

Excavations at Spratsgate Lane, Somerford Keynes, 1995 and 1996

Figure captions.

- Fig. 1. Site location.
- Fig. 2. Areas of excavation.
- Fig. 3. Cropmarks at, and adjacent to, Spratsgate Lane. (© English Heritage, National Monument Record).
- Fig. 4. Plan of the excavation, showing areas and structures.
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- Fig. 6. Ditch sections: Area B Structures 5, 8, 9, 11 and 19.
- Fig. 7. Ditch sections (G= gravel lens): Area B Structure 20; Area C Structures 22, 24 and 35.
- Fig. 8. Ditch sections (G= gravel lens): Area C Structure 32; Area D Structures 37, 38 and 44.
- Fig. 9. Pottery illustrations (© J. Richards).
- Fig. 10. Pottery illustrations (© J. Richards).
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Table 1. Prehistoric pottery and briquetage by fabric.

	Fabric group	Fabric	Number of sherds	Weight of sherds (g.)
Period				
Bronze Age	Grog-tempered	G1	2	51
		G2	1	11
		G3	1	6
		sub-total	4	68
Iron Age	Droitwich briquetage	sandy	10	78
		organic	40	140
		sub-total	50	218
	Limestone-gritted/tempered	L1	1,198	11,141
		L2	103	452
		L3	45	378
		L4	12	31
		sub-total	1,358	12,002
	Sandy	Q1	9	37
		Q2	36	286
		Q3	17	133
		Q4	136	452
		Q5	10	34
		sub-total	208	942
	Group A Malvernian rock	R1	17	53
	Shell-gritted/tempered	S1	1,146	12,985
		S2	224	1,791
		S4	121	1,636
		sub-total	1,491	16,412
		Total	3,128	29,695

Table 2. Middle Iron-Age pottery forms by fabric.

Fabric group	Fabric type	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R99	B99	B1	B2	H1
Limestone-gritted/tempered																
	L1	13	6	-	6	8	-	5	-	9	-	1	1	19	6	-
	L2	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	7	-	1
	L3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sandy																
	Q2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Q3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Q4	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Group A Malvernian rock																
	R1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Shell-gritted/tempered																
	S1	5	15	-	11	9	-	5	3	5	-	4	1	20	9	-
	S2	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	3	-
	S4	2	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	Total	29	26	1	20	20	1	10	6	15	1	6	2	52	20	1

Table 3. Burnishing by fabric (recorded occurrences by groups of sherds).

	Both surfaces	Exterior	% of the total number of sherds
Local Fabric			
L1	-	5	0.4%
Q1	1	-	11.1%
Q4	3	1	2.9%
S1	-	5	4.4%
S2	-	1	4.5%
S4	-	2	1.7%
Non-Local Fabric			
R1	-	1	5.9%
L2	1	19	19.4%
TOTAL	5	34	1.3%

Table 5. Iron-Age vessels by form with usewear evidence (diameter in mm).

Usewear type	Burnt food - interior	Soot - exterior	Pitting - interior	Abrasion - interior
Form type				
Rims				
R1		1 (120)	2 (-)	1 (-)
		1 (160)		
		2 (180)		
R2	1 (140)	1 (180)	1 (-)	
		1 (190)		
		1 (260)		
		2 (-)		
R4	1 (120)	1 (120)		
		1 (180)		
		2 (-)		
R5		1 (180)	1 (160)	
R7	1 (160)	1 (160)		1 (340)
		1 (340)		
R8	1 (180)	1 (120)		1 (360)
R9			1 (360)	
R10		1 (200)		
Bases				
B1	1 (100)		1 (120)	1 (150)
	1 (120)		1 (140)	1 (200)
	1 (140)		1 (160)	
	1 (200)		1 (220)	
	4 (-)		3 (-)	
B2	1 (120)			
	2 (-)		1 (160)	

Table 6. Usewear evidence by fabric (recorded groups of sherds or records of occurrences).

Usewear type	Burnt food - interior	Soot - exterior	Pitting - interior	Abrasion - interior
Fabric				
L1	30	9	5	2
L2	2		11	
L3			1	2
Q2		4	1	
R1				1
S1	52	22	20	6
S4		4		
Total	84	39	38	11

Table 9. Salt index for primary areas.

Area	Number of briquetage sherds	Number of pottery sherds	Salt index
Area A	0	370	0.000
Area B (S1/8/9)	33	1221	0.027
Area B (S5/6/7)	0	142	0.000
Area C	13	317	0.041
Area D	2	461	0.004

Table 10. Plant remains.

	Context	707	558	
	Sample	474	319	
	Sample size (kg)	11.8/6.5	16.6/15	
	Float size (ml)		50	
WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS				HABITAT
CHARACEAE				
<i>Chara</i> spp.	Stonewort	56		A
RANUNCULACEAE				
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	Meadow/Creeping/ Bulbous Buttercup	11	4	DG
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L.	Lesser Spearwort	1	4	MPRw
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i> Crantz	Hairy Buttercup	52		CDW
<i>R.</i> subg. <i>Batrachium</i> (DC.)A.Gray	Water Crowfoot	516		APR
FUMARIACEAE				
<i>Fumaria</i> sp	Fumitory	1		CDH
URTICACEAE				
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	Common nettle	104	950+	DGHWp
<i>Urtica urens</i> L.	Small nettle	133		CDI
BETULACEAE				
<i>Betula pendula</i> Roth	Silver Birch		1	WEIa
<i>Betula pubescens</i> Ehrh.	Downy Birch		1	EW –w, peaty soils
CHENOPODIACEAE				
<i>Atriplex</i> spp.	Orache	9	7	CDn
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	Fat-hen	22	1	CDn
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i> l	Good-King-Henry	10		GWn
<i>Chenopodium ficifolium</i> Smith	Fig-leaved Goosefoot	12	50	CD
<i>Chenopodium rubrum/glaucum</i>	Red/Oak-leaved Goosefoot	482		CDs
Chenopodiaceae indet	Goosefoot family		10	
CARYOPHYLLACEAE				
<i>Stellaria graminea</i> L.	Lesser Stitchwort	2		EGSI
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.)Villars	Common Chickweed	93	2	CD
POLYGONACEAE				
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i> (L.)Gray	Pale Persicaria	1		Cdow
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i> Gray	Redshank	260	3	Cdo
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	Knotgrass	110		CD
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock	216		DG
CLUSIACEAE				
<i>Hypericum</i> spp.	St.John's Wort	1	50	various
VIOLACEAE				
<i>Viola</i> c.f. <i>odorata</i> L.	Sweet Violet	11	2	HSW
BRASSICACEAE				
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.)Medikus	Shepherd's Purse	10		Co
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> (L.)Hayek	Water-cress	483		BPR
ROSACEAE				
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i> L.	Parsley-piert	1		CGd
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> (L.)Maxim	Meadowsweet	1		w
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> L.	Silverweed	20		DG, sand-dunes
<i>Potentilla erecta</i> (L.)Raeusch	Tormentil		9	Ega
<i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> Wimmer & Grab	Bramble	7	2	DHSW
APIACEAE				
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i> L.	Fool's Parsley		2	C
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i> (L.)Lag.	Fool's Watercress	4		PM
LAMIACEAE				
<i>Ajuga reptans</i> L.	Bugle		3	G(w), W-shady
<i>Lamium purpureum</i> L.	Red Dead-nettle	5		CD
<i>Mentha aquatica</i> L.	Water Mint	1	2	MPw
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> L.	Selfheal	1		DG
<i>Stachys palustris</i> L.	Marsh Woundwort		2	PRw
	Context	707	558	
	Sample	474	319	
CALLITRICHACEAE				
<i>Callitriche</i> spp.	Water-starworts	12		A or on mud
PLANTAGINACEAE				
<i>Plantago major</i> L.	Greater Plantain	18	1	CDG-o
SCROPHULARIACEAE				
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> L.	Yellow Rattle	1		G
CAPRIFOLIACEAE				
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	Elder	1		DHSWn
VALERIANACEAE				
<i>Valerianella dentata</i> (L.)Pollich	Narrow-fruited Cornsalad	1	2	CD

ASTERACEAE				
<i>Cirsium/Carduus</i> spp.	Thistle	7		DGMW
<i>Sonchus asper</i> (L.) Hill	Prickly Sow-thistle	4		CD
POTAMOGETONACEAE				
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	Pondweed	4		APR
ZANICHELLIACEAE				
<i>Zanichellia palustris</i> L.	Horned Pondweed	2	1	APR-fresh & brackish
JUNCACEAE				
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	Rush	130	500+	GMRw
CYPERACEAE				
<i>Carex</i> spp.	Sedge	7	6	GMPRW
<i>Carex flacca</i> Schreber	Glaucous Sedge	23		G, wet/dry, clay br
<i>Carex hirta</i> L.	Hairy Sedge	5		G (damp)
<i>Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis</i>	Spike-rush	6	3	MPw
POACEAE				
Poaceae indet.	Grass	11	4	G
	Total:	2868	1622	
OTHER REMAINS				
Beetle fragments		freq		
Caddis fly larvae		occ		
Charcoal fragments		occ	abund	
Cladoceran ephyppia	Water flea egg cases	freq		
Ostracods		occ		
Wood fragments		abund	freq	
CHARRED PLANT REMAINS				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)	Barley	1	1	#
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (rachis internode)	Barley	2		#
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	Wheat		2	#
<i>Triticum spelta</i> (glume base)	Spelt wheat	5	1	#
<i>Triticum spelta</i> (spikelet fork)	Spelt wheat	1		#
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (glume base)	Hulled wheat	3		#
Weeds				
<i>Bromus</i> spp.	Brome	4	2	DG
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	Ribwort Plantain		1	G
<i>Poa/Phleum</i> spp.	Meadow-grass/Cat's-ear	1	1	G

Habitats

A: Aquatic
C: Cultivated/Arable
D: Disturbed
E: Heath/Moor
F: Fens/Bogs
G: Grassland
H: Hedgerow
M: Marsh
P: Ponds, ditches - stagnant/slow flowing water
R: Rivers, streams
S: Scrub
W: Woodland

a: acidic
br base rich
d: dry soils
l: light soils
n: nitrogen rich soils
o: open habitats
p: phosphate rich soils
s: coastal
w: wet/damp soils
cultivated plant/of economic importance