Although there was no definitive evidence of contemporary structures, the material evidence suggests occupation was located very close by.

Introduction

Full Planning Consent was granted by Wellingborough Council to Seagrave Developments for the erection of seven new houses on land behind 11 Doddington Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, (NGR: SP 85493 63716; Fig 1).

The site was the subject of an archaeological evaluation in 2012, which was reported by the University of Leicester (Speed 2012). This work uncovered a small number of apparently middle Iron Age ditches and gullies. As a result of this a Planning Condition (no 6) was applied to the consent for a programme of archaeological fieldwork, in accordance with the wishes of the NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor.

A Written Scheme of Investigation setting out the scope and strategy of the proposed final-phase archaeological works was prepared by Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd and approved by the NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor prior to the commencement of work.

Site location, geology and topography

Earls Barton is situated between the towns of Northampton and Wellingborough on the north side of the Nene Valley. The current site lies within the historic village of Earls Barton, to the east of the church. The site comprised gardens and paddocks associated with 11 Doddington Road (the east-west course of the B573 to the south), which extends back between existing housing to the curving Churchill Road to the north.

The site slopes down from east to west, the slope becoming more pronounced at its western edge. It lies around 83m above Ordnance Datum. The bedrock geology of the site is recorded as Northampton Sand Formation, with sandstones and siltstones of the Stamford Member immediately to the north; no superficial deposits are noted (http://BGS.ac.uk).

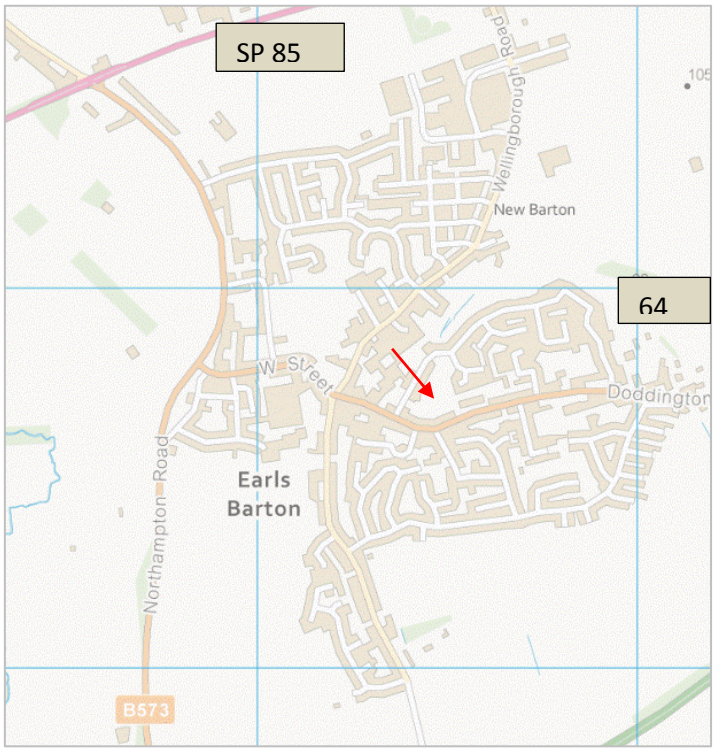

Fig 1: Site location

Archaeological and historical background

The intensive utilisation of the Nene Valley during the later prehistoric and Roman period is well-documented, with extensive agricultural landscapes that appear to have been created during the middle Iron Age and remaining in use into the Romano-British period. Large scale crop-mark complexes have been recorded to the west, including at Sywell/Ecton, and to the south further large-scale occupation of the first terrace river gravels has been confirmed by archaeological

investigation at Clay Lane and to the west at the Earls Barton Western Quarry Extension. Further Iron Age and Roman sites have been recorded across the parish (RCHME 1979).

Closer to the current site, Iron Age features have been recorded to the north-east at Mills Close and to the south-east on Mount Pleasant, including ditches, pits and a possible hearth found in association with pottery dating to the 2nd-1st centuries BC. Excavation further to the north, at Mallards Close, revealed late Iron Age and early Roman ditched enclosures superseded by a later Roman walled enclosure (Atkins 2005). The walled enclosure may indicate the presence of a high status Roman building in the vicinity. Geophysical survey undertaken in 2013 on c 16ha of land to the south of Main Road showed two distinct enclosure complexes, one of which was a direct continuation of the 'ladder' enclosure system of the Mallards Close site (Ladocha and Fisher 2013).

Evaluation of the current site found a small number of shallow ditches at the time felt to date to the middle Iron Age (Speed 2012).

The site lies in the centre of the historic village of Earls Barton, a polyfocal settlement originating in the Saxon period. The church, located on prominent ground to the west, has a Saxon tower and lies next to a mound, which has variously been interpreted as a Saxon Thegn's dwelling, Norman motte and even an Iron Age fort (Fig 2). No evidence for the Saxon or medieval development of the village was found during the evaluation of the site.

Fig 2: View of the prominently-sited Saxon church, looking west from the site across the valley

Aims and objectives

The basic aims of the archaeological fieldwork were as follows:

- To determine and understand the nature, function, character and development of any archaeological remains which may lie beneath the proposed plots 6 and 7, in their cultural and environmental setting;
- To record the extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present in a selected area at the southern end of the new development;
- To preserve by record archaeological features or deposits found therein and report on them.

However, specific research aims included:

- Confirm the middle Iron Age date of the remains;
- Defining the nature of the features- are they directly related to settlement or part of a wider field system?

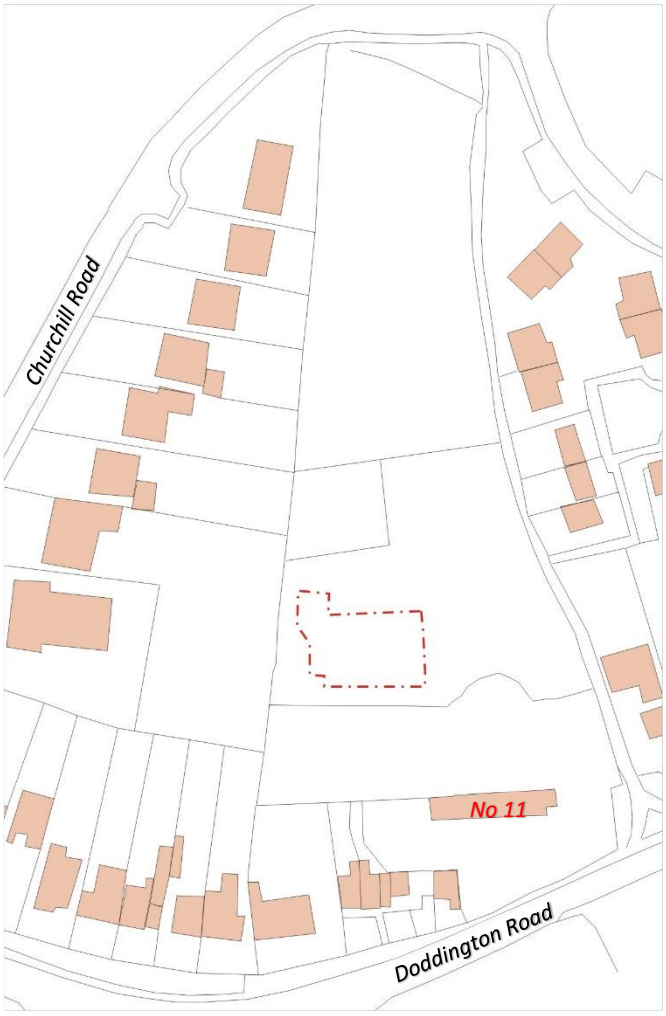

Fig 3: Location of the excavation on the site

Methodology

The work was carried out in accordance with IfA regulations and guidelines (IfA 2010 Code of Conduct, Institute for Archaeologists).

An area of approximately 30m x 30m at the southern end of the development plot was originally planned to be stripped. However, structures in use and trees still present on site limited the extent of the excavation and a slightly lesser area was eventually stripped of topsoil and subsoil in order to expose the natural ground using a 16-ton 360-degree tracked machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological control.

Fig 4: The site, looking west towards Earls Barton Church. Former evaluation trench 5 is outlined in the foreground, while the colour-change of soils in the background shows an area of hill-wash, into which most archaeology was cut.

Following machine-work, a base plan was created, located using existing topographical surveys of the site and tied into the Ordnance Survey. A programme of archaeological investigation and recording of significant archaeological deposits was subsequently undertaken after locally cleaning the exposed surface.

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of excavation were fully recorded, given individual context numbers and described on *pro-forma* context sheets. Plan and section drawings were produced at appropriate scales and related to Ordnance Datum as appropriate. Photographs were taken as 35mm monochrome negatives for archive purposes and digital media for reporting purposes.

Sufficient archaeological features and deposits were sampled by hand to determine their date and character. Discrete features were half sectioned.

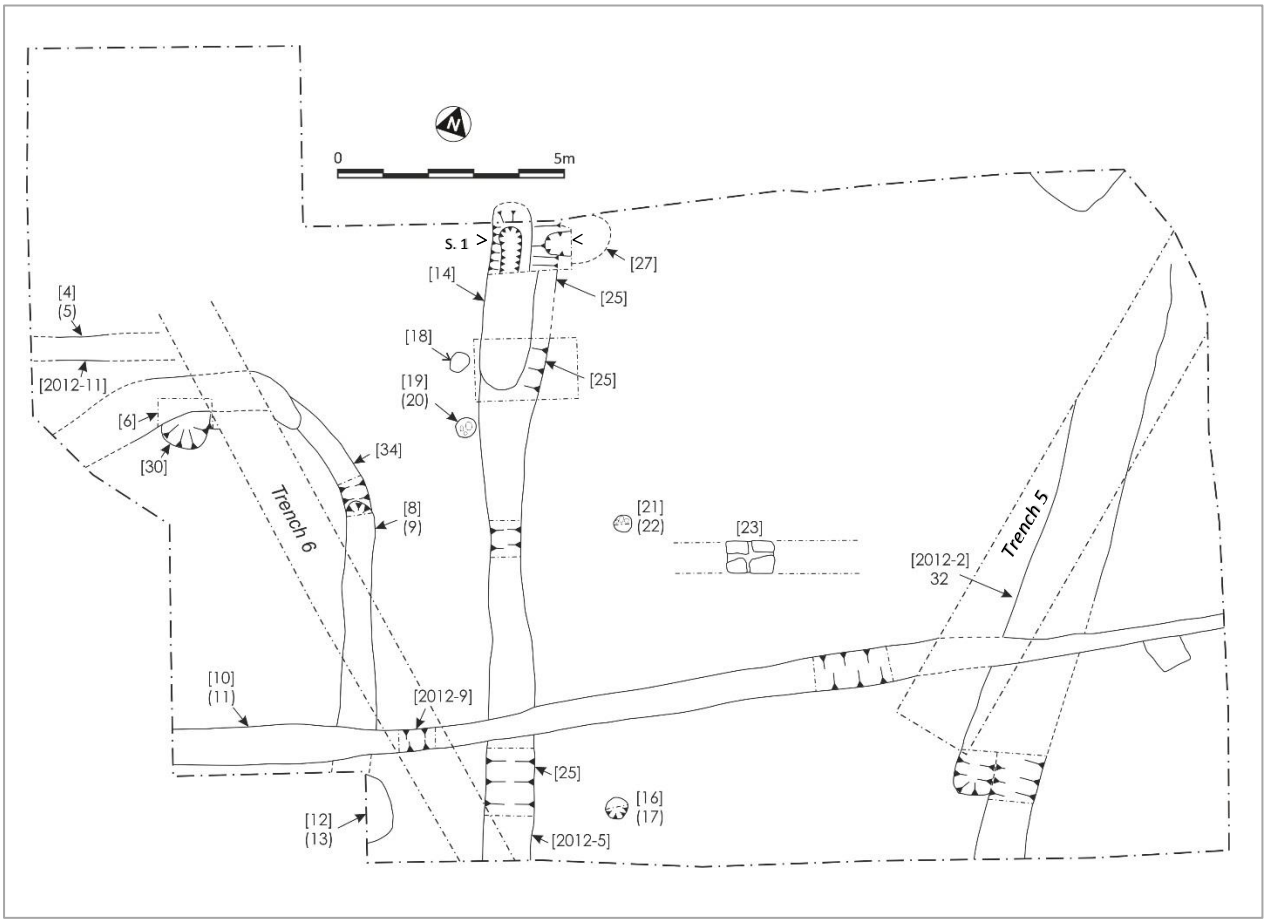

Fig 5: Plan of the site, all features

The excavated evidence

The underlying geology of the site was Northampton Sand and Ironstone. The geology in the eastern half of the site comprised compacted fragmented ironstone within a mid-orangey brown sand matrix. Downslope to the west, it was a red-brown sandy silt with very little ironstone. This deposit was probably a colluvial hillwash. The overlying subsoil, c0.25-0.70m thick, was a red-brown sandy silt with numerous ironstone fragments. The subsoil became deeper to the west of the site and was very similar to the underlying geology. The topsoil, c0.20m thick, was dark grey loam overlain by grass.

All archaeological features cut into the natural geology or the hillwash (or both) and were sealed by the subsoil. The plan of the site (Fig 5) includes relevant context numbers from the previous evaluation, there prefixed by 2012.

An undated prehistoric boundary ditch

Ditch [32], aligned north-east to south-west, was 10m long, up to c2.00m wide and c0.15m deep at the south becoming shallower to the north. At the northern limit of the site, the ditch was no longer visible and it appeared to have been entirely truncated by cultivation, where the subsoil was at its thinnest. The edges of the ditch were steep with a fairly flat base, but all were slightly irregular. To the south there may have been a recut, with some evidence of a terminal, although no relationship between the two phases of ditch could be determined. The fill was a compact red-brown sandy silt with a large amount of ironstone, similar to the surrounding natural. The only find was a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper recovered during the evaluation, where the context was Context 2 in Trench 5 (Speed 2012). Although this may have been residual in an Iron Age ditch, the fill was quite distinct from the other features on site and it is possible that this ditch dated to an earlier phase of activity.

The late Iron Age boundary ditches

Oval pit [27], aligned east-west and c0.80m long and 0.60m wide, had steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base (Figs 5, 6 and 7). The base and the lowest 0.25m of the sides had been lined with a light grey-blue clay with light orange-yellow mottling. The clay lining was up to 0.02m thick and had several large cobbles embedded in it. The fill of the pit was mid orange-brown sandy silt, very similar to the surrounding natural. There were irregular patches of burnt clay, more cobbles, some of which were fire-cracked and small fragments of prehistoric pottery that were too degraded to retrieve. The clay-lining and cobbles suggest that the pit may have been used to hold water, heated by the addition of hot stones.

The pit was cut by ditch [25], aligned north-south, at least 14m long and up to 1.10m wide and 0.23m deep at the south becoming considerably deeper, up to 0.58m, to the north. The ditch had a wide U-shaped profile and the fill comprised mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone fragments and moderate charcoal. The fill was more compact towards the base of the cut.

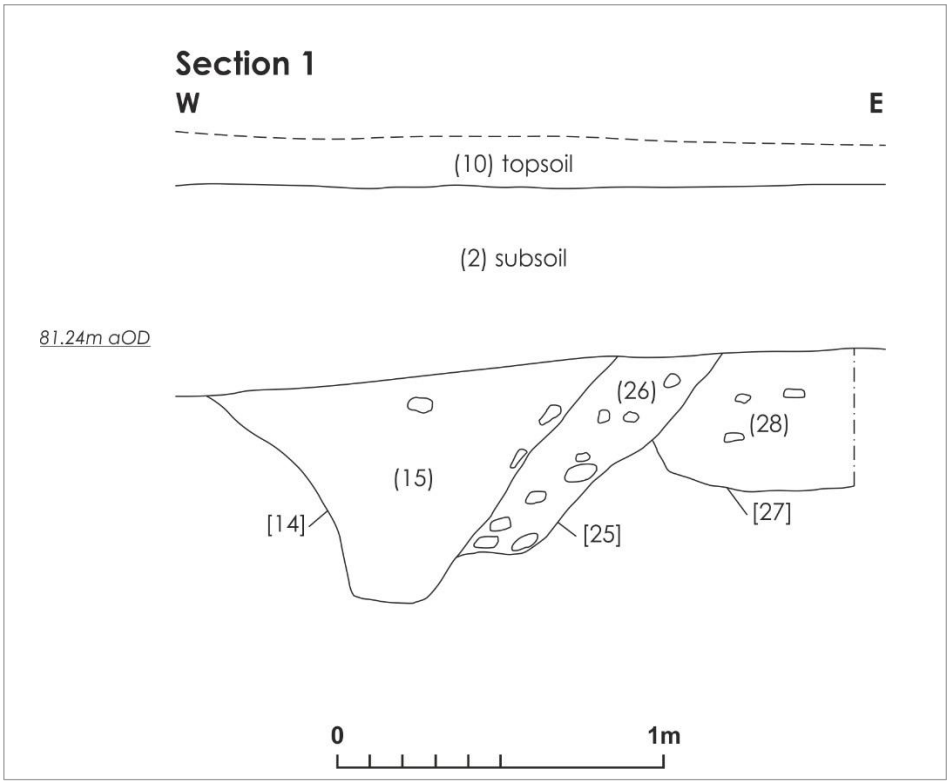

Fig 6: Section of boundary ditches [14] and [25] and pit [27], looking north

Ditch [25] was truncated along its northern edge by feature [14] also aligned north-south (Figs 5, 6 and 7). The feature was only c4.5m long and was excavated when ditch [25] had already silted up. The feature may have served as a short length of ditch maintaining part of a former boundary, while the remainder was perhaps maintained by other, less archaeologically visible means, such as hedges or fences. The edges were shallow at the top, becoming steeper towards the base, which was flat; it was 1.23m wide and 0.72m deep (Fig 6). The section excavated adjacent to the northern edge of the excavation indicated that it terminates just to the north close to the excavation edge. The fill comprised a mid-dark brown-grey sandy silt with occasional pieces of ironstone and cobbles (up to 0.15x0.07x0.08m), some of which were fire-cracked. Lenses of burnt clay and frequent charcoal inclusions were concentrated towards the base suggesting that it had been used for the disposal of waste material affected by fire. However, the burnt clay was too degraded to determine its origin.

Pottery from the ditch also dated to the late Iron Age, although the forms appeared to be more distinctive of the 1st century BC, than the early decades of the 1st century AD.

Fig 7: Ditches [14] and [25] and pit 27; scale 1m

There were four postholes, ([16], [18], [19] and [21]), the arrangement of which formed no coherent pattern, but which were all located close to this main north-south boundary and may have been associated with it. The postholes were around 0.5m in diameter and up to 0.2m deep. The fills were mid orange-brown silty sands, very similar to the natural geology. The fill of all the postholes contained post-packing which incorporated pieces of ironstone, limestone and cobbles, some of which were burnt (Fig 8). Although packing was present, no post-pipes were identified and there were no finds.

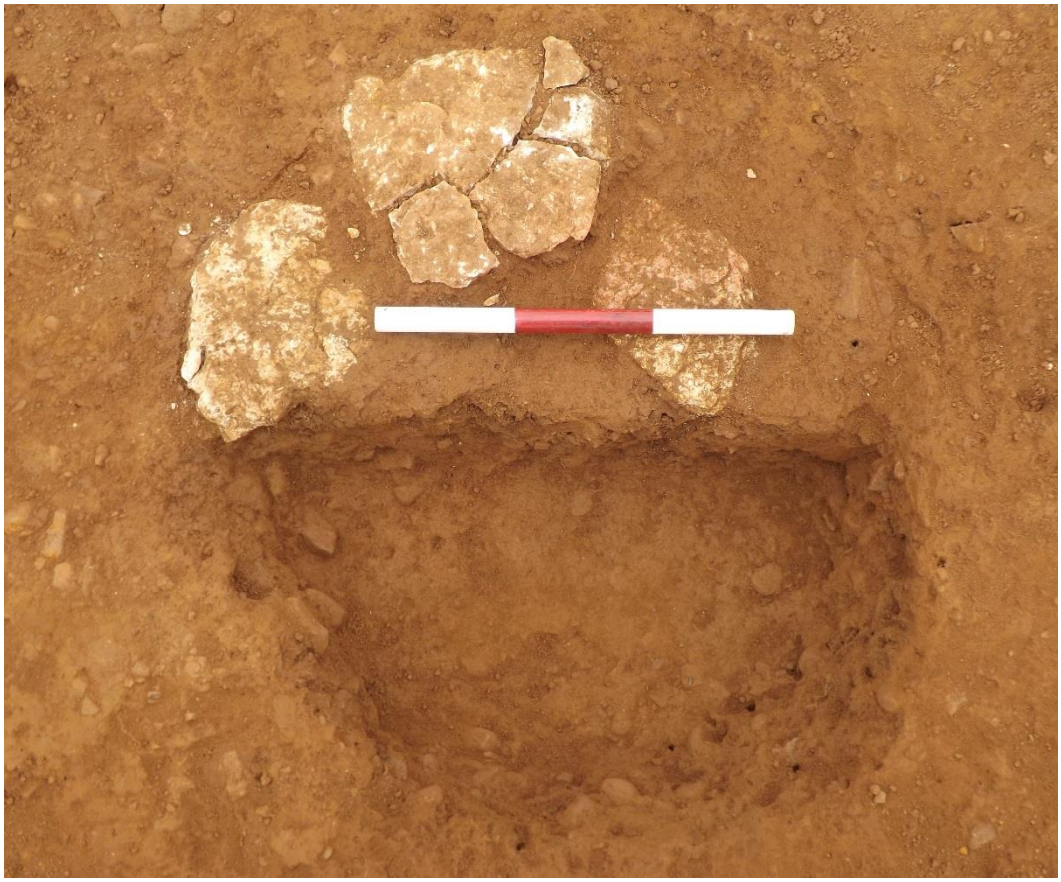

Fig 8: Posthole [19], showing post-packing; scale 30cm

To the west was a curvilinear gully [34], aligned north-west to south-east, 0.8m wide and 0.16m deep, with a wide, concave profile. The fill was grey-brown sandy silt with occasional ironstone and charcoal. The surviving gully had been truncated at both ends by later recuts, but seemed to have originally formed the corner of a boundary or enclosure. An entrance, c2m wide, was created during later modification. The southern arm, gully [8], aligned north-south, 1.00m wide and 0.32m deep, had a wide V-shaped profile and was filled with a dark charcoal/ash stained sandy silt. The western arm, gully [6], aligned east-west was 0.9m wide and up to 0.5m deep with steep, almost vertical, edges. The dark grey-brown fill contained frequent pieces of ironstone, less so towards the base. There was a small deposit of light blue-grey clay at the base of the gully.

The gully cut a shallow pit [30], at least 1m long and 0.8m wide, with a wide, shallow profile. The fine dark grey-brown sandy silt fill contained few ironstone pieces and flecks of charcoal.

A narrow gully [10], aligned approximately east to west, was 22m long, 0.5m wide and up to 0.25m deep, although it was shallower at the western end of the site. The gully was aligned down the slope

and may have acted as a drain. It was filled by a mid-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone pieces.

A single sherd of probable early Roman pottery found in the gully fill appears to confirm its late date in the development of the site; the lack of other material evidence suggests that it was located some way from settlement by this date.

Addendum

In August 2015 a single subsequent visit recorded the northward continuance of ditch [25] approximately 3m beyond the 2014 excavation area. This took place when footings were being dug. These were unusually deep at c2m, dug using a narrow bucket, which together precluded safe recording from inside the trench, but the ditch, which was noted at 0.6m below the modern ground surface, extending down to 1.2m, was identified as the same one, being of very similar proportions and fill. There were no further finds. Two general views from this subsequent observation can be found at the end of this report (Appendix 2).

A Post-medieval boundary

There was a short length of ironstone wall [23], 1m long, 0.7m wide and a single course thick. The remainder had been either robbed out or removed although its former course was visible as a change in the colour of the natural for c1.5m at either end, and a robber-trench was noted at the extreme west end of the site, within the subsoil where it was thickest. The wall was un-mortared and seems to have been laid directly onto the natural geology.

The wall was likely the remains of a rear boundary wall to the garden, as visible in the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 9).

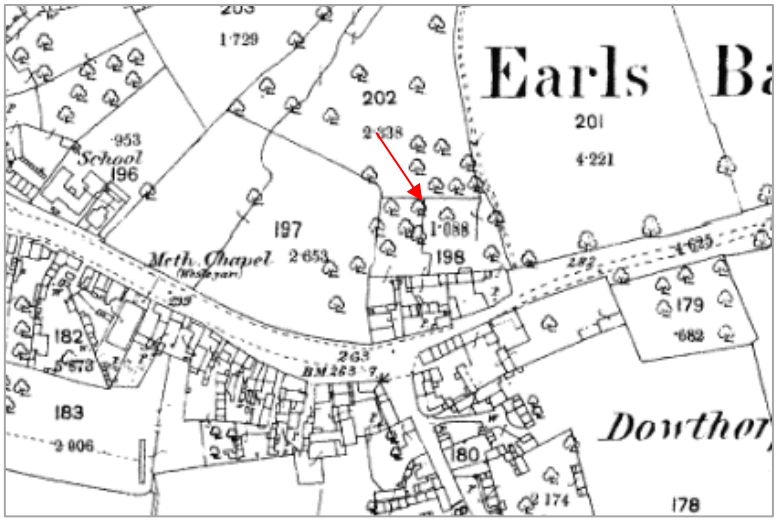

Fig 9: First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1885

FINDS

The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman (Senior Archaeologist, MoLA Northampton)

A total of 79 sherds of pottery weighing 1724g was recovered from seven separate deposits (Table 1). The assemblage comprises a mixture of hand-built vessels characteristic of the middle/late Iron Age and sherds in fabrics and forms that are characteristic of the late, pre-Roman Iron Age. The assemblage can be tightly dated to the late Iron Age, beginning in the 1st century BC and continuing into the middle decades of the 1st century AD. A single, small, abraded sherd is probably early Roman in date.

Fabrics

Coarse shell: containing a high density of larger shell inclusions (12 sherds, 15%)

Fine shell: containing a lower density of fine shell inclusions (9 sherds, 11%)

Grog: containing small pellets of grog (18 sherds, 23%)

Sandy: general hard and containing fine rounded quartz grains (39 sherds, 49%)

These sherds often also contain a low density of finely crushed shell

Iron Age assemblages in Northamptonshire are typically dominated by vessels containing either dense larger shell fragments or, in the case of smaller and finer vessels, a lower density of finely crushed shell. Sandy fabrics form 48% of this assemblage, by sherd count, with fabrics containing grog providing a further 23% of the material. This dominance is sufficient on its own to indicate that much of the material dates to the late pre-Roman Iron Age, the early decades of the 1st century BC. This is also confirmed by the forms, see below.

Table 1: Quantification of Iron Age pottery

Fabrics Fill/cut type	Coarse shell	Fine shell	Grog	Sandy	RB	Total sherds	Weight (g)	Sherd Families
7/6 gully	-	-	2	-	-	2	13	2
9/8 gully	-	-	-	2	-	2	43	2
11/10 gully	-	-	-	0	1	1	2	1
15/14 ditch	12	8	2	26	-	48	1261	9
26/25 ditch	-	-	14	7	-	21	349	8
31/30 pit	-	-	-	3	-	3	26	1
35/34 gully	-	1	-	1	-	2	30	2
Totals	12	9	18	39	1	79	1724	-
Percentages	15%	11%	23%	49%	1%	-	-	-

Forms and decoration

The assemblage is typically dark in colour, with dark grey cores and dark grey to brown surfaces. From the fill (15) of ditch [14] there is a flat-topped in-turned rim from a slack-shouldered jar, rim diameter 200mm, with an uneven but roughly smooth outer surface: a form typical of the later-middle to late Iron Age (Fig 10). There is also a single body sherd, with an orange surface, with scored decoration, also typical of the middle Iron Age. From the same deposit there is a body sherd, grey-black throughout, with a burnished surface, which may come from a globular bowl, characteristic of the late Iron Age, 1st century BC, while a sherd, grey throughout with a burnished surface and decorated with parallel finely-incised lines, can also be dated to the late Iron Age (Fig 11).

Fig 10: Flat-topped rim jar from ditch [14] (Scale 10mm)

Fig 11: Body sherd with incised decoration from ditch [14] (Scale 10mm)

From the fill (26) of ditch [25] there is a simple rounded and slightly everted rim, possibly from a globular bowl in the hard sandy fabric containing some finely-crushed shell, which is black throughout with a smoothed/burnished surface, although pitted from the loss of shell inclusions (Fig 12). This group also contains the base, 150mm diameter, and body sherds from a thick-walled jar with orange surfaces, characteristic of the late pre-Roman Iron Age. The body sherds are up to 11mm thick and the base is 13mm thick. These jar forms of the early 1st century AD are better finished and larger than the jars of the middle Iron Age. There is also a thick lug from this group.

Fig 12: Globular bowl with smoothed surface from ditch [25] (Scale 10mm)

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

The animal bone by Adam Reid BSc, MSc (Archaeologist, MoLA Northampton)

A total of 603g of animal bone was recovered from three deposits by hand collection. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation and the *taxa* present.

All material had been washed prior to analysis. Identifiable bones were noted, and were examined for signs of butchery and the state of epiphyseal fusion. Identifications took place with the aid of the MOLA Northampton reference collection and Hillson (1992) and France (2009) were also consulted. Specimens that could not be positively identified were attributed, where possible, to categories including Large Mammal (Cattle, Horse), Medium Mammal (Sheep/Goat, Pig, Large Dog) and Small Mammal (Small Dog, Cat, Rabbit). No microfaunal specimens were noted. The English Heritage Guidelines (2014) were followed, where possible.

Identification and Quantification

A moderately high identification rate was achieved (Table 2), despite the fragmented nature of the material; leaving 47% of the assemblage unidentified. The fill (26) of ditch [25] provided the most material, including several paired ovicaprid elements: 2 radii, 2 metacarpals, 2 metatarsals, and 4 phalanges.

Table 2: The identified taxa

Fill/cut	Cattle *(Bos)*	Pig *(Sus)*	Sheep/Goat (Ovicaprid)	Deer (Cervid)	Horse *(Equus)*	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Total
15/14	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	9
26/25	-	-	25	3	1	1	19	49
31/30	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	1	1	25	3	1	2	26	59

The state of preservation of the material was moderate to good although several of the specimens were fragmented and some specimens demonstrated signs of moderate surface abrasion, weathering and leaching. Evidence of butchery (chop marks) was noted on two medium sized mammal long bone fragments from the fill (15) of ditch [14].

Conclusion

The material appears to derive mainly from domestic waste, with no suggestion of industrial activity. There is a suggestion that sheep/goats were utilised more frequently than cattle but the assemblage is too small to derive any meaningful interpretations.

The charred seeds by Val Fryer (Archaeobotanist)

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch/gully fills (9) and (15).

The samples were bulk floated by Archaeology Warwickshire (AW) and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. The non-floating residues were sorted by Archaeology Warwickshire and the recovered charred plant remains are also included within this assessment.

Results

Cereal grains, chaff and seeds of common weeds are present at a low to moderate density within both assemblages. Preservation is generally quite poor, with the cereals being puffed and distorted (probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures) while the other macrofossils are very fragmented. The charcoal/charred wood fragments are particularly comminuted, with few pieces >2mm in size surviving.

Table 3: Quantification of results

Context No.	**9**	**15**
Cereals		
Hordeum sp. (grains)	x	x
Triticum sp. (grains)		x
(glume bases)		xx
(spikelet bases)	x	x
(rachis internodes)	x	x
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	x	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	xfg
Herbs		
Anthemis cotula L.		xcffg
Bromus sp.	xcffg	x
Fabaceae indet.	x	x
Galium aparine L.		x
Small Poaceae indet.	x	x
Large Poaceae indet.	x	
Polygonum aviculare L.	xfg	
Rumex sp.	x	x
R. acetosella L.		xcf
Wetland plants		
Montia fontana L.	xfgs	
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x
Charcoal >5mm		x
Charred root/stem	x	
Pteridium aquilinum (L.)Kuhn (pinnule frag.)	x	
Indet. culm nodes	x	x
Indet seeds	x	x
Other remains		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x
Bone	xxb	x
Pottery	x	
Small coal frags.	x	
Sample volume (litres)	**8**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens

cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt

Individual barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification. The single identifiable wheat grain is of an elongated 'drop' form typical of spelt (T. spelta) and spelt glume bases are also present within both assemblages.

Weed seeds are scarce and most are very poorly preserved. However, common segetal taxa including brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), grasses (Poaceae), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.) are recorded. The assemblage from context (9) also includes fragmentary seeds of blinks (*Montia fontana*), a common wetland plant.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present at a moderate density within both assemblages, but other plant macrofossils are scarce. However, context (9) includes a bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) pinnule fragment and both assemblages contain fragmentary culm nodes.

Few other remains are recorded, although small fragments of bone (some of which are burnt) and black porous residues derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains are present at a very low density within both assemblages.

Conclusions

In summary, although the recovered assemblages are small and somewhat limited in composition, both appear to be derived from low density deposits of cereal processing waste. However, given the contexts, it is unclear whether this material is indicative of nearby agricultural activity, with the waste products being burnt close to the point or origin, or whether it is derived from the use of processing waste as tinder, kindling or fuel. The latter practise is certainly known from a number of sites of later prehistoric and Roman date.

Discussion

The excavation within the historic village core of Earls Barton has revealed evidence of late Iron Age activity. The relatively small scale of the excavation means that a detailed understanding of the nature of the site has not been possible. However, the quantity of finds from the features, especially ditches [25] and [14], suggests that the activity was likely to have been domestic in nature, rather than part of a wider field system situated some way from settlement. It is considered likely that further remains are probably located to the west and south of the current site; the previous

evaluation did not reveal any features to the north and the archaeological remains seem to peter out to the east.

The pottery was in the main recovered from boundary ditch [14]/[25]. This assemblage, larger than that found previously in evaluation, has enabled the pottery to be more securely dated to the 1st century BC up to the middle decades of the 1st century AD, indicating that the activity was of a fairly short duration, which seems to be in common with other Iron Age activity in the vicinity. While the pottery and animal bone suggest some domestic nature, and the charred seeds give it a probable agricultural nature, its focus lies beyond the site to the west or south.

A single sherd of early Roman pottery from one feature indicates some continuity of activity into the Roman although any domestic focus seems to have shifted elsewhere. The shallow gully may have been part of a wider Roman field system.

Bibliography

Atkins, R 2005 *Iron Age and Roman settlement at Mallards Close, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology, **05/031**

English Heritage 2014 *Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice*, Available online at: https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/animal-bones-and-archaeology/animal-bones-and-archaeology.pdf. (Accessed 14/11/2014)

France, D L, 2009 *Human and Nonhuman Bone Identification: A Color Atlas*, Boca Raton: CRC Press

Hillson, S, 1992 *Mammal Bones and Teeth: An Introductory Guide to Methods of Identification*, London: UCL Institute of Archaeology Publications

Ladocha, J, and Fisher, 2013 *Archaeological geophysical survey on land south of Main Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire,* Northamptonshire Archaeology, **13/208**

RCHME 1979 *An inventory of historical monuments in the county of Northamptonshire,* **2**, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments England

Speed, G, 2012 *An archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 11 Doddington Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire*, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Stace, C, 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd edition, Cambridge University Press

Endorsed ICS 19/1/2015

IS Heritage 19 Jan 2015

With addendum and Appendix 2, 15 September 2015

Appendix 1: Context data

Context no	Context type	Equivalent context in 2012 evaluation	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
1	Topsoil	*201*	Dark grey-brown loam beneath turf	0.20m thick	-
2	Subsoil		Red-brown sandy silt with numerous ironstone fragments	0.25-0.70m thick	-
3	Natural geology		Compact layer of fragmented ironstone in sand matrix to E. Red-brown sandy clay silt to W	-	-
4	Gully		Aligned E-W. Shallow edges with flat base. Only vestiges remain at W end of site	1.5m long, 0.4m wide, 0.05m deep	-
5	Fill of 4		Red-brown silty sand	0.05m thick	-
6	Gully, cuts 34	11, Tr 6	Aligned E-W, terminal to E. Near vertical edges	0.30-0.50m deep, 0.90 wide	-
7	Fill of 6	12, Tr 6	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone, lens of light blue-grey clay at base	0.30-0.50m thick	Iron Age pottery (two sherds)
8	Gully, cuts 34		Aligned N-S, terminal to N. Wide U-shape	5.00m long, 1.00m wide and 0.32m deep	-
9	Fill of 8		Dark brown-grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal	0.32m thick	Sample 1, Iron Age pottery (three sherds)
10	Gully	4, Tr 5 and 9, Tr 6	Aligned E-W, extends full width of site. Shallow, wide U-shape profile	0.5m wide and up to 0.25m deep	-
11	Fill of 10	3, Tr 5 and 10, Tr 6	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone	0.25m thick	Iron Age pottery (one sherd)
12	Pit?		Possible pit, semi-circular in plan. Not excavated as close to section edge	At least 1.50m long and 0.50m wide	-
13	Fill of 12		Mid grey-brown sandy silt. Not excavated	-	-
14	Ditch, cuts 25		N-S aligned. Edges shallow at top, near vertical at base;	*C* 4.00m long, 1.10m	-

Context no	Context type	Equivalent context in 2012 evaluation	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
			narrow flat base.	wide and 0.72m deep	
15	Fill of 14		Mid-dark brown-grey sandy silt, lenses of burnt clay, frequent charcoal, occasional heat-fractured cobbles		Iron Age pottery (48 sherds plus burnt clay/crumbs in two bags), animal bone, Sample 2
16	Post-hole		Sub-circular, shallow sides, flat base	0.35m in diameter, 0.10m deep	-
17	Fill of 16		Brown clay silt with frequent ironstone and lumps of blue-grey clay	0.10m thick	-
18	Post-hole		Sub-circular. Not excavated.	0.40m in diameter	-
19	Post-hole		Sub-circular. Dish-shaped profile. Only very base surviving	0.45m in diameter, less than 0.10m thick	-
20	Fill of 19		Dark brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone and cobbles	Less than 0.10m thick	-
21	Post-hole		Sub-circular, vertical sides, flat base	0.40m in diameter, 0.10m thick	-
22	Fill of 21		Brown sandy silt with ironstone and four pieces of limestone, two scorched	0.40m in diameter, 0.10m thick	-
23	Wall		Aligned E-W. Four surviving blocks of ironstone wall set on natural. Unmortared	1.20m long, 0.70m wide	-
24	-	-	Context unused	-	-
25	Ditch, cut by 14	5, Tr 6	N-S aligned. At N, steep edges with flat base, at S wide U-shape profile. Deeper to N	0.60-1.30m wide, 0.25-0.58m deep	-
26	Fill of 25	6, Tr 6	Mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone, moderate charcoal. Becomes obdurate towards base of fill	Up to 0.58m thick	Iron Age pottery (26 sherds in three bags), animal

Context no	Context type	Equivalent context in 2012 evaluation	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
					bone
27	Pit, cut by 25		Sub-circular. Nearly vertical edges and flat base	0.80m long, 0.60m wide and 0.49m deep	-
28	Upper fill of 27	-	Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Patches of burnt clay, especially towards base	0.47m thick	Prehistoric pottery (too degraded to retrieve)
29	Fill of 27	-	Light blue-grey clay with light orange-yellow mottling. Pressed into base of pit, with large cobbles within it	0.02m thick	-
30	Pit, cut by 6	-	Sub-circular. Shallow edges with wide, concave base	1.00m long, 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep	
31	Fill of 30	-	Dark grey-brown sandy silt, occasional ironstone and charcoal	0.30m thick	Iron Age pottery (three sherds), animal bone
32	Ditch, cut by 10	2, Tr 5	N-S aligned. Steep sided, wide flat base	2.00m wide, 0.15m deep	-
33	Fill of 32	1, Tr 5	Compact red-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone	0.15m thick	-
34	Gully, cut by 6 and 8	-	NW-SE aligned. Shallow edges, wide concave base	0.80m wide, 0.16m deep	-
35	Fill of 34	-	Mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional ironstone and charcoal	0.16m thick	Iron Age pottery (two sherds)

Appendix 2: Subsequent observations during development

Two views of the site during foundation digging. The upper surface of Ditch [25] can be seen on the left (arrowed) 3m from where it exited the 2014 excavated area; scale 1m