

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT



**Archaeological excavations in advance of
the A564(T) Derby Southern Bypass,
1994: Contract 2**

**Post Excavation Assessment
and
Research Design**

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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**Archaeological excavations in advance
of the A564(T) Derby Southern
Bypass, 1994; Contract 2**

**Post excavation assessment
and research design**

by

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SUMMARY

Three archaeological excavations were carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit between August and November 1994 in advance of the construction of the A564(T) Derby Southern Bypass. These included the total excavation of the remains of an Early Bronze Age barrow at Lockington, northwest Leicestershire (SK466290) and small areas of two cropmark complexes at Foxcovert Farm (SK417305) and Buckford Bridge (SK314297) in southern Derbyshire.

The complexity and quality of preservation of the barrow at Lockington was exceptional for a site located in a river valley context. It is thought that the barrow mound may have had two phases of construction. Its core overlay the remnants of a buried land surface cut by a shallow irregular-shaped scoop. This was associated with a deposit of charcoal, flecks of cremated bone and fragments of decorated pottery, probably Early Bronze Age in date. The surrounding ring ditch was 33m in diameter and also appeared to indicate two phases of activity.

By far the most spectacular find was a remarkable deposit of artefacts in a shallow scoop immediately outside the ditch of the barrow on its northern side. This deposit comprised two incomplete pottery vessels, one inside the other, inverted over a gold bracelet. A second gold bracelet and a copper dagger were placed in the scoop beside the pots. The group belongs to the Early Bronze Age and the goldwork is amongst the earliest from the British Isles.

At Foxcovert Farm the objective was to examine the threatened, northern edge of a cropmark complex, the majority of which is situated on a slight rise to the south of the proposed road corridor. Numerous shallow linear features, containing fragments of pottery, provisionally dated to the Middle Iron Age, were identified. It seems likely that many of these features were related to peripheral drainage on the northern edge of a probable settlement.

At Buckford Bridge, three areas within the proposed road corridor were examined in an attempt to date and characterise a number of archaeological features in the area of the development, including both pit-alignments and linear ditches. However, the archaeological results were disappointing. Numerous small pit-like features and linear features were examined and all proved to be either of recent date or of natural origin.

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a preliminary statement on the results of three excavations undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit along the route of the proposed A564(T) Derby Southern Bypass. The work was commissioned by Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick (Consulting Engineers) on behalf of the Highways Agency and was undertaken between August and November 1994.

The excavations followed an assessment and evaluation of the route of the proposed road by the Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust between June 1992 and April 1993 (T&PAT 1992 and 1993). The work carried out by BUFAU focused on three sites which were identified in the evaluation report as requiring further archaeological investigation prior to the start of road construction. The work conformed to a brief prepared by Nottingham University Consultants Limited (NUCL 1994).

The three sites investigated were areas of the Lockington-Hemington barrow cemetery in northwest Leicestershire (SK466290), including the total excavation of the remains of an upstanding barrow, and small areas of two cropmark complexes at Foxcovert Farm (SK417305) and Buckford Bridge (SK314297) in southern Derbyshire. This preliminary report outlines the principal results of the excavations and provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the archive and finds. This is followed by an updated project design which includes proposals for further research and analysis leading to the full publication of the results. The report has been prepared according to the guidelines set out by English Heritage in the Managements of Archaeological Projects (MAP 2).

SITE NARRATIVES

The Lockington-Hemington Barrow Cemetery (Site O)

Background

The site at Lockington comprises a group of cropmark ring ditches, thought to be the remains of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, on an area of gravel within the Trent floodplain. The site lies approximately 1km to the northeast of the village of Lockington in northwestern Leicestershire (Fig. 1). Traces of seven possible ring ditches have been suggested (Fig. 2), one of which (Ring ditch I, to the south of the present A6), was partially excavated in 1954 (Posnansky 1955a). Traces of a cremation associated with a small bronze dagger, two flint knives and possible beaker pottery were recovered from under the central area of the truncated remains of a low earth mound. The proposed road corridor threatened the whole of ring ditch VI in the eastern area of the field along with parts of associated linear and curvilinear cropmark features.

The evaluation of the area included fieldwalking, geophysical survey and two trial trenches (T&PAT 1993, 21). The fieldwalking indicated a background scatter of material of prehistoric and medieval date and the geophysical survey accurately located the positions of ring ditches II and VI on the ground (Stratascan 1993). A trial trench across the northwestern side of ring ditch VI suggested the survival of a slight mound and a number of struck flint flakes were recovered.

Objectives

The evaluation report recommended the full excavation of ring ditch VI and the adjacent features with particular reference to investigating the potential for understanding landscape development (TPAT 1993, 25). It also recommended the sampling of other areas within the road corridor with regard to the possibility of further burials relating to the barrow cemetery and other archaeological remains that might be masked by alluvial deposits.

The specific objectives of the excavation (NUCL 1994, 8) were:-

- To record the mode and form of construction of the barrow, and any associated burials, and to record any earlier or later activity on and around the site of the ring ditch.

- The recovery of evidence for the date and nature of any settlement or funerary activity associated with the barrow cemetery.

- To characterise the alluvial deposits on the site and to establish the nature of the underlying surface and whether any archaeological deposits were present.

- To recover palaeoenvironmental samples from each stage of the excavation programme.

Method

A contour survey of the area of ring ditch VI was undertaken prior to the commencement of the excavation. Two one metre wide transects were then laid out crossing just to the northwest of the estimated central point of the barrow. The modern ploughsoil (1000) from these transects was removed by hand in order to establish the depth of the undisturbed archaeological deposits. This also allowed

some indication of the density of artefacts present within the ploughsoil. The ploughsoil proved to be 0.25m deep and overlay up to 0.3m of surviving barrow mound material. The remaining modern ploughsoil in this area was carefully removed by machine leaving two 1m wide baulks across the centre of the barrow adjacent to the original hand excavated transects (Fig. 3). The barrow mound, in each of the resulting quadrants, was excavated as a series of three horizontal spits, each 0.1m thick. The central portions of the baulks were subsequently recorded and removed in order to record and excavate the pre-barrow deposits in plan. The surrounding ring ditch was excavated in a series of eight segments separated by 1.5m wide baulks. These baulks were subsequently recorded and mechanically excavated at the end of the excavation. All finds from the barrow and ring ditch fills were individually numbered and their locations plotted on the appropriate plans.

Beyond the outer edge of the ring ditch, the modern ploughsoil overlay a gravelly loam (1001), up to 0.3m deep, which contained occasional fragments of medieval and post medieval pottery and tile. This was interpreted as a medieval and post-medieval ploughsoil and was also removed by machine to expose the surface of the underlying natural sands and gravels. The surface of these gravels was cleaned in order to define potential archaeological features. These were then half-sectioned. If they proved to be archaeological they were subsequently fully excavated. In total, an area of approximately 4000 square metres (Fig. 2, Trench A) was opened around the surviving trace of the barrow.

A total of 13 other trenches were excavated within the area threatened by the proposed road construction (Fig. 2, Trenches B-O). Trenches B-F were designed to test for the presence of archaeological features on the periphery of the barrow cemetery which were not identified from the aerial photographs. Trenches G and H were intended to sample areas in the vicinity of ring ditch II which appeared to be masked by alluvium. Similarly, there was a suggestion of masking alluvium deposits in the areas to the east and south of the barrow cemetery. These areas were tested by Trenches I-O. In all cases the plough soil horizons were removed by machine. Where alluvium deposits were encountered, they were sampled down to the level of the underlying gravels.

Results

The pre-barrow deposits

Within the area of the barrow platform, the sand and gravel natural (1009) was overlain by up to 0.2m of brown silty sand and gravel (1046). Within the central part of this area, this was in turn overlain by a thinner deposit of stone-free silty sand (1088/1097) up to 0.5m deep and covering an area 15m in diameter. The central area of this silty sand, approximately 11m in diameter, was stained yellow/red (1044). This was cut by a large, shallow irregular scoop (F23), between 6m and 7m across and up to 0.2m deep. This scoop was filled with a brown silty sand with red/brown iron staining and pale brown mottles (1043) and was overlain by a thin spread of charcoal with an occasional fleck of cremated bone (1041). A number of pieces of worked flint and fragments of prehistoric pottery were recovered from these pre-barrow deposits. These included several rim fragments with ribbed decoration, recovered from different contexts but possibly from a single vessel and probably an Early Bronze Age Enlarged food Vessel (see below page 16).

The only other archaeological feature that was clearly identified on the barrow platform was a small pit (F65) cutting the sand and gravel (1046) to the north of the central scoop. This contained a deposit of charcoal, burnt pebbles, flecks of cremated bone and a single sherd of possible Neolithic pottery (Ann Woodward pers comm).

The barrow

The core of the barrow comprised a deposit of brown silty sand (1033) with patches and streaks of yellow/red iron staining and darker possibly 'organic' material giving a mixed, mottled appearance. This deposit covered the central area of the barrow platform, including the stained area (1044) and the charcoal spread (1041) and was approximately 10m in diameter. It was surrounded by a narrow, concentric band of dark brown silty sand (1034), approximately 1m wide, with higher concentrations of iron and organic staining. This in turn, was overlain and surrounded by a wider band of dark brown silty sand with little or no staining (1035). Finally, the edges of the mound were defined by a thin 'capping' of small rounded stones (1004/1036), in some places extending down to the inner edge of the ring ditch. In section these various deposits could be seen as a series of truncated, overlapping layers with a maximum depth of 0.25m. The outer 2-3m of the mound, which had survived plough truncation, gave some indication of the original profile of the barrow. A general scatter of flint and prehistoric pottery was recovered from the various components of the mound.

The ring ditch

The outer edge of the primary cut of the ring ditch (F8) was 33.5m in diameter, and the ditch was between 2.5m and 3m wide, and up to 1.1m deep. It had an inverted bell-shaped profile with a fairly broad, flat-bottomed basal slot up to 0.4m wide. It was filled with a coarse deposit of sand and gravel (1015). A recut (F1) could be identified around the whole circumference of the ditch. It had a similar bell-shaped profile but was generally less substantial, up to 0.8m deep with a narrower basal slot up to 0.3m wide. The primary fill of the recut comprised a coarse sand and gravel (1014). This was overlain by a fill of pale brown sandy silt (1013) with occasional lenses of dark grey-brown silt and charcoal. The upper fill of the recut comprised a yellow-brown sandy silt (1010). Very few finds were recovered from the primary fills of the ring ditch. However, a number of pieces of struck flint and a few fragments of both prehistoric and post-prehistoric pottery were recovered from the upper fill (1010). The most interesting find was a stone block, probably sandstone, with a series of shallow pits or 'cup-marks' pecked into one surface. This was recovered from the fill of the recut (1013) on the north side of the barrow.

The upper fill and edges of the ring ditch and the base of the barrow mound were sealed by a deposit of yellow brown sandy silt (1005) up to 0.35m thick, forming a band up to 8m wide. This contained a small, mixed assemblage of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery and numerous pieces of worked flint. This deposit merged with the lower ploughsoil horizon (1001) beyond the outer edge of the ring ditch and it seems likely that it represents material removed by medieval ploughing from the top of the mound and redeposited over the top of the ditch.

The outer gully

Outside the ring ditch was a narrow, almost concentric gully (F2), 0.3m wide and up to 0.2m deep. This was located approximately 3m from the outer edge of the ring ditch on its western side and converged with the ring ditch on its eastern side, suggesting that it was laid out from a slightly different central point. Almost certainly the ring ditch is the later feature. The gully appeared as a discontinuous feature on its northern and western sides with occasional evidence for post impressions. It had a more regular square-shaped profile on the southern and southeastern side. The only finds were occasional worked flints and the remains of

several cattle teeth, the majority of which were recovered from the southeastern section.

The gold burial

The most significant feature to be excavated was a small pit (F5) on the northern side of the barrow which contained a spectacular group of artefacts. These included two inverted and incomplete pottery vessels, one inside the other, partially covering a gold armlet. A second gold armlet and a copper alloy dagger had been placed immediately beside the pots. The pit itself was little more than a shallow oval scoop, 0.7m long 0.5m wide and up to 0.15m deep, close to the outer edge of the ring ditch. It was cut into the natural gravel and sealed by the medieval ploughsoil (1005).

The incomplete pottery vessels are provisionally identified as a Collared Urn (with the collar missing prior to deposition) and an unusual giant beaker (see below page 16). Both armlets were made of thin sheet gold. The one lying next to the pots was decorated with three bands of linked 'lenticular bosses' outlined with pointillé decoration. Close parallels can be drawn with examples in sheet bronze from a dagger burial at Masterton, Fife (Henshall and Wallace 1963) and a gold example (drawn but now lost) found with a ?Food Vessel burial under a cairn at Whitfield, near Waterford, Ireland, in about 1725 (Herity 1969, 10-11; Plate x). A preliminary identification suggests that the triangular, flat bladed dagger is an Amorico-British A type (Gerloff 1975, 70-73). Particularly noteworthy is a languette (or tang) situated in the middle of the heal, its large size (330mm long), and the partial survival of the organic scabbard.

A group of this kind would normally be expected to accompany a burial. However, no trace of either a cremation or inhumation could be identified during the excavation of the feature, although it is unlikely that any unburnt bone would survive in the sandy soils. However, the feature would appear to have been too small to have contained anything but the inhumation of an infant and no trace of any body stain was identified.

The peripheral features

Numerous other features were recorded and excavated in the area around the barrow. The majority proved to be sub-circular or irregular shaped pits containing no finds or any other evidence of having an archaeological origin. It seems likely that the majority were tree root boles perhaps relating to an episode of vegetation clearance.

Several sections were excavated through a curvilinear feature (F4) to the north of the barrow. This feature was originally identified from aerial photographs on which it appeared to skirt around the northern side of the ring ditch. It proved to have a U-shaped profile and was up to 1m wide and 0.5m deep. No finds were recovered from either the silty sand and gravel lower fill or the sandy clay upper fill.

A second linear feature (F3) cut through silt fills of the ring ditch and the southern edge of the barrow. Only the lower part of its bell-shaped profile had survived in the area away from the barrow, perhaps as a result of plough truncation. The best preserved section, where it cut the ring ditch, was up to 1.8m wide and 0.85m deep. There was, again, very little trace of the feature where it cut through the edge of the barrow. This perhaps suggests that it maintained a constant depth as it rose over the former mound and has subsequently been eroded away. The only finds were several flint flakes all of which were recovered from the area where it cut the barrow and ring ditch.

Discussion

At this stage the nature of the pre-barrow deposits are difficult to interpret. It seems possible that the silty sand and gravel (1046) overlying the natural gravels represents the remains of the B-horizon of a pre-barrow soil and that the overlying, finer, stone-free, deposit (1088/1097/1044) represents the remnants of an A-horizon. The use of this overlying material as the basis for the core of the barrow mound could explain its absence on the edges of the barrow platform. The origin of the yellow/red staining (1044) in the central area of this deposit is uncertain, although it has been speculated that it could be either the indirect side effects of a burning episode or of the result of decaying organic matter. It is hoped that analysis of the soil micro-morphology samples may assist in the interpretation of these deposits.

The large, shallow central scoop (F23) is also difficult to interpret. It seems possible that it represents a preparation for an *in situ* funerary pyre or for the deposition of the remains from a funerary pyre. The absence any clear evidence for intense scorching in the area around the scoop, apart from the stained soil (1044), suggest that an *in situ* funerary pyre is unlikely. However, the flecks of cremated bone recovered from the charcoal spread (1041) overlying the scoop, suggests that this may have been the remains of redeposited pyre material. A similar conclusion was reached for the charcoal deposit recorded under the mound of Barrow I (Posnansky 1955, 19). Deposits of charcoal and burnt bone, spread over a pre-barrow ground surface, have also been recorded elsewhere, such as at Barrow 10, Bromfield, Shropshire (Stanford in press). This form of deposition may explain the absence of any central feature at a number of ring ditch sites which have been subjected to greater erosion, such as at Foston, Derbyshire (Hughes and Jones in press). The only other archaeological feature identified under the mound at Lockington was a small pit containing a similar deposit of charcoal and bone (F65).

It is possible that the mound itself was constructed in two distinct episodes. As suggested above, it seems likely that the core of the mound (1033) is composed of material derived from the upper part of the old ground surface (1088/1044). This would explain the absence of this material from the peripheral areas of the barrow platform and the mottled and stained, stone free composition of the mound core. The deposition of additional material (1035) and the gravel capping (1002/1036) may represent a subsequent enlargement of the barrow. There was no indication of the time which may have elapsed between these two episodes. However, the enlargement of the barrow may relate to the redefinition of the ring ditch represented by the recut (F1). The original cut for the ring ditch (F8) had been allowed to almost fully silt up before this redefinition suggesting the passing of a considerable period of time.

The sandy silt (1005) overlying the upper fill of the ditch recut (1010) almost certainly represents material removed from the top of the mound and redeposited over the top of the ditch by medieval and modern ploughing. The large number of flint flakes and cores from this deposit (just under 50% of the total assemblage from the site) presumably also originated from the upper part of the mound. This might suggest the deliberate deposition of flint material on the surface of or within the mound, or possibly flint working activity on the top of the barrow.

It seems likely that the surrounding gully (F2) represents the foundation trench for some form of lightly built palisade, pre-dating the construction of the ring ditch and the barrow. This may have defined the area of the original mortuary activity represented by the charcoal spread (1041) under the mound and may provide some context for the interpretation of similar gullies associated with ring ditches in the Midlands area, such as at Tucklesholme, Staffordshire (Hughes 1991) and Foston, Derbyshire (Hughes and Jones in press).

Both the linear features (F3 and F4) to the north and south of the barrow, appear to be later features. Although no conclusive dating evidence was obtained from their fills, it seems likely that they represent field boundaries dating to the later prehistoric or Romano-British periods. The presence of activity dating to these periods is attested by the occasional finds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery from the medieval ploughsoil (1001/1005).

In summary, five principal phases of activity are provisionally suggested. It is expected that this interpretation will be refined or even substantially revised following the full analysis of the data and finds recovered during the excavation.

Phase 1 - The excavation of a shallow scoop in the pre-barrow ground surface and the deposition of a spread of charcoal and cremated bone. This material was associated with the scattered fragments from an Enlarged Food Vessel, and were probably derived from an off-site pyre. This was accompanied by the deposition of further fragments from a cremation in a small pit to the north of the charcoal spread. This activity was surrounded by a palisade, possibly discontinuous.

Phase 2 - The establishment of a low, earthen mound over the top of these deposits, using material derived from the surrounding land surface and possibly incorporating decaying vegetation. This may have been accompanied by the excavation of the first phase of the ring ditch.

Phase 3 - The enlargement of the mound including the addition of a gravel capping. This may have been accompanied by the redefinition of the ring ditch, which had by then become largely silted-up. Although no stratigraphic context for the gold burial could be established, it seems possible that it relates to this phase of barrow enlargement. Any primary deposits associated with this phase may have been inserted into the top of the existing mound and subsequently destroyed by ploughing.

Phase 4 - The superimposition of a late prehistoric/Romano-British field system over the Early Bronze Age barrow cemetery. Barrow VI appears to have been incorporated into one of these field boundaries. It is possible that the numerous small pits, interpreted as tree root boles, may have derived from the clearance of natural vegetation during this period. However, it is equally likely that at least some of this field clearance may have been undertaken during the Early Bronze Age.

Phase 5 - The truncation and gradual removal of the barrow by medieval and modern agricultural activity and the redeposition of mound material over the top of the silted-up ditch. It was clear that this process was still occurring immediately prior to the excavation.

Foxcovert Farm (Site M)

Background

The site is located on a low ridge overlooking the confluence of the Rivers Trent and Derwent, approximately 1km to the north of Aston-on-Trent in south Derbyshire (Fig. 1). The excavation was undertaken in the northern area of a cropmark complex on the lower, gravel part of the ridge, close to its interface with the alluvium of the flood plain (Fig. 4). The cropmarks comprise a series of rectilinear enclosures and a ring ditch. It seems likely that the features generating the cropmarks continue under the alluvium to the east. During the evaluation it was thought that the cropmarks were likely to be of Iron Age or Romano-British date (T&PAT 1993).

Only the northernmost extreme of this complex was threatened by the proposed road corridor. A resistivity survey, carried out during the evaluation in this threatened area, produced a series of east-west anomalies, probably ploughed-out medieval ridge and furrow, but failed to locate the recorded cropmark features (Stratascan 1993).

Objectives

To clarify the extent, date and character of the archaeological deposits within the threatened area and form a record of the morphological development of the past landscape. The excavation also offered the potential for investigating the relationship between the archaeological remains and alluvial deposits (NUCL 1994, 9).

Method

A single L-shaped trench was excavated within the threatened area. The eastern arm of this trench measured 35 x 5m and the northern arm 45m x 2m. The location of this trench was designed to examine northernmost part of a cropmark feature which extended into the threatened area. This feature appeared to 'disappear' under the alluvium to the east.

The ploughsoil (1000) within this area was removed by machine and the underlying deposits were manually cleaned in order to define any archaeological features or deposits which might be present. However, it soon became clear that a considerable masking deposit of what appeared to be colluvium (1001/1002) in the western part of the trench and alluvium (1023) in the eastern part was obscuring any potential archaeology. Consequently, further machining was undertaken to a depth of between 0.8 and 0.9m. At this level, numerous archaeological features were identified and sample excavated. A small extension on the northern side of the eastern arm was subsequently excavated in order to clarify the extent of several of these features.

Results

The majority of the features took the form of narrow and shallow linear features in the central part of the eastern arm of the trench (Fig. 5). These included four north-south features (F4, F5, F10 and F12) and two east-west features (F6 and F7). The north-south features tended to be wider with broad U-shaped profiles, between 0.15 and 0.22m deep, and were filled by a reddish-brown clayey sand. The two east-west

features were narrower with squarer profiles, up to 0.25m deep, and filled with a reddish brown silty sand. The relative chronological sequence of these features was not entirely clear due to the similarity in the fills, especially in the central area of the trench. However, the westernmost of the north-south features (F10) was clearly later than the two east-west features. A number of other smaller, irregular-shaped features were also recorded (F8, F9, F11 and F13).

A number of fragments of coarse pottery, provisionally dated to the Middle Iron Age (see below page 25), and flint were recovered from the fills of these various features. In addition a fragment of quernstone was recovered from one of the irregular shaped features (F8).

Discussion

The excavation results have successfully helped clarify the character and date of the archaeological deposits at Foxcovert Farm. However, it seems likely that they are located away from the main focus of activity, possibly a small Iron Age settlement. The cropmarks suggest that this is located slightly upslope to the southeast. They have also provided some indication of the relationship between the archaeology and the subsequent deposits of alluvium and colluvium.

The individual features excavated at the site are difficult to interpret. However, it seems possible that the four north-south features are naturally formed drainage gullies originating in the main core of the archaeological activity. The squarer profiles of the two east-west features suggest that they may have held structures and it is tempting to suggest that they were the foundation trenches for palisades or fences, possibly demarcating the northern limits of a settlement. None of the features appeared to correspond precisely with the position of the cropmark on the aerial photograph, although this might have been created by one of the north-south gullies.

Buckford Bridge (Site G)

Background

The site is located on a gravel terrace to the north of the River Trent approximately 1km southeast of Findern in southern Derbyshire (Fig. 1). The excavation was undertaken on the southwestern edge of a cropmark complex comprising two intersecting pit-alignments and several linear features, some possibly forming elements of rectilinear enclosures (Fig. 6). Several of these features lay immediately adjacent to an area to be affected by the construction of a surface water drain. A resistivity survey, carried out during the evaluation, indicated a number of anomalies, possibly of archaeological origin, within this threatened area (Stratascan 1993, Figs. 9-12).

Objectives

To recover evidence for the date and character of the geophysical anomalies noted during the evaluation and to produce a record of the morphological development of the past landscape. It was hoped that an examination of archaeological features within the threatened area might offer some potential to date and characterise different categories of landscape feature (NUCL 1994, 8).

Method

Three areas were examined during the excavation. Trench A, 90m x 2m, was located along the southwestern edge of the threatened area and extended northwest from the western corner of Trench B. Trench B, 35m x 25m, was designed to examine the geophysical anomalies in the central part of the area surveyed and to examine any evidence for the extension of a group of linear features located immediately to the northeast of the threatened area. Trench C, 60m x 5m, was designed to examine the evidence for a linear cropmark feature, possibly part of a rectilinear enclosure, that appeared to encroach on the southwestern edge of the threatened corridor. The ploughsoil was removed by machine under archaeological supervision and the underlying natural sands and gravels were cleaned using hoes and shovels in order to define potential archaeological features. Potential features were subsequently half-sectioned or sample excavated. If it was thought that they might be archaeological in origin they were subsequently fully excavated. A number of paleoenvironmental samples were collected from a variety of features.

Results by Steve Litherland

A thin mantle of ploughsoil between 0.3m and 0.4m in depth overlay the yellowish brown subsoil with 3% iron mottling and discrete gleyed silty patches. The matrix consisted of 15% rounded stones 10mm to 80mm in size, and was more than 60% sand and 15% clay. The water table was high and excavated features deeper than 44.50m A.O.D. filled with water.

While numerous small pit-like features and linear features were examined the results, abstracted in Figure 6, were disappointing. With one possible exception a ?gully (F215/F300), recognisable features were demonstrably either of recent date or natural origin.

Recovery of artefactual evidence was confined to various linear features associated with grubbed up regular field boundaries and associated drainage systems, of

probable late 18th/early 19th century date. Two large red clay and gravel filled pits (F226 and F303) were also cut from the plough soil.

Thirty two irregular and shallow peat filled depressions were examined, mainly from Trench B, and an environmental sample taken from the largest (F237). The peat filled features probably formed from decaying waterlogged vegetation in a cold 'tundra-type' climate.

An indistinct linear feature (F215/F300) appeared to run northwest/southeast through adjacent corners of Trenches B and C. Excavation of the brown clay fill revealed a shallow irregular ?gully, 0.1m deep and c.1m wide. No dating evidence was recovered from it. However, similarities between F215/F300 and the pit alignments to the northeast of the excavations, together with the stratigraphic evidence for this ?gully predating the Enclosure landscape suggest an archaeological origin, even if the evidence does not support any conclusions concerning form or function.

Discussion

Whilst the archaeological results at Buckford Bridge were sparse, the limited aims of the excavation were fulfilled and it has been established that the proposed development corridor is unlikely to adversely affect any significant archaeological features or deposits which may have lain between the cropmark features and enclosures immediately to the north and south of the corridor.

With the exception of ?gully F215/F300 archaeological features were contemporary with or later than the Enclosed landscape of the late 18th/early 19th century. While there was no precise correlation between the evidence of the geophysical survey and the excavations, several of the geophysical anomalies may be attributable to the patchy nature of the clay and gravel subsoil.

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Factual Data

The following tables contain a quantitative summary of the material and records from the fieldwork

Table 1: Site Records

	Lockington	Foxcovert Farm	Buckford Bridge	Total
Context records	173	32	35	240
Feature records	97	17	20	134
Drawings A1	19	3	-	22
A2	47	-	-	47
A3	8	-	15	23
A4	38	-	-	38
Photos black and white	674	27	76	777
Photos colour slide	750	27	80	857
Video recordings	3	-	-	3
Finds records				
Assemblage summaries	38	10	3	51
Special finds records	24	2	-	26

Table 2: Finds

	Lockington	Foxcovert Farm	Buckford Bridge	Total
Prehistoric pottery	197	80	-	277
Romano-British Pottery	7	-	-	10
Med and Post-med pottery	32	3	1	32
Worked flint	865	20	-	885
Worked stone	3	1	-	4
Copper alloy objects	7	-	-	7
Iron objects	2	-	-	2
Gold objects	2	-	-	2
Lead objects	7	-	-	7
Coins	3	-	-	3
Glass	5	-	-	5
Brick and tile	12	2	4	16
Burnt bone	20	-	-	20
Animal teeth frags	26	-	-	26

Table 3: Finds for Lockington by Context Group

	CG1	CG2	CG3	CG4	CG5	CG6	Total
Prehistoric pottery	9	43	28	36	50	31	197
Romano-British Pottery	-	6	1	-	-	-	7
Medieval and Post-med pottery	25	5	-	-	-	2	32
Worked flint	118	381	164	95	51	56	865
Worked stone	-	-	1	2	-	-	3
Copper alloy objects	6	-	-	-	-	1	7
Iron objects	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Gold objects	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Lead objects	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Coins	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Glass	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Brick and tile	3	6	1	-	-	2	12
Burnt bone	1	2	-	8	2	7	20
Teeth frags	2	13	3	-	-	8	26

CG1 - Topsoil and ploughsoil horizons (u/s, 1000, 1001, 1003)

CG2 - Medieval ploughsoil overlying ring ditch (1005)

CG3 - Fills of ring ditch (1010, 1013, 1014, 1015)

CG4 - Make up of barrow mound (1002, 1004, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036)

CG5 - Pre-barrow deposits (1041, 1043, 1044, 1088, 1093, 1097, 1105)

CG6 - Peripheral features (1006, 1007, 1008, 1011, 1012, 1037, 1048, 1056, 1061, 1065, 1073, 1087, 1089, 1099, 1113, 2000, 2003)

Table 4: Environmental samples

	Lockington	Foxcovert Farm	Buckford Bridge	Total
Radiocarbon	11	1	2	14
General soil analysis	11	-	-	11
Soil micromorphology	18	-	-	18
Particle size analysis	1	-	-	1
Phosphate	40	-	-	40
Pollen	12	-	1	13
Charred plant remains	40	10	-	58

Statement of Potential

Lockington

Stratigraphic/structural data

The quality of the surviving deposits and features in Trench A at Lockington was extremely high, perhaps surprisingly so given the lowland location of the site and the intensity of recent agricultural activity. The interpretation of similar sites excavated in river valleys is normally hampered by the poor level of preservation of severely truncated deposits. By contrast, the data collected at Lockington will make a major contribution to the understanding of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age funerary activity in the Midlands.

The pre-barrow deposits (CG5) suggest a complex sequence of funerary activity on a preserved pre-barrow land surface. Although the barrow deposits (CG4) had been to some extent reduced by medieval and post-medieval ploughing, the survival of any mound material is unusual in lowland environments. The potential of the data for answering questions concerning the form and construction of the barrow and the complexity of the funerary activity is considerable. The surviving elements suggest a complex structural sequence.

The re-deposition of mound material (CG2) over the top of the ring ditch suggests that the ditch has survived any serious plough truncation. Consequently, the recorded profile and fills (CG3) are probably a good reflection of the constructional and subsequent history of the feature.

The remaining peripheral features (CG6) take the form of negative features, including linear features and pits, cutting the natural gravels, many of which may have been truncated by subsequent agricultural activity. A number of the pits contained occasional fragments of prehistoric pottery or flintwork. The most notable peripheral feature was that which contained the spectacular gold burial group. The potential relationship between this feature and the barrow is of critical importance to the overall interpretation of the site. However, the absence of dating evidence from the majority of the remaining peripheral features severely limits their potential for contributing to the overall understanding of the site and it is highly likely that many are of natural origin.

The limited number of stratigraphic relationships suggest that the linear features relate to a late prehistoric or Romano-British field system. The identification of such features is directly relevant to one of the specific research objectives identified in the original research design: an understanding of landscape development and in particular the transition from communal monuments into settlement and field landscapes.

The data collected from the peripheral trenches (Trenches B-O) have less potential in addressing the original research objectives. Few datable archaeological features were recorded in any of these trenches. Consequently, the data collected is not likely to make any significant contribution to an understanding of the barrow cemetery. There was little trace of alluvial deposits in Trenches I-O and it was clear that many of these areas had been disturbed by recent road building activity. Where thin alluvial deposits were encountered (Trenches G and H), they were not found to be masking archaeological deposits.

It should be noted that, in general, organic deposits were very poorly preserved on the site. It seems likely that this is the consequence of adverse soil conditions. Only

small quantities of cremated bone and a few fragments of animal teeth had survived, apart from the the partial survival of the dagger scabbard.

Prehistoric Pottery by Ann Woodward

Quantity of Material - In addition to the two part vessels and 11 other sherds from the gold burial pit, a total of 197 sherds were recovered during excavation. The pottery was not weighed at this stage, but sherd size was estimated.

Provenance and Dating - 74% of the sherd material came from prehistoric contexts, while a further 22% had derived directly from the mound material. Preliminary dating of the sherds from the six Context Groups is summarised in Table 5. Most of the pottery is of Early to Middle Bronze Age date (56%), followed by Iron Age (35%) and Neolithic (3%). Stratified Neolithic pottery was found only beneath the mound, and Early/Middle Bronze Age ceramics were associated with construction and use of the mound. The Iron Age pottery came mainly from the upper layers of filling within the ring ditch (CG2) and from the peripheral features (CG6). The two partially complete pots comprised the lower portions of two very different vessels, deposited one inside the other, and associated with the gold burial. This group is of Early Bronze Age date.

Range and Variety of Material - The range of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery represented is exceptional for this area of the Midlands. The traditions represented include Peterborough Ware, Beaker (one of the gold deposit vessels, plus four decorated wall sherds and two rims), decorated Enlarged Food Vessel (many rim sherds from a single vessel), Collared Urn, other EBA urn types and pieces from a later Bronze Age urn base, probably deposited in the ditch. The vessels accompanying the gold deposit appear to be a Collared Urn and a giant Beaker of unusual type.

The Iron Age pottery is relatively abraded. Many large sherds are represented but rims and base sherds are rare (three base angles; one rim). No decorated sherds are present.

The fabrics are very varied, mainly including grog, sand, angular quartz and rock in varying densities and combinations.

Condition of Material - Much of the material is soft and crumbly; it requires careful storage but no long-term conservation.

Documentation - The exact position of all sherds was recorded during excavation, and will be available for analysis on a computer database.

Means of Data Collection - The material was washed, marked and bagged by find number and context. The vessels and sherds from the gold deposit have yet to be marked. Preliminary details of number of sherds, sherd size (small; medium; large), fabric, form and date were tabulated for each context within each of the six Context Groups, and the various totals calculated. The two vessels associated with the gold bracelets were studied by the author and three other specialists: Dr. Ian Longworth, Dr. Ian Kinnes and Dr. Stuart Needham, in The British Museum.

Statement of Potential - Analysis of the prehistoric pottery will provide a major contribution to the definition and dating of the various phases of activity before, during and after the construction of the mound and ring ditch. The ceramic assemblage itself is of regional importance in that it includes a wide variety of the local forms and fabrics, and spans a wide chronological range. The two partially complete vessels derive from an associated Early Bronze Age group of metalwork

which is of at least national significance. The occurrence of such a group so far beyond Wessex is particularly noteworthy, and study of the 'partial-pot' method of deposition is likely to be very informative.

Table 5: Preliminary dating of prehistoric sherd material, excluding pottery from the gold burial pit.

	Context Group					
	CG1	CG2	CG3	CG4	CG5	CG6
Neolithic	1	1			4	
Bronze Age	2	12	19	32	46	
Bronze Age/Iron Age	5	27	6			31
Indeterminate	1	3	2			
TOTAL	9	43	28	36	50	31

Post-prehistoric ceramics

32 fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery, 6 fragments of Roman pottery, 12 fragments of brick and tile and 2 fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered from the topsoil (CG1) and the medieval ploughsoil (CG2). It is suggested that no further work, other than the production of an archive report, is necessary on this material.

Flint by Rob Young and Lynne Bevan

Quantity, provenance and dating - A total of 865 pieces were examined in the preliminary assessment. Contexts and artefact types are quantified in Table 6.

Table 6: Quantification of flint by type and artefact group

	Context Group						
TYPE	CG1	CG2	CG3	CG4	CG5	CG6	Total
Primary flakes	1	14	9	5	1	2	32
Secondary flakes	64	228	86	49	25	8	460
tertiary flakes	29	75	21	25	13	32	195
Scrapers	5	1	-	2	4	-	12
Arrowheads							
PTD	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
LEAF	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Blades	7	2	-	-	2	-	11
Bladelets	1	-	-	1	1	1	4
Blade segments	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Utilised/retouched flakes/blades	1	-	-	2	-	-	3
Cores/Core frags	4	16	9	4	-	-	33
Chips/chunks	-	7	7	2	-	5	21
Bashed lumps	5	36	27	3	4	2	77
Natural pieces	-	2	4	-	-	6	12
TOTAL	118	381	164	95	51	56	865

Over 86% of the material comes from stratified contexts and detailed locational/spatial information, in the form of artefact plots, is available for most of

this. These plots suggest recurrent, discrete concentrations of flint on specific areas of the site at different levels of the excavation. Most of the material appears to be late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date, but the small proportion of blades and blade segments may suggest that a Mesolithic element is present.

Range and variety - On the basis of an initial examination of bulbs of percussion, striking platform types and evidence from remaining cores and core fragments, it is suggested that hard hammer, direct percussion, may have been the main method of flaking employed. An examination of the 'waste' flakes indicates a lack of evidence for preliminary knapping or pebble dressing. The majority (c 95%) of flakes recovered are either secondary or tertiary/inner removals. The majority of the raw material seems to have been derived from local pebble sources. The presence of a possible petit tranchet arrowhead, two leaf shaped projectile points (one with an incipient tang) and 12 scrapers is of interest from a barrow excavation.

Condition - Much of the material is fresh, though as might be expected, given the nature of the site a large percentage shows traces of plough damage. Evidence for re-cortication is slight.

Worked stone

A single object of worked stone was recovered from the fill of the ring ditch (F1) in the vicinity of the gold burial. The comprised a block of ?fine sandstone (250 x 210 x 120mm) with evidence for a series (up to nine) of shallow pits or 'cup-marks', up to 40mm diameter and 5mm deep, pecked into one surface. The object is reminiscent of worked stones recorded on rock outcrops in the northern and western parts of the British Isles. It seems possible that the object may have fallen into the partially filled ring ditch and may have originated from the gold burial itself. If this is the case then it is of considerable interest. The association of cup-marked stones and Early Bronze Age burials is a well-known phenomenon (Bradley 1994, 42-3). A full identification and report, including possible parallels is proposed.

Metalwork from gold burial

The two gold bracelets and the copper dagger from the gold burial are of great significance. British goldwork of this period is extremely rare, and the vast majority of known pieces come from excavations in the 18th or 19th century or are unprovenanced. The quality of the workmanship and the condition of the gold bracelets from Lockington are outstanding. The Irish/Scottish associations of the bracelets and the Breton/Wessex associations of the dagger demonstrate the international importance of the find. Of particular interest is the association between the metal objects and the pottery vessels. This rare occurrence will help to date the different technologies. Analysis of the finds and their context will provide a wide variety of evidence about society in the Early Bronze Age including patterns of exchange, the nature of technology and attitudes to death.

The organic material on the dagger by Jacqui Watson

The dagger is covered in various organic materials which correspond to the hilt and a composite scabbard. These have been preserved by the presence of copper salts which have prevented micro-organism activity, but have not consolidated or replaced the organic structures. As a consequence some of the wood has shrunk during drying.

The hilt is only represented by slight traces around the rivet holes which could be either horn - translucent lacunae in one place, and fibrous in another - or antler. All four rivet holes appear to be packed with a fibrous material - ?wood.

The scabbard is mainly made of wood, c 2mm thick, with an animal pelt or textile lining attached with ?resin. The exterior surface of the wood also appears to be coated with a black layer of resin, which could either be a surface coating or an adhesive for a thin layer of leather that has not been preserved. The scabbard remains on the upper side of the dagger appear to be decorated along one edge with parallel lines, imitating the decoration on the blade. In one place there is an almost perfect circular hole between the two sets of lines. It is almost certain that this is part of the decoration rather than a root hole. The top of the scabbard has a straight edge. Separate fragments of the scabbard were removed for further investigation.

Miscellaneous finds

The majority of other finds from the excavation were recovered from topsoil contexts (CG1). These included a medieval silver penny, several undiagnostic lead items, a Victorian half penny, a medallion, and two metal buttons recovered during a metal detecting survey. While several of these objects are interesting in their own right, they add little to the overall interpretation of the site.

Cremated bone

Numerous fragments of burnt bone were recorded and collected from a variety of contexts. The vast majority were very small undiagnostic flecks, each group weighing less than a gram. A distribution plot of these fragments might provide some indication of the spatial arrangement of funerary practices. Slightly larger quantities were recovered from the two charcoal deposits under the barrow mound (1041 and F65/1105). It may be possible to determine whether or not these fragments were human. However, even these could only have represented a tiny fraction of any possible cremation deposit.

Animal teeth

Numerous fragments of animal teeth were recovered from several contexts including from the fill of the palisade gully (F2) and the adjacent fill of the ring ditch (F1). They appeared to be bovine species (Stephanie Pinter-Bellows pers comm) although they were extremely fragmentary. A distribution plot of these fragments may contribute to the overall spatial interpretation of the site.

Charred plant remains by Lisa Moffett

Samples for charred plant remains were taken to see if there were remains of plants associated with any possible ritual activities or other remains relating to possible economic activities nearby. The samples were taken from features which were well defined and datable, including the charcoal spread (1041) and pit (1043) from under the mound, the layers of the mound make-up, the gold burial, the ring ditch and a number of peripheral features. A total of forty samples were taken.

The samples were processed by environmental assistants using 'bucket flotation' and the floating fraction (flot) decanted on to a 0.5 mm mesh sieve. The soil was friable and sandy and flotation recovery should have been good. There were, however, a number of flots which contained a substantial amount of sand, some were even

mostly sand, suggesting that some of the samples had been decanted too briskly during flotation. This is unlikely to mean that the recovery of floating material was poor but it did make the flots slower to examine in the lab. The material was not refloated so the flot sizes given in Table 7 include the volume of sand, and where this is the case it is indicated in the Notes section of the table.

The flots were assessed by scanning the material under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification. Large flots were subsampled. The material in the flots was noted, but identifications of charred plant material were made at a glance without comparison to modern reference material and should therefore be treated as only tentative. Sample information and results are given in Table 7.

Very little charred material other than wood charcoal was seen. A very small number of cereal grains were present in two samples from the mound make-up (1034 and 1035). These consisted of a fragment of unidentified wheat grain from 1035 (*Triticum* sp.), and from 1034 some unidentified wheat and four grains of emmer (*T. dicoccum* Schübl.), and a single hulled barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) which appeared to have germinated. A single grain of glume wheat (*T. dicoccum/spelta*) was found in the central pit under the mound (1043). The charcoal spread under the mound (1041) was sampled by grid squares of which only three were scanned for this assessment. These produced a grass culm base (the underground basal part of the stem), fragments of rhizomes and a single seed of blinks (*Montia fontana* ssp. *chondrosperma*), a small plant of damp ground. The mound cremation pit (1105) produced a fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.).

One of the ring-ditch samples (1010 section C) produced a thorn of sloe or hawthorn (*Prunus spinosa/Crataegus* sp.) and an unidentified grass seed (Poaceae indet.). A single grain of wheat was found in another ring-ditch sample (1013 section C). No charred remains other than wood charcoal were seen in any of the peripheral features. A few fragments of possible parenchymatous material were found in a few of the mound and ring-ditch samples.

The amount of material is too small to place an interpretation on. The most productive sample was from the mound make up and this was presumably derived from the surrounding land surface. The cereals from this sample are likely to be residual, indicating human activity but no more than that. The grass material in the charcoal spread (1041) could have been accidentally incorporated in the fire when the wood was burned or even used to start it.

Prehistoric ritual contexts have occasionally been known to yield unusual plant remains (e.g. Moffett 1991) but this is rare. Plants associated with normal domestic activities would not necessarily be expected in a ritual area with no other evidence of occupation, and their low occurrence at Lockington seems to be in keeping with this expectation.

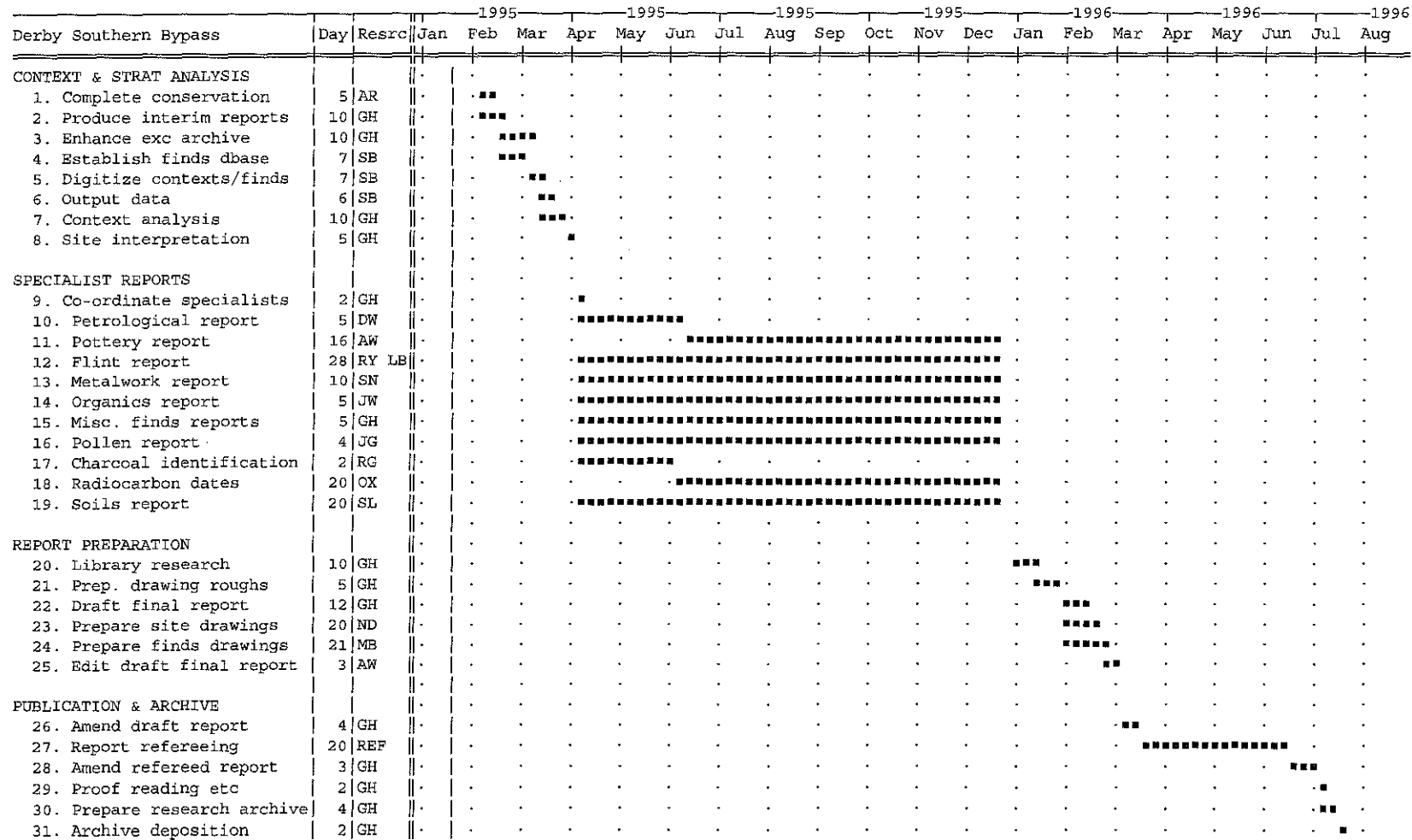
It is unlikely that further analysis would produce much more material that would add significant information to the plant remains already seen. Four of the most promising samples of which only a sub-sample was scanned have been marked in Table 1 as being possibly worth further scanning for more material. Other samples possibly worth scanning would be those from other grid squares of the charcoal spread (1041). These samples might produce some remains to add to the meagre data, but the assessment results do not justify giving a high priority to a full archaeobotanical analysis.

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GANTT CHART

PAGE 1

Derby Southern Bypass



■■■■■ Activity
 C■■■■ Activity on critical path
 =■■■■ Partially completed activity
 ▲ Original start date
 Discontinuous activity

Legend

◆ Milestone
 L■■■■ Locked activity
 = Completed activity
 ▼ Original end date
◆ Baselined milestone

Pollen by James Grieg

A total of 11 samples were collected for the recovery of pollen remains. Of these six were associated with the mound and pre-mound deposits, one was from the primary fill of the ring ditch and four were recovered from the immediate vicinity of the copper dagger from the gold burial. Until the samples have been processed it will not be possible to determine whether or not significant quantities of pollen have survived. However, if pollen has survived, it is likely to make a considerable contribution to the interpretation of the contemporary landscape. Consequently, it is recommended that at least eight of the samples are selected for processing and detailed analysis. Perhaps the samples with the greatest potential are those from the area of the dagger. It is likely that the chemicals from the corroding metal may have facilitated the preservation of significant quantities of pollen. Unfortunately, the conditions during the excavation of the dagger may not have been conducive to the collection of ideal samples. Consequently, if the samples already collected prove negative, it is suggested that further samples might be taken from the fragments of scabbard that became detached during the excavation.

Radiocarbon samples

Charcoal samples were recovered from a number of contexts. Substantial deposits were recovered from the charcoal spread overlying the central scoop (1041) and from the fill of the cremation pit (F65). There should be adequate quantities for obtaining conventional radiocarbon dates from both these deposits. They are both from well-sealed deposits (underlying the barrow mound) with no evidence for intrusive contamination. Charcoal samples were also obtained from the make up of the barrow mound and from lenses within the fill of the ditch. However, these samples would appear to be of limited dating value: the charcoal from the ditch fill could relate to almost any period while that from the mound is likely to relate to earlier activity of uncertain provenance.

Small fragments of charcoal were also obtained from a number of the peripheral features including the fill of the pit containing the gold burial. However, there is a high chance of contamination with such deposits from either intrusive or residual material. A more promising source for a date from the gold burial would appear to be the organic remains of the dagger scabbard. An accelerator date would be required from this (see below page 32).

Soil studies by Susan Limbrey

Excavation of the Lockington Barrow has provided an exceptionally rare opportunity for the study of a well dated prehistoric soil in lowland England. The soil is of a type which is widespread in the region and probably constituted a major part of the resource base for the Bronze Age population. Much of our knowledge of prehistoric soils, their mode of exploitation, and the impact of exploitation on their subsequent characteristics and agricultural potential, comes from localities which for reasons of climate, topography and geological substrate would have been atypical of, or marginal to, the resource base for the bulk of the population of the time. It is the very 'normality' of the lowland soils of the Midlands that has ensured that so few buried soils remain for study: the area has been continuously exploited for agriculture, including long periods of arable use and the destruction of upstanding earthworks.

Sampling and analysis at Lockington has been planned to address two kinds of problem:

a) those of the structure of the mound, the fill of the central feature and the effects of people's ritual activities on the pre-mound surface. The iron staining in the central area will be studied to determine whether it was the result of fire, of high organic content in soil deposited over the central area, or compaction in that area during ritual activities, or of differential compaction, water-shedding and anaerobism related to the structure of the mound. The source of the mound material will be determined by comparison with the subjacent and surrounding soil. The fill of the central feature will be studied to determine its source and the effects of its disturbance and deposition. The distribution of phosphate across the buried surface and the central feature will be studied to investigate differential distribution of materials related to ritual activity.

b) those related to the pedological characteristics of the soil, its potential for exploitation and the effects on it of its exploitation. Soil texture through the profile, its pH and its potential for the retention of nutrients will be determined. The effects of disturbance by forest clearance, agricultural or other activities will be investigated by studies of microstructure and the distribution of potentially mobile constituents.

Conservation, storage and curation

Conservation of the objects from the gold burial is being undertaken by the conservation department of the Leicestershire Museums Service. Long term storage and conservation of the material and data held in the site archive will be undertaken by the Leicestershire Museums Service.

Foxcovert Farm

Stratigraphic/structural data

The archaeological evidence takes the form of negative features sealed by subsequent silts and clays. No stratified archaeological sequences were recorded. It seems likely that the features relate to activity on the periphery of a settlement complex. Their potential for providing an in-depth understanding of the nature of the activity taking place must be considered low. However, they will be able to help clarify the date and general character of the site.

Pottery by Ann Woodward

Quantity of Material - A total of 80 sherds were recovered during excavation. The pottery was not weighed at this stage, but sherd size variation was assessed.

Provenance and Dating - The majority (79%) of the pottery derived from sealed contexts, mainly the fillings of the linear features. All diagnostic sherds were of Iron Age type. There were six rim sherds, eight base angles and two decorated wall fragments; all of these are indicative of a Middle Iron Age date. In addition there were 15 fragments of daub and/or briquetage. One particular feature (F5) produced a substantial assemblage which included most of the base of a thick-walled jar, one rim sherd, the two decorated sherds, daub, and a possible piece of briquetage.

Range and Variety of Material - Considering the small size of the assemblage, a wide range of form types, fabrics and vessels size are represented. The sherds are mainly unabraded and 71% of them were large or medium in size. The fabrics are fairly varied and are mainly different from those Iron Age wares represented at Lockington.

Condition of Material - The majority of sherds are hard, and in good condition; no long-term conservation is required.

Means of Data Collection - The material was washed, marked and bagged by find number and context. Details of number of sherds, sherd size (small, medium, large), fabric, form, decoration and date were tabulated for each context and the various totals calculated.

Statement of Potential - Detailed analysis of the pottery assemblage will provide dating information for the phases of activity within the excavated area. A study of the forms and fabric represented will enable the author to place the assemblage within its local context, and to evaluate its significance within the Iron Age traditions of the Midlands. Detailed petrological analysis of a selection of fabric types will provide information concerning ceramic production and movement of wares, while specialist identification of the possible briquetage will add to our knowledge of the wide-ranging pattern of the salt trade. Although it was only the margins of the settlement that were excavated, this small assemblage appears to contain a wide variety of ceramic material which can be compared usefully with other Iron Age assemblages within the county, and beyond.

Flint

Twenty pieces of worked flint were collected from a number of contexts. They included only secondary and tertiary flakes and bashed lumps. A few fragments were collected from features also containing Middle Iron Age pottery. Although this

might be residual, the possibility that this material was utilised during the occupation of the Iron Age settlement cannot be discounted.

Worked stone

A single fragment of rotary quern was recovered from one of the archaeological features (F8).

Charred plant remains

A total of eight samples were collected from the linear features containing Middle Iron Age pottery. The samples were processed in the same way as those from Lockington (see above page 19-21). Very little charred material was seen. Four of the samples contained small quantities of grain and wood charcoal. However, the amount was too small to interpret. It is unlikely that further analysis would produce much more material that would add significant information to the plant remains already seen. No further work will be necessary other than the production of a short report on the results of the assessment.

Conservation and storage

Long term conservation and storage of the finds and site archive will be undertaken by Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

Buckford Bridge

Stratigraphic/structural data

All the recorded deposits took the form of negative features cut into the natural gravels and sealed by the ploughsoil. The only features that could be dated were of recent origin. Consequently, the potential of the data for addressing the objectives outlined in the original research design must be considered negligible.

Finds

The only finds recovered were all of recent date and have little or no potential value for addressing archaeological objectives.

Samples

Two radiocarbon samples and a single pollen sample were collected from the site. Given the poor quality and low potential of the archaeological evidence from the site is is not considered necessary to undertake any further work on these samples.

Storage of archive

Long term storage of the archive will be undertaken by Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

Lockington

Background

The barrow at Lockington provides a unique opportunity for contributing to the understanding of Bronze Age funerary practices and associated ritual activity in the Midlands. The assessment report has outlined the high quality of the site data and the outstanding potential of the important finds groups that were recovered during the excavation. All this information can be put in the context of an ever increasing body of information for this period from the East Midlands. As well as the barrow previously excavated at Lockington (Posnansky 1955a), Bronze Age barrows have been excavated at Sproxton (Clay 1981), Oakham (Clay 1986) and Tixover (Beamish 1992) in Leicestershire; and at Swarkestone (Posnansky 1955b; Greenfield 1960), Aston (Reaney 1968) and Willington (Wheeler 1979) in southern Derbyshire. In addition numerous ring ditches, which may have been associated with former barrows, have been excavated in the region, such as at Cossington, Leicestershire (O'Brien 1976), Tucklesholme (Hughes 1991) and Fatholme (Losco-Bradley 1984) in Staffordshire and Foston in southern Derbyshire (Hughes and Jones in press).

A number of the specific features recorded at Lockington can be compared with similar examples recorded at these other sites. For example, the use of turves in the construction of barrows has been suggested at Barrow I at Lockington and Barrow 2 at Swarkestone. Pre-barrow features associated with an earlier ground surface have been recorded at Barrow 4 at Swarkestone, where the barrow was preceded by traces of a Beaker period settlement. Pre-barrow structures have also been recorded at Sproxton while possible palisade gullies have been recorded at Tucklesholme and Foston. The Sproxton barrow was also associated with linear ditches possibly relating to a later field system. The excavation at Lockington also has the potential for assisting in the interpretation of many of the enigmatic features that have been recorded at several of these sites.

On a broader canvas, the Lockington barrow has much to contribute to current debate in Britain and beyond concerning the interpretation of mortuary practices and ritual deposits in the Early Bronze Age. The presence of the gold burial peripheral to the mound and unaccompanied by human remains is not in accord with conventional expectations. A rich group of this nature would normally be expected to accompany a burial within the mound, often in a primary position. In such circumstances, the group would conventionally be interpreted as grave goods symbolic of the high status of the buried individual. The Lockington evidence will contribute to current debate in which such 'straightforward' social interpretations are increasingly being questioned (eg Barrett 1994). Much recent work has focused instead on attempts to understand the social context in which funerary and other ritual deposits are placed and what they reveal about attitudes to death and the ancestors amongst the living community.

The Lockington Barrow should prompt a review of the less well-documented evidence for similar modes of deposition elsewhere. For example at the Caerloggas I ring cairn in Cornwall part of a decorated bronze dagger, a piece of amber and other artefacts were found scattered around the interior of a small embanked enclosure. No accompanying burial survived and it is thought unlikely that the artefacts were grave goods (Miles 1975). Similarly, while it is usually assumed that the rich artefacts spread across a flint cairn within the Clandon barrow, Dorset were grave goods, this assumption has been questioned (Needham 1988). Indeed, the deposition of artefacts at barrows unaccompanied by burials may be more common

than is thought. For example as it is quite often only an assumption that all the goldwork from the Wessex barrows represents grave goods (Clarke et al 1985).

The Lockington 'gold burial' is thus interestingly positioned between hoard deposits, generally considered to be votive in character, and grave deposits, generally considered to be grave goods. The combination of items in the assemblage is also of great interest, uniquely combining elements - the bracelets, the dagger, the pottery, the cup-marked stone - that are derived from geographically and symbolically varied networks of exchange and interaction. Study of the patterns of distribution and association of the items in the assemblage as a whole promises to be informative. Also the incomplete condition of the pottery vessels when deposited may point to the reuse of objects derived from a former sacred context.

Likewise, detailed consideration will need to be given to the chronological and spatial interrelationships between the structural elements (mound, ring ditch, palisade trench, etc) and depositional groups ('burials' under the mound, the gold burial, flint work assemblages) at the Lockington barrow and comparative sites regionally and further afield.

Clearly the Lockington Barrow has the potential to make a major contribution to the establishment of regional and national typologies, and towards an understanding of trade/exchange, society, ritual practices and beliefs during the later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.

Aims and objectives

To examine the constructional sequence and form of the surviving barrow mound, ring ditch, and associated features in order to obtain information relevant to the study of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary practices.

To develop a detailed chronology of the site using observed stratigraphic relationships, radiocarbon determinations and an examination of the finds assemblages.

To contribute to an understanding of regional and national typologies through an examination of the various finds assemblages. Individual groups of finds will also contribute to an understanding of early metallurgy, exchange and interaction, ritual practices, attitudes to death and value, and social organisation.

To obtain information regarding the local prehistoric environment, economy and ritual practices through an examination of the pollen remains, charred plant remains, animal bone remains and soil samples recovered during the excavation.

To contribute to an understanding of the transition from communal monuments into settlement and field landscapes in the East Midlands.

Publication Synopsis

Three separate publications are proposed. The first two publications will be in the form of interim statements on the results of the excavation with the aim of rapidly reaching as wide an audience as possible. One will be designed for a professional archaeological readership and will be submitted to *Antiquity*. The other will be a more popularist account, designed for a more general archaeological readership, and will be submitted to *Current Archaeology*. Following the full analysis of the data, the final report will be submitted for publication in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*. It is proposed to incorporate the results of the adjacent excavation by the Leicester Archaeological Unit into the final report.

Structure of final report:

"Excavations at the Early Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery at Lockington, Leicestershire"

By Gwilym Hughes

with contributions by

Lynne Bevan, Patrick Clay, Rowena Gale, James Greig, Susan Limbrey, James Meek, Lisa Moffett, Stuart Needham, Jacqui Watson, David Williams, Ann Woodward and Rob Young

Summary

Acknowledgements

Introduction - the site and its landscape setting, background to the excavation, objectives and methodology

The Results - an illustrated account outlining main features and site characteristics

Specialist reports

Pottery by Ann Woodward
Petrological analysis by David Williams
Flint by Rob Young and Lynne Bevan
The Gold armlets by Stuart Needham
The copper dagger by Stuart Needham
The scabbard and hilt by Jacqui Watson
The cup-marked stone by Gwilym Hughes
The animal teeth and cremated bone by Gwilym Hughes
The charred plant remains by Lisa Moffett
The pollen remains by James Greig
The soils by Susan Limbrey
The Charcoal identifications by Rowena Gale
The radiocarbon determinations by Oxford Radiocarbon Lab

Discussion

References

(Estimated total length 25 000 words, 20 figures, 10 plates)

Method

In the following methods statements the task numbers refer to the timetable on page 37.

Conservation of Finds (Task 1)

Conservation of the finds from the gold burial will be completed at by the conservation department of the Leicester Museums Service.

Preparation of interim publications (Task 2)

The editors of both *Antiquity* and *Current Archaeology* have expressed an interest in the rapid publication of interim statements on the results of the excavation. These will be prepared before further analysis of the site data.

The examination of the stratigraphic and structural evidence (Tasks 3-8)

A detailed examination of the written, graphic and photographic records contained within the site archive will be undertaken in order to refine the account of the sequence and morphology of the site. Particular attention will be paid to the construction and from of the barrow and associated ring ditch. Further refinement of the provisional context groups and phasing outlined in the site narrative will be attempted.

Pro-forma finds archive forms will be prepared. The information from these will be entered onto a finds data base and updated on receipt of the finds archives from individual specialists. Context information will be digitised using Auto CAD 12. The context and finds databases will be integrated for the purposes of preparing finds distribution plots. These will be used to assist in the examination of the spatial organisation, depositional patterning and chronological development of the site.

Prehistoric pottery (Task 10 and 11) by A Woodward

(a) Quantification and definition of fabric, form and decoration will be undertaken using the standard BUFAU system. This follows the recommendations laid down in the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Guidelines of 1992.

(b) All diagnostic sherds and vessels will be drawn for publication.

(c) Sherds belonging to particular vessels, but found in different contexts, were noted during the assessment. There is great potential for the further recognition of joining sherds, and of sherds belonging to single specific vessels. Whilst no obvious conjoins between sherds in and under the mound and the two partial vessels from the gold burial could be identified during the assessment, their existence cannot be ruled out. Many of the grogged fabrics are superficially similar, but more detailed analysis may allow a closer definition of sherd groups, and their possible assignment to individual vessels.

(d) There is potential for detailed study of the various ceramic fabrics represented. This would be pursued by the petrological examination of a selection of sherds (12 to 15 in number; this analysis will be undertaken by Dr. David Williams).

(e) The ceramics will be compared with those from other barrow contexts in the county, and from Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ritual and funerary sites throughout the Midlands. The vessels from the gold deposit will need to be studied in relation to ceramics from the rich Early Bronze Age burials in Wessex, and to the repertoires from various categories of burials elsewhere in Britain.

Flint (Task 12) by R Young

The material will be recorded on recording sheets and entered on a FOX-PRO database. A full metrological, technological and typological analysis of all recorded lithic finds will be carried out. The flint can be compared with material from other burial/ritual sites in the region such as Lockington (Barrow I), Sproxton, Eaton and Oakham. Material from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire could also be used as comparanda for the assemblage to set it in a wider context. Selected pieces will be illustrated.

The gold bracelets (Task 13) by S. Needham

A detailed morpho-technological description, including drawings and photographs, will be produced. This will include an assessment of production methods/tools and the evidence for use, wear or damage. Minute scraping will be undertaken in order to obtain a fully quantitative analysis of the gold. The material within the folded edge of the lozenge-embossed armlet, and possibly the plain-ribbed armlet, will be identified. A comparative study of related Early Bronze Age armlets (both gold and copper alloy) will be undertaken. This will include a comparison of composition, technology and function with contemporary goldwork, and the typo-chronological place in the Early Bronze Age armlet series.

Copper dagger (Task 13) by S Needham

A detailed morpho-technological description, including drawings and photographs, will be produced. This will include the evidence for manufacture and use, wear or damage. Independent analysis of blade and extant rivets will be undertaken; initially non-destructive by XRF. Subsequent consideration of quantitative methods will depend on the condition report. A comparative study of the most closely related daggers (in Britain and Brittany) will be carried out. This will include the relationship to the Amorico-British dagger series and more distant relatives in terms of technology and composition.

Organic remains on bronze dagger (Task 14) by J Watson

The wood and pelt/textile will be need to be fully examined and identified. Samples of the resin will undergo FTIR analysis at the British Museum. The decoration on the scabbard will be photographed and drawn at the Leicester Museum. If the dagger needs to be moved, this should be done first as the vestigial decoration is very vulnerable to damage.

The stone object (Task 15)

An illustrated description will be prepared of the 'cup marked' stone. Comparison with other possible art and ceremonial stone objects, particularly in Early Bronze Age barrow contexts, will be undertaken.

Miscellaneous objects (Task 15)

A brief archive report will be prepared on the unstratified post-prehistoric artefacts recovered from the topsoil.

Burnt bone (Task 15)

This material will be fully quantified and added to the finds database. Any diagnostic fragments will be identified by Stephanie Pinter-Bellows. Distribution plots will be generated and analysed.

Animal teeth remains (Task 15)

This material will be fully quantified and added to the finds database. Any diagnostic fragments will be identified by Stephanie Pinter-Bellows. Distribution plots will be generated and analysed.

Pollen remains (Task 16)

Pollen slides will be prepared for eight of the samples collected and studied. If significant quantities are identified, full percentage counts will be undertaken and a report prepared.

Charcoal (Task 17)

Charcoal identifications will be sought for samples collected from a number of contexts. Of particular interest will be species identifications for the material in the potential funerary deposits under the barrow mound (1041 and F65/1105). Appropriate fragments from these samples will be selected for obtaining radiocarbon dates.

Radiocarbon dates (Task 18)

A total of three radiocarbon dates will be sought. Conventional radiocarbon dates will be sought for the charcoal samples from the fill of the cremation pit (F65/1105) and from the charcoal spread (1041) overlying the fill of the central scoop (F23). These dates will provide a chronological context for the important group of associated pottery and flint and a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the core of the barrow mound. Species identifications will be sought for these two samples and appropriate fragments will be submitted for dating purposes. Long-lived species and fragments from heartwood will be avoided.

There is currently no evidence for the chronological relationship between the gold burial and the barrow mound. Consequently, a radiocarbon date is of critical importance in relating this feature to the overall stratigraphic sequence of the site. The rarity of the gold objects and the dagger and the unusual nature of the pottery also makes such a date invaluable in the establishment of national typologies. There are two possible sources for an accelerator radiocarbon date. Firstly the organic traces attached to the dagger. This will inevitably lead to the partial destruction of this important material. There is also no guarantee that enough organic material will have survived in order to obtain a date (Rupert Housley pers comm). Unfortunately, this cannot be assessed until the sample has been chemically treated and effectively

destroyed. An alternative source would be the few fragments of charcoal retrieved from the surrounding fill of the pit. However, this has the disadvantage of not directly dating the artefacts themselves and, as discussed above, may include intrusive or residual material. Consequently, given the importance of the obtaining a date from this group, it is suggested that an accelerator date be sought from a sample taken from the organic sheath, ensuring that a substantial proportion is not destroyed and preserved for future analysis. Suitable fragments for use in this analysis would be the pieces which became detached from the dagger during the excavation and which are currently being examined by Jacqui Watson at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory. It has been recommended that a double precision date is sought in order to reduce the error margin (Rupert Housley pers comm).

Soil studies (Task 19) by S Limbrey

Detailed descriptive study will be undertaken to expand upon field descriptions. A standard pedological analysis will be carried out including particle size analysis, pH, cation exchange capacity, organic carbon, extractable iron and manganese. Twenty samples were collected for full analysis, 40 samples for phosphate and 4 samples for iron content. Thin sections will be prepared from 18 of the samples collected for soil micro-morphological analysis. Drying and impregnation will be undertaken at the University of Birmingham and the thin sections will be prepared at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Report writing and illustration (Tasks 20-26)

The first draft of the publication report will be prepared using data compiled from the excavation archive and analysis, and the specialist finds reports. Library research will be undertaken in order to establish the regional and national context for the site. Publication quality illustrations will be prepared for both the site plans and finds.

Publication (Tasks 27-29)

An edited draft of the report will be submitted to the Prehistoric Society for refereeing and intended publication in their Proceedings.

Preparation and deposition of research and finds archive (Task 30 and 31)

The preparation of the research archive will be an ongoing task throughout the project. On completion, the archives will be checked and cross-referenced. Arrangements will be made for copying by the National Archaeological Record and deposition with the Leicestershire Museums Service.

Foxcovert Farm

Background

There is considerable evidence for the Iron Age exploitation of the landscape around Foxcovert Farm. Numerous cropmarks of quadrilateral enclosures and field boundaries have been recorded in the Trent Valley (Whimster 1989). Where they have been investigated they are frequently found to be of Iron Age date, for example at Swarkestone (Losco-Bradley forthcoming) and Aston (May 1970) in south Derbyshire; Gamston and Holme Pierrepont, Notts; Enderby in Leicestershire (Clay 1992). The results from Foxcovert Farm will make a contribution to the overall understanding of this landscape. Of particular relevance will be the well-dated group of pottery recovered, which can be set in its regional and national context.

Aims and objectives

To develop a chronological and morphological history of the site using observed stratigraphic relationships and an examination of the finds assemblages.

To examine the evidence for functional activities being undertaken at the site through an examination of the form of the features and the character of the finds assemblages.

To contribute to an understanding of Iron Age regional and national pottery typologies.

Publication synopsis

A single publication for the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal is proposed.

"An Iron Age Site at Foxcovert Farm, Aston on Trent"

by Gwilym Hughes

with contributions by Lynne Bevan, Elaine Morris, Rob Young, David Williams
and Ann Woodward

Summary

Acknowledgements

Introduction - the site and its landscape setting, background to the excavation, objectives and methodology

The Results - an illustrated account outlining main features and site characteristics

Finds reports

Pottery by Ann Woodward
Petrological analysis by David Williams
Briquetage by Elaine Morris
Flint by Rob Young and Lynne Bevan
Other Finds By Gwilym Hughes

Discussion

Method

The examination of the stratigraphic and structural evidence (Task 7)

A detailed examination of the written, graphic and photographic records contained within the site archive will be undertaken in order to refine the account of the sequence and morphology of the site.

Prehistoric pottery and flint reports (Tasks 11 and 12) by Ann Woodward

Pottery - Quantification and definition of fabric, form and decoration will be undertaken using the standard BUFAU system. This follows the recommendations stated in the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group Guidelines of 1992. Petrological analysis of up to 10 samples will be undertaken by Dr. David Williams, University of Southampton. Specialist identification for the possible briquetage will be carried out by Dr. Elaine Morris. All diagnostic sherds will be drawn for publication and the material will be discussed in relation to other Iron Age assemblages from Derbyshire, Leicestershire and the Midlands as a whole.

Flint - The flint will be recorded and the information stored on a FOX-PRO data base. A full metrical, technological and typological analysis will be carried out and an illustrated report will be prepared. The report will consider the functional/chronological association between the flintwork and the Iron Age features and finds.

Report on miscellaneous finds (Task 15)

A brief report will be prepared on the remaining finds recovered during the excavation, including the fragment of quernstone.

Report writing, illustration and editing (Tasks 20-26)

The first draft of the publication report will be prepared using data compiled from the excavation archive and analysis, and the specialist finds reports. Library research will be undertaken in order to establish the regional and national context for the site. Publication quality illustrations will be prepared for both the site plans and finds.

Publication (Tasks 27-29)

An edited draft of the report will be submitted to the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for refereeing and publication.

Preparation and deposition of research and finds archive (Tasks 30-31)

The preparation of the research archive will be an ongoing task throughout the project. On completion, the archives will be checked and cross-referenced. Arrangements will be made for copying by the National Archaeological Record and deposition with the Derbyshire Museums Service.

Buckford Bridge

Background

The archaeological results from the excavation at Buckford Bridge were disappointing and have a very low potential. Consequently no further work is proposed other than the completion of the site archive and the production of an archive report.

Method

Enhancement of Archive (Task 3)

Full cross-referencing of the site archive will be completed.

Preparation and deposition of research archive and archive report (Task 30-31)

This will be limited to an outline of the results and the contents of the research archive. Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the archive with the Derbyshire Museums Service and for inclusion of the archive report in the Sites and Monuments Record.

Timetable

The following presents a combined timetable and Gantt chart for the post-excavation programme for all three sites and assumes a start date of 13th February 1995.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Unit staff days</i>
No			
1	Completion of conservation work on finds	A Read	
2	Production of interim reports	G Hughes	10 days
3	Enhancement of excavation archive	G Hughes	10 days
4	Establishing finds database	S Biswell	7 days
5	Digitizing contextual information and finds plots	S Biswell	7 days
6	Outputting data	S Biswell	6 days
7	Further analysis of contextual information	G Hughes	12 days
8	Updating site interpretation	G Hughes	5 days
9	Co-ordination of specialists	G Hughes	2 days

7/4/95 Performance indicator - completion of contextual analysis

10	Preparation of petrological report	D Williams	
11	Preparation of pottery report	A Woodward	16 days
12	Preparation of flint report	R Young	
		L Bevan	14 days
13	Preparation of metalwork report	S Needham	
14	Preparation of Organics report	J Watson	
15	Preparation of Miscellaneous finds report	G Hughes	5 days
16	Preparation of pollen report	J Greig	
17	Charcoal identifications	R Gale	
18	Preparation of radiocarbon dates	Oxford Lab	
19	Soils report	S Limbrey	

22/12/95 Performance indicator - completion of specialist reports

20	Library research	G Hughes	10 days
21	Preparation of drawing roughs	G Hughes	5 days
22	Preparation of first draft of reports	G Hughes	12 days
23	Preparation of site drawings	N Dodds	20 days
24	Preparation of finds drawings	M Breedon	15 days
25	Editing first draft of reports	A Woodward	3 days
26	Amendments to first drafts	G Hughes	4 days
		N Dodds	3 days

12/3/96 Performance indicator - completion of second draft of final report

27	Refereeing of reports by publishers	PPS/DAJ	
28	Incorporation of comments from referees	G Hughes	3 days
29	Proof reading and publication	G Hughes	2 day
30	Preparation of research archive	G Hughes	5 days
31	Arrangements for copying and final deposition of archive and finds	G Hughes	5 days

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The excavations at Lockington and at Foxcovert Farm were directed by Gwilym Hughes and those at Buckford Bridge by Steve Litherland. The principal members of the field teams were, K. Allen, M. Allen, A. Bennet, R. Burrows, S. Barfield, Dr S. Butler, R. Cutler, H. Fawbert, M. Hewson, L. Jones, D. Moscrop, C. Mould, E. Newton, K. Nicholl, E. Ramsay, M. Ridgeway, B. Robinson, Dr R. Roseff, L. Salmon, and J. Sterenberg.

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Particular thanks are due to Anthony Read (Conservation Department, Leicester Museum), who responded so rapidly to my request for assistance with the excavation of the gold burial, and to Graeme Norrie (Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham) for photographing the artefacts. Alan McPherson and a film crew from English Heritage kindly shot a video of the excavation in progress and Stuart Coulson took a series of aerial photographs of the site.

The co-operation of the various farmers, G W Hicklin (Buckford Bridge), C H C Coaker and J Hardy (Lockington) and Mr & Mrs Simpson (Foxcovert Farm) was much appreciated.

Numerous other helpers contributed to the success of the excavations, not least of which were the staff of the 'Flowerpot Cafe', by the side of the A6, for the steady (most of the time!) supply of toasted sandwiches.

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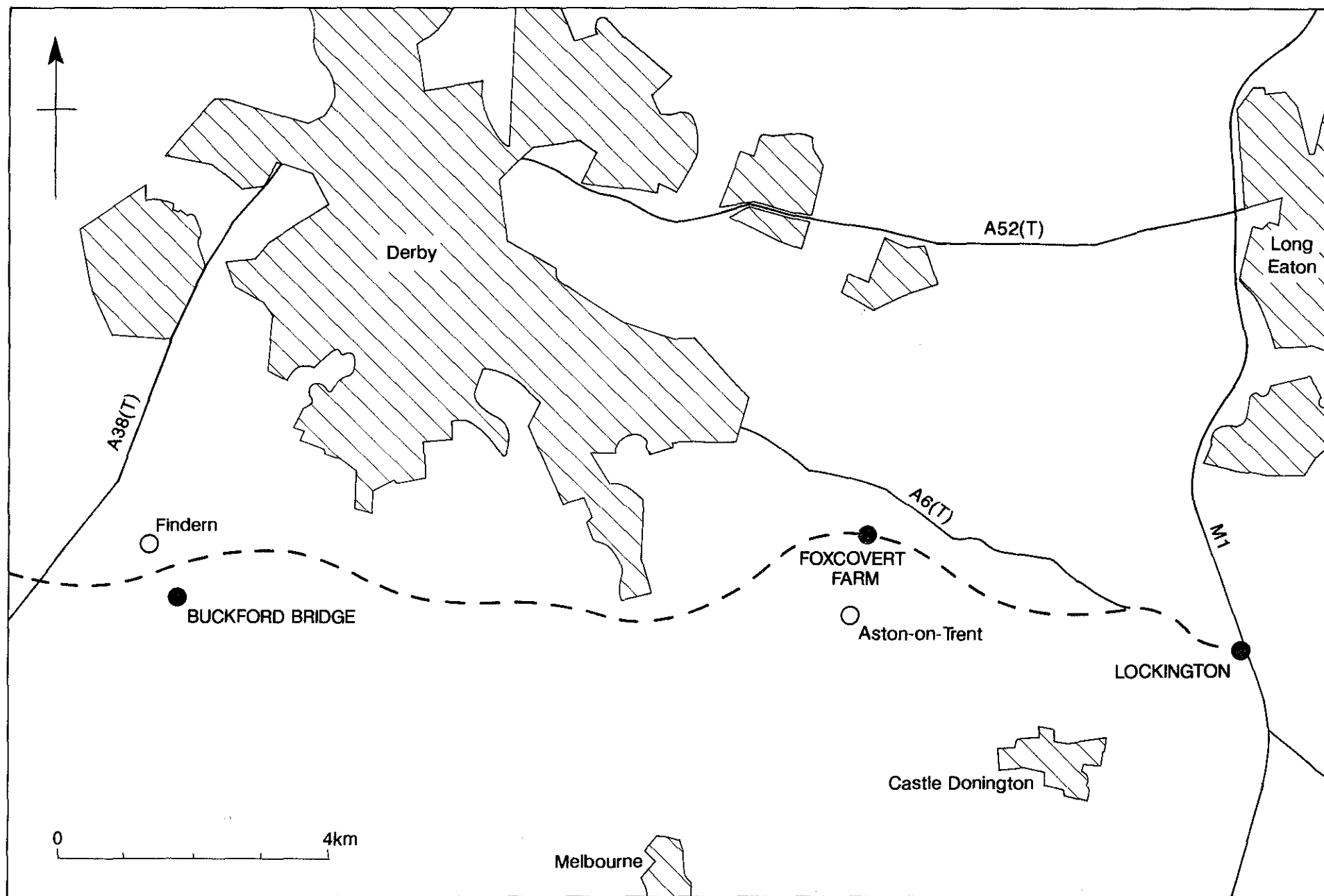


Fig. 1 Site Locations

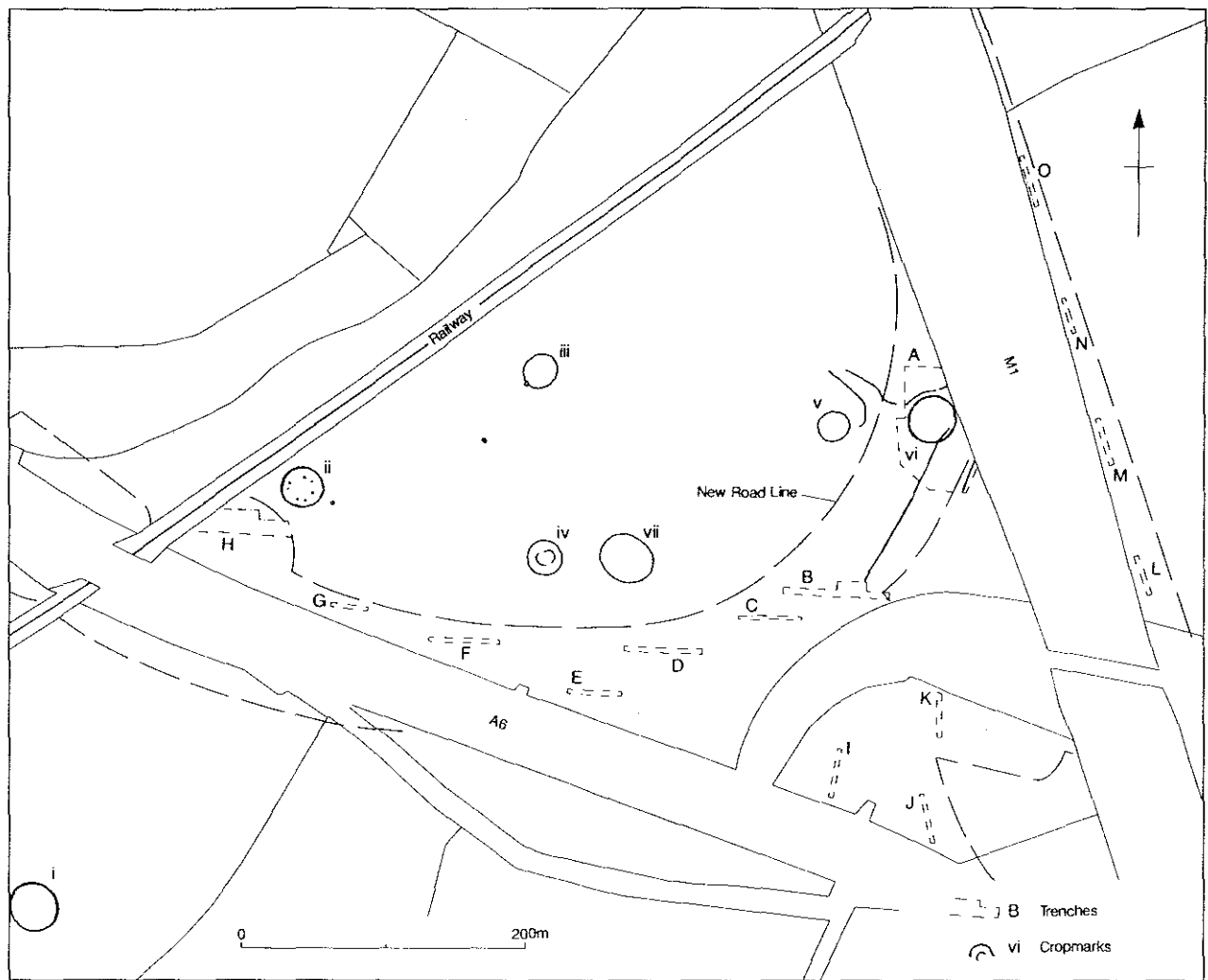


Fig. 2 Lockington - Site Location

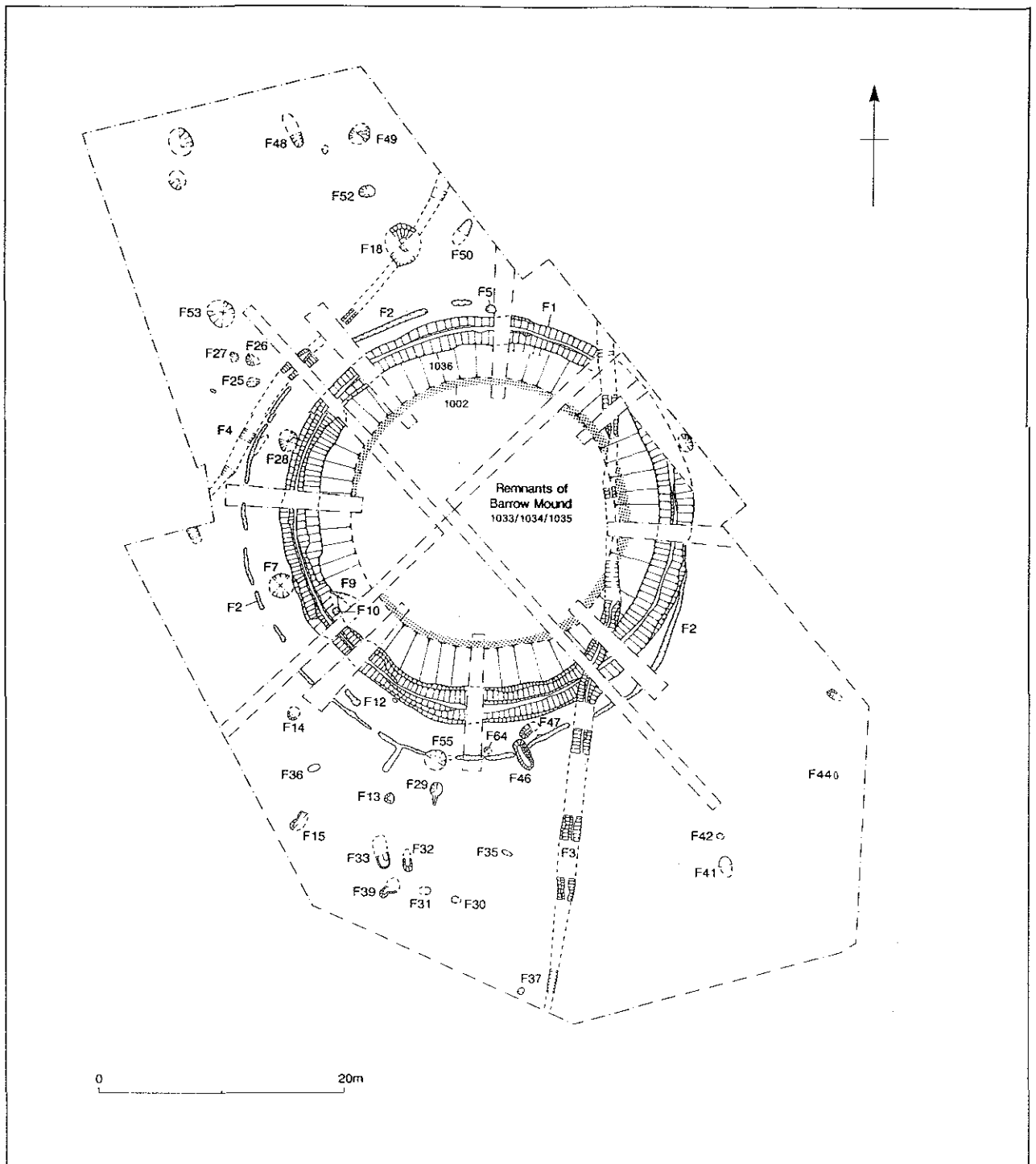


Fig. 3 Lockington - Plan of Trench A

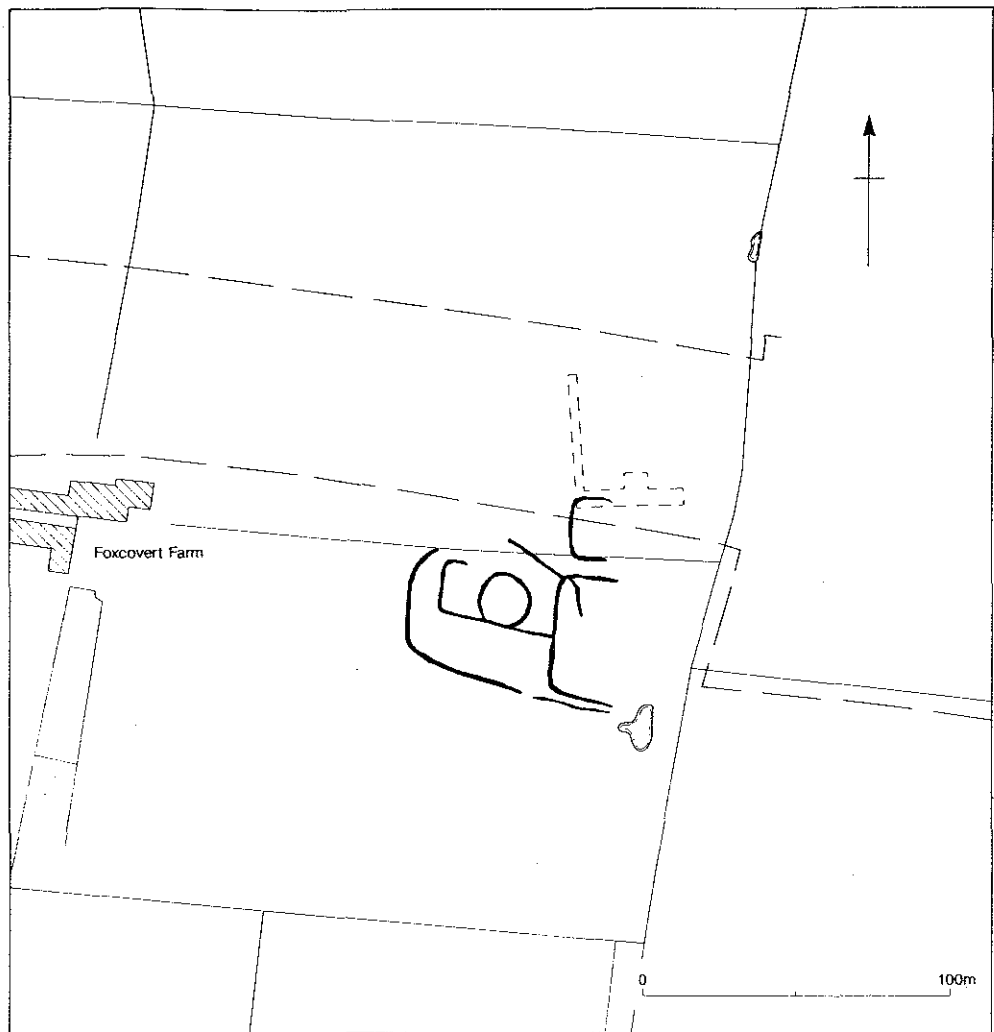


Fig. 4 Foxcovert Farm - Site Location

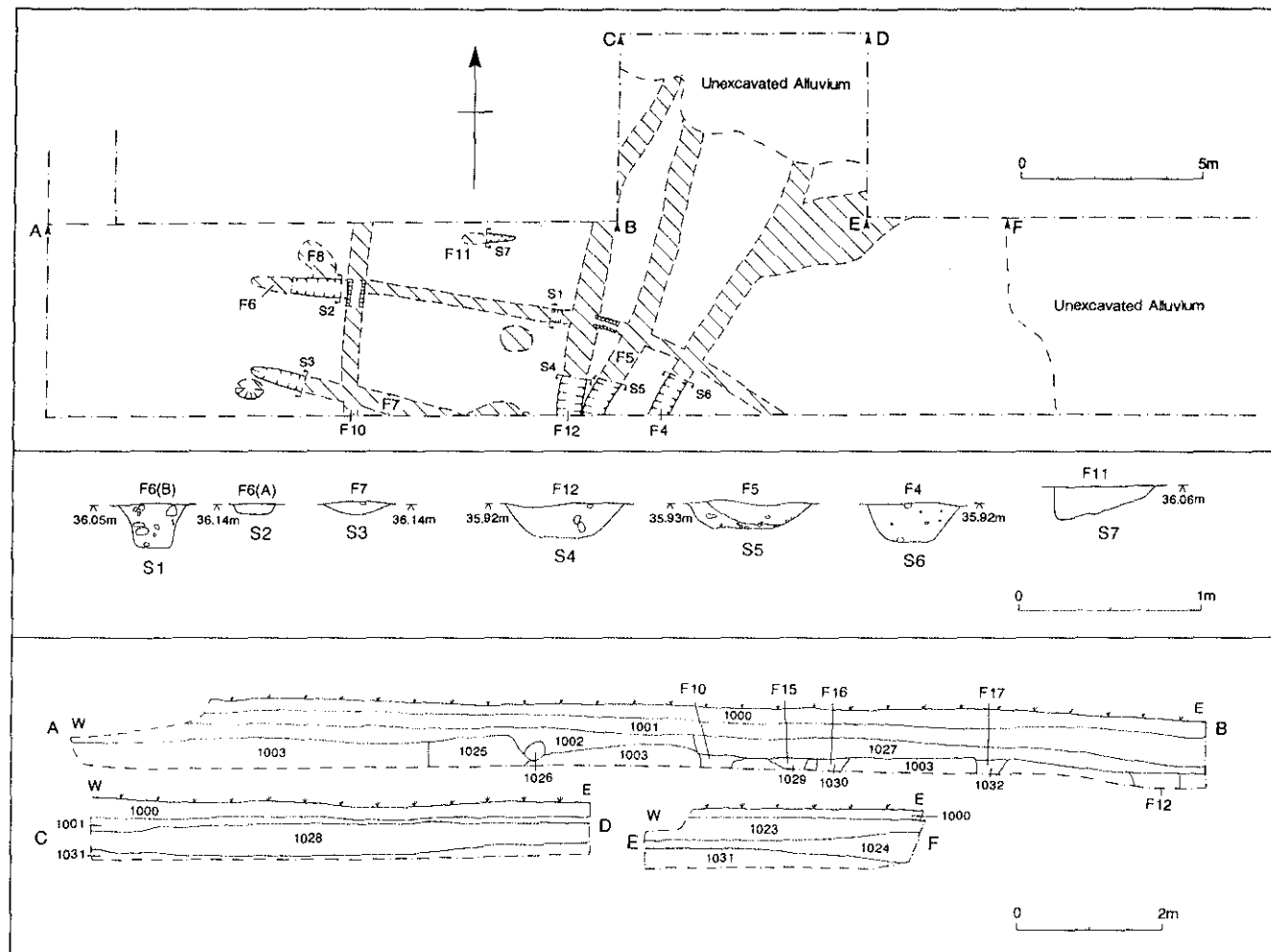


Fig. 5 Foxcovert Farm - Plan and Sections of Eastern Arm of Trench

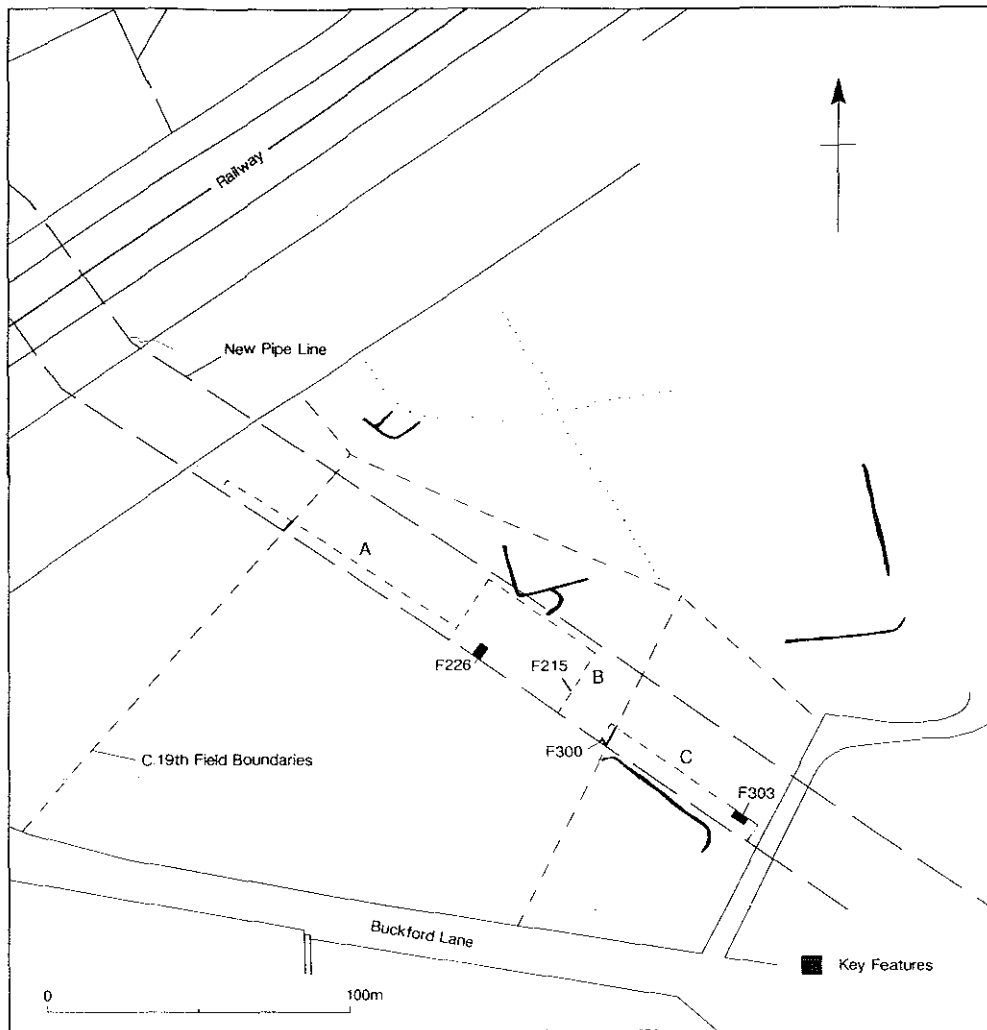


Fig. 6 Buckford Bridge - Site Location

Table 7: Assessment of charred plant remains

C_NO	F_NO	S_NO	CONTEXT	PHASE	SVOL	FVOL	CL	G	C	F	S	B	M	O	MO	NOTES		
1006	0002		palisade gully outside rn dt	N/EBA	30.0	60	2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1007	0003	D	fill of field ditch	IA/RB	20.0	20	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1010		C	ring ditch	BA	10.0	20	1	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	?	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand. A Prunus/Crataegus thorn, a grass seed 3x1.5mm resembles (but is not likely to be) Phalaris canariensis.		
1010		E	ring ditch	BA	10.0	10	1	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1010		G	ring ditch	BA	10.0	10	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1012	0005		gold burial	EBA	14.0	38	2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot very sandy. Silica globules.		
1013		C	ring ditch	BA	10.0	20	1	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Triticum sp. 1 grain		
1013		E	ring ditch	BA	10.0	70	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	30 ml. scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1013		G	ring ditch	BA	10.0	30	1	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1013		H	ring ditch	BA	10.0	30	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1014		E	ring ditch	BA	10.0	5	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1014		H	ring ditch	BA	10.0	10	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1015	0008		ring ditch primary cut	EAB	10.0	9	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1017	0007		pit in side of barrow	BA	10.0	20	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1019	0010		post hole in side of barrow	BA	10.0	5	1	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1033			mound make up	EBA	10.0	65	1	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1034			mound make up	EBA	10.0	170	3	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	?	80 ml. scanned. Triticum dicoccum 4 grains, Triticum sp. 5 grains, Hordeum vulgare hulled+germinated 1 grain, parenchyma frag.	
1035			mound make up	EBA	10.0	60	1	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand. Triticum sp. 1 grain frag, cereal grain frag.	
1037	0003	C	field ditch	IA/RB	20.0	10	1	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1037	0003	D	field ditch	IA/RB	10.0	20	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1041		43d	charcoal spread under mound	N/EBA	4.0	150	3	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	?	70 ml. scanned. Poaceae culm base and rhizome fragments, Montia fontana ssp. chondrosperma 1 seed.	
1041		43l	charcoal spread under mound	N/EBA	3.0	380	3	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	120 ml. scanned.		
1041		?	charcoal spread under mound	N/EBA	0.0	250	3	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	40 ml. scanned. Poaceae culm node and rhizome frags., ?parenchyma frag.	
1042		H	ring ditch	BA	10.0	60	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand. A possible lump of parenchymatous material.	
1043			central pit fill under mound	N/EBA	8.0	120	3	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	?	70 ml. scanned. Triticum dicoccum/spelta grain, tuber frag. (?Arrhenatherum).
1047		D	ring ditch	BA	10.0	260	2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	90 ml. scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1049	0002	B	gully outside ring ditch	N/EBA	10.0	3	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1053	0002		gully outside ring ditch	N/EBA	10.0	3	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1054		B	ring ditch	BA	10.0	15	1	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1059	0001	D	ring ditch	BA	10.0	190	3	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	60 ml. scanned.		
1060	0004	S1	field ditch	IA/RB	10.0	3	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1060	0004	S2	field ditch	IA/RB	10.0	5	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1078	0045		external pit	?	10.0	10	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1087	0002		gully outside ring ditch	N/EBA	0.0	50	2	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.	
1089	0053	Q1	external pit	IA	20.0	55	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100% scanned. Flot mostly sand.		
1100	0062	50	charcoal under mound	N/EBA	1.0	100	3	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	40 ml. scanned.	
1101	0063	51	charcoal under mound	N/EBA	1.0	120	3	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	40ml. scanned.		
1105	0065		cremation pit under mound	N/EBA	12.0	160	3	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	60 ml. scanned. Corylus avellana fragment.		
1107	0065		cremation pit under mound	N/EBA	5.0	50	2	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	100% scanned. Corylus avellana frag.		

CL=charcoal (1=<10ml, 2=10-100ml, 3=>100ml) G=grain C=chaff F=fruit/nut S=seed B=bone M=mollusc O=other MO=more