

LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF THE ALFORD TRUNK MAIN:

ULCEBY CROSS ROUNDABOUT to FORDINGTON TREATMENT WORKS

(NGR: TF 4115 7370 - 4162 7138)

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT MILES CROSS HILL, WELL (NGR: TF 4331 7455)

City and County Museum Lincoln, Accession number 29.93



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Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned to monitor the part of the route of the Alford Trunk Main between the Ulceby Cross road junction and the Treatment Works in Fordington (Fig.1). The pipeline course between Alford and Ulceby Cross was not anticipated to encounter any archaeological remains and this section was initially excluded from the project. Romano-British pottery found after the pipe had been laid on that stretch of the pipeline was reported to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This resulted in a rapid inspection of the findspot and the easement in other nearby fields by the author; casual finds from that inspection have been incorporated into this report although a separate report has been appended detailing the results of an excavation subsequently carried out by LAS at Miles Cross Hill.

Much of this pipeline was laid in roadside verges in a narrow trench cut with a rapid sequence of pipe-laying and trench backfilling. The width of these trenches is not sufficient for recognising or identifying archaeological features easily unless they are filled with anomalous material. The likelihood of noting small pits or ditches backfilled with the material originally dug from them is low in these circumstances and not all archaeological remains disturbed by the pipeline may have been observed. An examination of the spoil heap beside the trench often gives a reasonable indication as to the presence or absence of quantities of artefacts which can lead to the recognition of an adjacent archaeological feature.

A short length of the pipeline was laid in agricultural land, behind buildings close to The Gate Inn. This part of the route was stripped of topsoil in advance of the trench excavation, permitting much closer archaeological examination of the surface below the topsoil. The improved conditions were probably responsible for the recovery of several prehistoric flint tools as well as Romano-British and medieval pottery fragments.

Archaeological Background

The Alford - Fordington Trunk Main route passed close to several diverse, previously recorded, archaeological sites on the stretch between Ulceby Cross roundabout and the Fordington pumping station although no sites were known close to the route to Alford.

A Romano-British occupation site has been known from surface finds in fields west of the pipeline in Ulceby/Fordington and Dexthorpe (Dalby parish) for many years. Fieldwork, including archaeological excavation, was conducted on part of the site between 1913 and 1923 (Tatham 1923). The site is marked on Ordnance Survey maps and is known by metal detector users. It is also visible as a series of enclosures and other features which have been recorded as cropmarks on aerial photographs.

The settlement was served by a road between Burgh-le-Marsh and Lincoln (Margary route 27) which changes course abruptly at Ulceby Cross close to this site. Attempts were made to locate this during the excavation season on the occupation site (Tatham 1923, 122). The excavators recorded "several long stretches" of disturbed chalk pieces in a ploughed field SE of the excavation, which were interpreted as the upper road surface or "rudus". The line was pursued passing 15 yards (13.7m) north of the Ulceby parish boundary towards the Gatehouse Inn at Ulceby. The line is thought to be preserved to the SE of the junction as the existing stretch of Bluestone Heath Road towards Welton-le-Marsh. Sections of the road have also been recorded on aerial photographs.

Fieldwalking of land close to the pipeline route took place in 1976, when surface finds of a Neolithic flint, Romano-British coins, medieval coins and tokens were retrieved west of the Fordington medieval village site (White 1977, 71-2).

The southern end of the route passed just west of the deserted village of Fordington (Scheduled Ancient Monument 284). It was thought that the pipeline might disturb remains on the edge of the settlement. An archaeological evaluation was conducted by LAS in 1992 beside the Fordington pumping station at the southern end of the route (Field, 1992). This was the proposed site of buildings to serve the Iron Removal Scheme. Modern building materials, probably from demolished structures associated with the existing pumping station, were the only sign of previous activity. The ground here was very damp and various flood deposits from the nearby stream had accumulated. No bedrock material was encountered but a high water-table prevented deep excavation. No medieval remains were present, suggesting that the waterlogged stream valley had acted as an effective barrier to village expansion.

Apart from the known sites it was considered possible that new sites might be encountered along the route. A search was made of existing specialist aerial photographs held at the LAS offices and at the national libraries in Cambridge and Swindon. There were no photographs of sites directly affected by the route. The Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England is curently plotting all archaeological data from aerial photographs of Lincolnshire at a scale of

1:10,000. Their offices at York kindly supplied mapped data covering the area of OS map TF47SW which confirmed the extent of the sites described above, and their proximity to the pipeline route, whilst showing that no known feature would actually be crossed by the pipeline except for the projected line of the Roman road (see below). This information is Crown Copyright and currently unavailable to the general public.

Archaeological monitoring of the anticipated sensitive section was arranged in order that disturbed sites could be recorded.

The Watching Brief

The first five observations were made when the easement was inspected on Miles Cross Hill, outside the original project remit but since included. The pipe had been laid and the trench mostly backfilled but the badly obscured stripped easement remained clear of ploughsoil.

- 1. TF 4332 7455 Oblique section through broad ditch with several fill deposits; no stratified pottery in pipe trench section but 48 sherds of Romano-British 3rd and 4th century pottery including shelly wares had been gathered and left on the edge of the easement nearby (11 recorded as ATM93 1, 37 MX93 26) (Darling 1993). The author understands that a Roman coin may have been found here by a metal detector user, but no coin has been reported.
- 2. TF 4337 7460 78 fragmentary sherds of early Bronze Age pottery. These show comb-impressed decoration and may represent a single vessel (Knight 1993).
- A subsequent excavation of the site produced evidence for two Romano-British enclosures and slight prehistoric activity.
- 3. TF 4401 7504 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery, late 15th century or later.
- 4. TF 4372 7485 1 sherd of 19th-20th century pottery

A scatter of finds from several periods of activity was found close to the Gate Inn at Ulceby, where the route passed through two fields before returning to the Fordington Road verge (Pls.1-3). Very close observation of the pipeline operations in this area produced no conclusive indications of the Roman Road examined nearby (Tatham 1923, 122) and projected to continue through fields to the Gate Inn before surviving as the AlO28 (SMR 42944). After the topsoil stripping had been completed a slight rise in the ground surface seemed to coincide with the expected course of the road (Pl.3). A thin spread of gravel 3.5m wide was observed at the north side of this instead of the chalk bedrock, but

there was no evidence of substantial metalling, redeposited chalk or flanking ditches (Pl.4). Previous investigation of the Roman road located an upper deposit of small chalk pieces, extending 15ft (4.6m) wide and this record gave some indication of the size and construction to be expected (Tatham 1923). Inspection of the trench sides failed to locate anything anomalous (Pl.5).

A backfilled ditch, probably post-medieval, was seen in the trench section behind the Ulceby Wesleyan chapel building (Pls.1 and 6). The fill of this was clearly distinguishable from the natural geology, suggesting that ditches beside a Roman road would have been visible in these ground conditions.

5. TF 4203 7216 4 worked flints: 3 retouched flakes, 1 Neolithic/Bronze Age ?tranchet derivative arrowhead (unfinished); 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery, late 15th century or later.

43315

- 6. TF 4200 7213 1 small ?retouched flint chip; 1 sherd of post-medieval pottery, late 15th-17th century.
- 7. TF 4209 7214 1 sherd of 12th-15th century pottery.
- 8. TF 4114 7367 (Ulceby Cross Roundabout) Metalling of a ?post-medieval road, surviving where modern roads realigned (Pls.7-9).
- 9. TF 4175 7295 (NW of Paildyke Yard) A deep, broad linear depresssion in pasture field to east of A1028 Bluestone Heath Road (Pl.10). This depression has sloping sides and is crossed by the road (Pl.11). It continues to the east beyond the roadside field. No evidence of this depression could be seen in the trench in the roadside verge (Pl.12). The natural topography in this area has frequent small dips but the other depressions are obviously crossed by the road. The placename Paildyke might stem from a corruption of two complementary boundary terms, pale (fence) and dyke (ditch or bank) suggesting that there might be a deliberately constructed ditch in the vicinity, perhaps defining an area of parkland. It is possible that this is an artificial boundary earthwork and, if so, it is probably of medieval perhaps associated with Ulceby Grange. Archive date, research for this project has found that a landowner called Mr. Coupledyke owned land around here during the early 18th century and the placename may simply be a corruption of this (Registry, 1916).
- 10. TF 4165 7143 Single glazed sherd of early post-medieval pottery (15th century or later) in soil from pipe trench in roadside verge, opposite Fordington deserted medieval village site. There was no evidence for any building

remains, implying that this lane may have been contemporary with the village layout.

Conclusion

The main part of this watching brief produced little of archaeological significance although there are nearby documented archaeological sites where the full extent is not known. The trench in the roadside verge apparently did not disturb any ancient features but the narrow width was insufficient to place much emphasis on the absence of archaeology.

The supposed Roman road course by the Gate Inn could not be located despite intensive monitoring of the topsoil removal and the pipe trench section. Two alternative explanations can be offered, assuming that this is the actual course of the road; either the constructed surface has been removed by later farming practices or the associated features were not recognisable in the conditions of the pipeline construction site. The topsoil in this pasture field was thin and overlay compacted, apparently natural, material which may support the former explanation. This Roman road line will need future study when opportunities arise to confirm or alter the present projected course.

Archaeological monitoring on this pipeline may have prompted the notification of discoveries of Roman pottery at Miles Cross Hill, also on the pipeline. After the County Archaeological Officer had been alerted to this find, LAS were able to identify and record the surviving elements of a small Romano-British farm on the edge of the Wolds and an isolated pit containing early Bronze Age pottery. It is ironic that the most significant archaeological discoveries along the route were those recorded on the part not included in the watching brief. Earlier archaeological input on this stretch of the pipeline would have provided considerably more information, in both quantity and quality.

Acknowledgements

Staff of Anglian Water, particularly J. Karolski, provided useful co-operation during this project, as did their contractors Clugston Ltd. Pottery was identified by M. Darling, D. Knight and J. Young. Staff at the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the Lincolnshire Archives Office were helpful as ever. Dilwyn Jones of the RCHM(E) kindly supplied the air photographic data.

Geoff Tann Lindsey Archaeological Services December 16th 1993

Lincolnsh	nire :	Sites	and Monuments Record Summary
	NGR		Description
42022	4161	7160	3 Roman coins, found 1976
42023		**	2 medieval coins and token, 1976
42024	ш	11	Neolithic worked flint, 1976
42025	412	734	3 Romano-British brooches, 1977
42026	4182	7130	3 Roman coins, 1976
42027	, II	11	Medieval pottery and coins, 1976
			Fordington Medieval village site
			(scheduled ancient monument 284)
42032	421	729	Shrunken medieval village
42036	4125	7125	Dalby Grange placename
42944			Roman road
	4080	7315	Dexthorpe Roman settlement
	4565	7480	Greenstone axehead
	4180	7230	Medieval lead ampulla
1 / 1	4180	7270	Roman bangle
/ mm 5 5 1			

(The last 3 entries were reported to City and County Museum, Lincoln, in 1993 by Mr. L. Greenwood who had found them while using a metal detector. The Roman bangle was found very close to the pipeline course.)

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234-239.

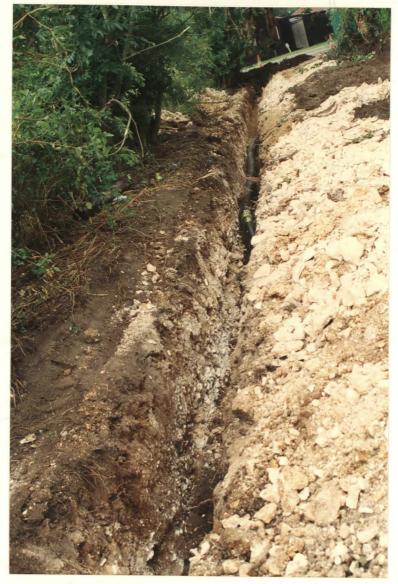
1923 Roman Remains from the Ulceby Dexthorpe Site: Lincs. Notes and Queries 17 pt.6-8, Apr-Oct 1923 113-122.

White, A.J. 1977 Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, 1976: Lincs. History and Archaeology 12, 71.

Darling 1993 and Knight 1993 are reproduced as part of the report on the excavation at Miles Cross Hill.

ALFORD TRUNK MAIN (ATM93) POTTERY SUMMARY

Context	Ware	No of sherds	Form	Comments	Date range
- 3	MISC	1	- 7	WELL WORN; UNGLZE	_
3	TB	-1	BOWL	HOOKED RIM; INT GLZE	late 15th to18th C
4	LSTON	1	- /	•	19th to 20th C
5	ТВ	2		-	late 15th to18th C
6	LMLOC	1	- pi	ODD; BASE?	late 15th to18th C
7	MEDLOC	1		WELL WORN	12th to 15th C
10	LMLOC	1	<i>j</i> =	INT & EXT GLZE	late 15th to17th C



Pl.1 Pipeline course behind Ulceby Wesleyan Chapel (looking north).

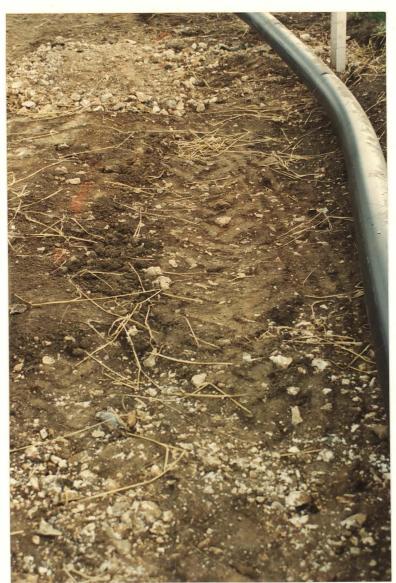






Pl.3 Slight rise of field surface behind The Gate Inn (looking south).

Pl.4 Small area of gravel below topsoil, behind The Gate Inn.





Pl.5 Detail of the pipe trench close to supposed Roman road.

Pl.6 Detail of ditch cutting chalk bedrock behind Ulceby Wesleyan chapel.





Pl.7 Pipe trench at Ulceby Cross.

Pl.8 Road metalling in pipe trench section, Ulceby Cross.





Pl.9 Trenching along roadside verge (looking east from Ulceby Cross).



Pl.10 Depression in field to north of Bluestone Heath Road (looking north-west).

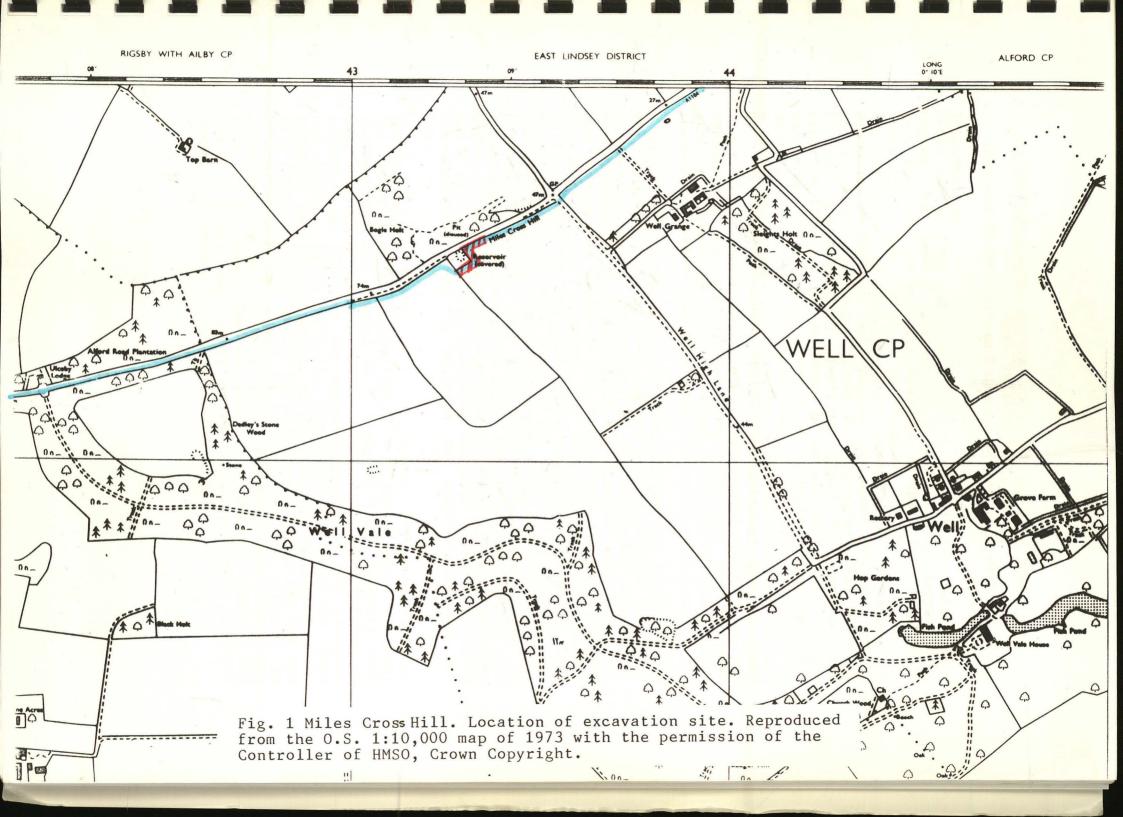


Pl.11 Bluestone Heath Road with depression (looking north-west).

P1.12 Pipe trench section in depression, within roadside verge.



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT MILES CROSS HILL, WELL (NGR: TF 4331 7455)



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Introduction

Staff at the City and County Museum, Lincoln were advised in August 1993 that a scatter of Romano-British pottery had been found on the stripped easement of the Alford-Fordington Trunk Main. The findspot was located to the east of the Anglian Water covered reservoir compound at the crest of Miles Cross Hill in Well parish, at about 60m OD. (Pl.1; Fig. 1). The Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer asked Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) to inspect reported location and evidence of an archaeological feature was noted (Pl.2). A collection of disturbed Romano-British pottery was retrieved from the edge of the easement close to a ditch, backfilled in antiquity, which had been cut through by the pipe trench (P1.3). Conditions for further investigation were poor because excavated chalk from the trench had been spread and compacted over the easement surface. Fragments of a crushed prehistoric sherd were recovered further down the slope.

A brief was prepared for the excavation and recording of this site and Anglian Water agreed to include this site with the archaeological monitoring of the remaining section of the pipeline. A 120m stretch of the easement was cleaned of the redeposited chalk by the contractors, Clugston Ltd and the surface was prepared for archaeological recording. Gullies defining the ends of 2 separate enclosures were revealed together with a small pit containing charcoal and pottery fragments. Excavation of this site took place between August 9th and 17th 1993 with a small team of experienced archaeologists under the site direction of the author. Considerable further archaeological damage caused by heavy rain and machine trampling occurred to the site while the excavation was in progress and some information was lost.

The Excavation (Fig. 2)

All the visible archaeological features were cleaned, photographed and planned at a scale of 1:50. Segments were then excavated by hand across the gullies and ditches at intervals to indicate the characteristics of the features and their fills (Fig.3). Representative sections were recorded and photographed, with detailed descriptions of fill deposits noted on LAS Context Record forms. The pit was half-sectioned and found to be very shallow although it contained frequent pottery sherds and burnt nut shells and some flint flakes. The remaining fill was then removed and sieved. There was insufficient uncontaminated charcoal present to sample for radiocarbon dating.

Enclosure 1

The larger of the two enclosures was located to the SE of the reservoir compound and extended into the fenced area (Pls.4 and 5). The SW corner lay within the cleaned area but the SE corner was obscured by topsoil and chalk spoil heaps; it has been interpreted as returning beside Ditch 7 in the form of the later gully 13 (Pl.8). Gully 22 may have formed its northern side although the pipe trench had removed any physical proof of this. The width of the enclosure would have been 11m and the length about 35m. Much of the internal area had been disturbed or destroyed by works within the reservoir compound although no finds from those construction operations were recorded.

The gullies defining the enclosure were all uniformly shallow and narrow, even where a field boundary beside the compound had provided protection from modern ploughing and past wind erosion (Pl.6). The maximum surviving depth was 0.25m and the width 1.1m. No physical remains of an upcast bank survived but slight differences in fills within the gullies suggested that early slumping of chalky material had occurred from the outside of the enclosure on the west side but internally on the east gully.

The gullies appeared to have been designed for drainage and sub-division of land rather than having any defensive or demarcation function (Pl.7). Very few animal bone remains were found and there was no evidence that this field had served as a stock enclosure. The interior was entirely devoid of a natural subsoil deposit (2) which covered much of the area west and south of the enclosure to a depth of was a chalk-flecked brown loam, 0.08m. The subsoil moderately compacted and containing some unworked flints. It continued beyond the identified features into the field to the west but was absent further down the slope. This may be evidence of ancient farming practices causing erosion of the interior of Enclosure 1 down to the chalk bedrock while the area outside was protected by the defining gullies (Pl.4).

Enclosure 2

A much narrower rectangular enclosure was recorded 40m east of Enclosure 1, positioned further down the slope of the hillside (Pl.9). The NW and NE corners survived within the easement and its width was 9m. The enclosure sides extended beyond the cleaned easement but were at least 6m long. The east and north ends were very shallow (0.10m deep and 0.60m wide) with some evidence for truncation of the features by wind or plough erosion (Pl.10); chalky upcast material had slumped into the gullies, sealing thin primary fills with more soil but no soil survived above the redeposited chalk. To the west of the enclosure there was a much more substantial ditch 16 (Pl.11), 1.1m wide and 0.32m deep, with steeply sloping sides and suggestions that an external bank had slumped into the ditch from the west. The ditch had then

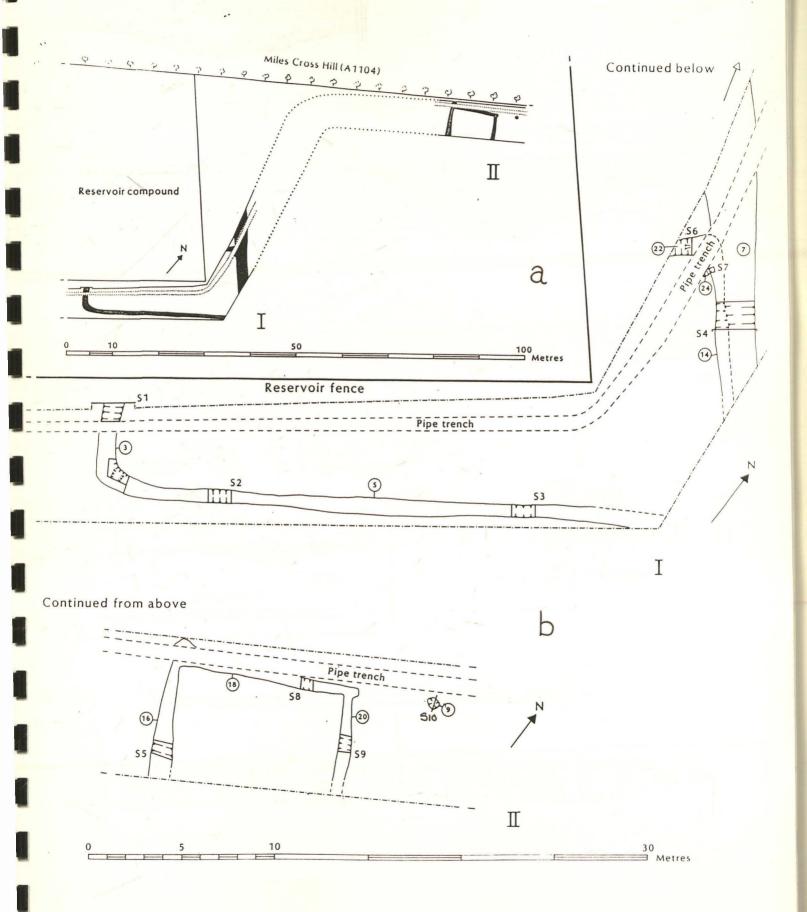


Fig. 2 Miles Cross Hill. a) position of enclosures along the pipeline route. b) plan showing excavated sections across the archaeological features (D.Taylor).

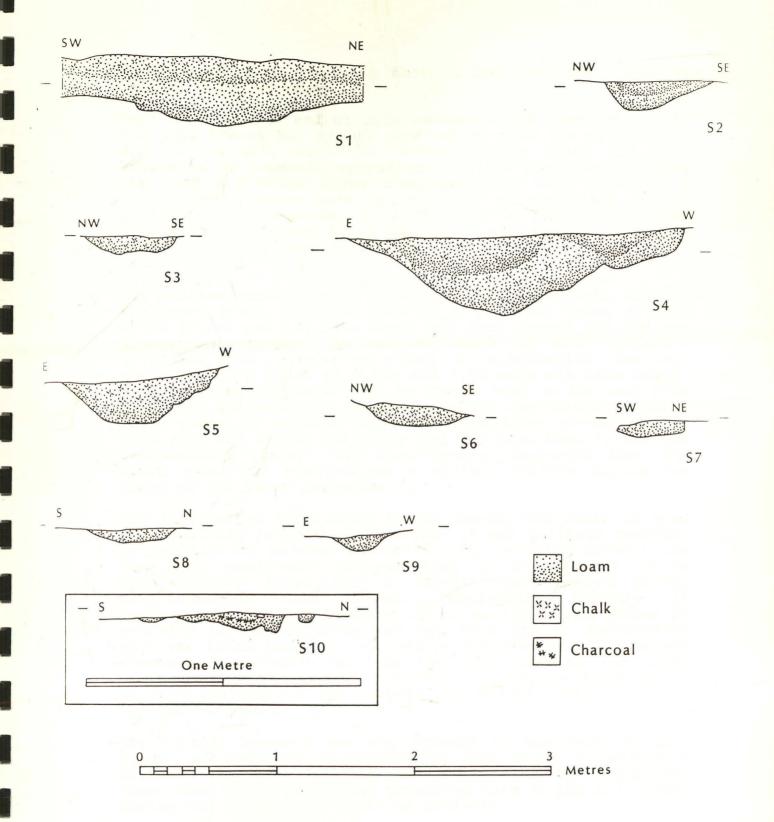


Fig. 3 Miles Cross Hill. Cross sections through features, locations shown on Fig.2. (S1-S4, S6= enclosure I; S5, S8, S9= enclosure II; S7= context 24, S10= pit 9 (D.Taylor).

filled with soil, implying that it had remained a visible feature for some years.

Most of the north end of this enclosure had been removed by the pipe trench but enough survived to show its orientation and to indicate that the three visible sides had been excavated as separate operations (unlike Enclosure 1 where the west and south sides continued into each other as a single cut). There were no signs of an extension of the enclosure to the north. It is aligned to the present road from Alford to Ulceby Cross but it is not known if this road is Roman (or earlier) in origin.

Ditch 7

The shallow, narrow gully thought to form the north side of Enclosure 1 cut into the fill of a parallel ditch aligned SE-NW (Pls.8 and 12). The ditch had been re-cut but did not appear to represent an earlier phase of this enclosure (Pl.13). This ditch had been a substantial barrier, surviving to a depth of 0.58m and 1.7m wide cut into chalk. The tip-lines suggested that an upcast bank on the west side had been deliberately backfilled into the ditch after a short phase of natural silting. A shallower re-cut on the east side had silted naturally and may have been in use for considerably longer. The stratigraphy suggested that the ditch recut had survived as a visible feature beyond the phase of the later Enclosure I.

The function of this ditch is not known; too small an area was available to determine whether it was a linear boundary or one side of a large enclosure. Its position between the two small enclosures was puzzling as it appeared to be unnecessarily large for a sub-division between plots; interpretation was further complicated because it represented the only feature of an earlier Roman phase of activity on the hillside and may have had no association with the later land-use. No attempt had been made to use the remaining depression to form the east side of the later enclosure but it probably imposed an obstacle to movement east of Enclosure I and perhaps was deliberately respected by that enclosure.

The subsoil layer 2 was not present to the east of this ditch and there is a possibility that Ditch 7 defined a distinct land-use variation that had removed the overburden lower down the hillside but preserved that on the hill crest during the first Roman phase of activity.

Ditch 7 produced the greatest density of finds from the site (almost certainly including those retrieved before archaeologists were alerted) and this suggests that domestic huts or other structures may have been located in the vicinity. Stratified pottery from this ditch fell within the date range of mid-late 3rd century; a single 4th century

sherd recovered from the surface before the site was reported may have been from the truncated uppermost fills but no other diagnostic sherds of that date were recovered from the archaeological excavation (see Roman Pottery Report). The pottery is too similar in date range and too fragmentary in the lesser gullies to determine whether the gullies and the deep ditch were contemporary but the stratigraphy implies that Ditch 7 was replaced by the rectangular Enclosure I.

Posthole 24

The pipe trench had cut through Ditch 7 and Gully 14 at an oblique angle. Vestigial remains of a slight curved feature were present on the eastern side. This possible posthole survived to a maximum depth of 0.14m but other dimensions were unclear or removed. Stratigraphically, posthole 24 predated gully 14, which suggests that it was associated with the earlier ditch. It may have been part of a fenceline to the west side of that ditch. Another possible posthole was seen slightly further west in Gully 22 but this could not be confirmed.

Pit 9

A single feature, interpreted as a refuse pit, was found on the easement east of Enclosure 2 (Pl.14). Initial inspection in the vicinity, before the excavation was arranged, had produced a number of small pottery fragments, crushed by machines but thought to represent part of a single vessel (ATM 93:2). It was suspected that they came from from this The truncated surface contained prehistoric pottery pit. fragments, charcoal and a microlith. Initial suspicions that it might represent the remains of an urned human cremation were dispelled when no bone was found. The diameter of this feature was 0.68m and the surviving depth 0.08m; surrounding chalk had not been affected by heat and despite the shallowness of the remaining depression there was no evidence that this had been a hearth. Other struck flint flakes were recovered, including another microlith.

The soil fill from this feature was kept and dry-sieved through 7.5mm mesh. Further flint waste flakes and nut shells were found. No charcoal was retained for radiocarbon dating purposes as the deposit was too thin to obtain a reliably uncontaminated sample.

The pottery fragments have been examined and are described in the specialist's report. The disturbed sherds are of a similar date to the stratified fragments but may have come from another, entirely removed feature. All are early Bronze Age in date and parallels with Lincolnshire sites at Broughton and Stainsby are suggested. Three hand-made vessels are evidenced by the sherds from the pit; five sherds joined as part of a small carinated lid with a

slightly tapering rim. As the 'lid' was at the base of this pit it is unlikely that it represented a storage feature with a vessel and contents in place.

This pit was the only prehistoric feature within the area investigated although a microlith was found in the fill of Gully 22, part of Enclosure I.

Casual Finds

A thin scatter of Romano-British finds was found on the stripped easement between the recognised archaeological features and where the pipeline moved into the roadside verge SW of the reservoir compound (11). This area was fieldwalked closely but no features were identified on the partially obscured ground surface.

Discussion

No finds have been reported from Miles Cross Hill in the past, although considerable disturbance has taken place in the form of a 19th century chalk pit on the opposite side of the road (LAO HIG 18/8/6; LAO H 109 1838 (Tithe Award), the construction of the covered reservoir and the later ancillary pumping station buildings beside the site, built about 1990.

The Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) notes three finds of Roman coins (including 2 hoards) from Well village. A 'Roman sword and helmet', claimed to have been found in a tomb at Rigsby churchyard (White 1872, 266), have been identified as 16th century items.

Well High Lane, the small road which crosses the hillside 0.2km NE of the site, may be on an unrecognised Roman alignment. It leads from South Thoresby to Well village, but the line is continued across parkland as footpaths and parish boundaries to Claxby. The pipe trench where it crossed this lane had been reinstated before the archaeological potential of the area was known. A surface inspection was made but no signs of flanking ditches or disturbed road metalling were visible.

Air photographic cover for the vicinity, held in the collections at RCHM(E) at Swindon and the Cambridge University Collection, was consulted but no photographs of the enclosures were located. An undated cropmark site at Rigsby, 0.7km north of the Roman site, lies on the opposite side of Well High Lane (2923/19A: Rigsby and Ailby 25.7.76; photographed by P. Everson). Mr. Dennis Weston (Willoughby Farms Ltd.) provided a series of air photographs of the Well area taken by himself and Mr. R. Walkington before the reservoir buildings were constructed or the quarry abandoned (Pl.1). These do not show any archaeological features and this site warrants further aerial photography in suitable

conditions in order that the extent of the site can be determined.

Conclusion

This previously unknown archaeological site produced evidence of prehistoric and sustained Romano-British occupation close to the excavation area; there was no suggestion that continuous activity between these periods had occurred. The prominence of this location would have ensured a good view towards the coast for defensive purposes; it would have been a windswept but attractive site on the the boundary between very different geology, soils, vegetation and economies.

Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age

The survival of the pottery followed by the discovery of a pit containing flintworking debris and hazelnut shells was of particular archaeological importance. It proves the existence of a prehistoric Beaker community on this extreme eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, not close to any known findspot but not far from other major prehistoric monuments such as Neolithic and Bronze Age burial mounds (barrows) at Skendleby and the supposed prehistoric trackway followed by Bluestone Heath Road.

Romano-British

No building remains were found on this site but the ditches and enclosures place the ceramic finds in the context of a small farming community, probably a single farm. Specialist examination of the pottery forms and fabrics by M. Darling, City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit, has identified pottery ranging in date from mid 2nd century to the late 4th century (CLAU Report 61, reproduced below). The bulk of the pottery recovered dates from the later 3rd century. The quality of the pottery was not particularly high; colour-coated wares from the Nene Valley represented a moderate level of affluence but almost certainly this site does not indicate a nearby villa. Although it is unlikely that this farm had a deliberate dependence on the large and wealthy settlement at Dexthorpe near Ulceby Cross (Tatham 1923) the distance between the two is under 3km and communication between these sites would have been inevitable. Previous coin hoard finds in Well indicate local wealth and settlement in this part of the Wolds at the time.

Acknowledgements

LAS wish to thank staff of Anglian Water and Clugston Ltd for their co-operation with this excavation. Dennis Weston and Sue Needham assisted with background information regarding the area and Mr. Weston lent several photographs, including some taken by Mr. R. Walkington. Permission to reproduce Fig. 4 is appreciated. Willoughby Farms Ltd, Well

(the landowners) have agreed to donate the finds to City and County Museum, Lincoln.

Steve Catney, County Archaeological Officer, invited LAS to inspect the site and helped arrange the project; staff of Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and Lincolnshire Archives Office contributed their help to research for this report.

The flints were examined by Naomi Field (LAS), the prehistoric pottery was identified by David Knight, (Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust) and the Roman pottery was identified by Margaret Darling, (City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit). Their specialist reports are reproduced below.

The site was excavated with stoicism by Rob Schofield, Darren Pullen and Steve Page despite considerable damage by weather and farm machinery midway through the fieldwork. The excavation was directed for LAS by the author.

Geoff Tann Lindsey Archaeological Services 17.12.93

Appendix 1: The Finds: Flint Context Description 3 fragments of a single flint blade 1 microlith, white flint; 34 heat-shattered 10 flint fragments, none worked 1 microlith, white flint 23 Pottery (see Specialists' Reports) Description Context 5 sherds Roman pot 8 16 sherds of 2 decorated early Bronze Age 10 vessels, one a lid to small pygmy cup 3 sherds ?3rd century Roman pot 11 110 sherds middle-late 3rd century Roman 47 sherds 13 4 sherds, probably mid 3rd century Roman 15 37 sherds, late-very late 4th century Roman 26

Other Artefacts

Context

13 1 piece granite ?quernstone

23 1 fragment copper alloy pin stem

Animal Bone

Context

10 fragments of single crushed bone; sheep or small cattle

Environmental

Context

numerous fragments of hazelnut shells

13 5 land snail shells

Appendix 2

The Contexts:

- Context 1 Topsoil, brown loam, 40% chalk; 0.29m thick
 - 2 Subsoil, chalk-flecked brown loam with flints; less compact than feature fills. 0.08m thick.
 - 3 Gully: NW-SE narrow, shallow; 0.28m deep, 1.2m wide. Enclosure I
 - 4 Fill of Gullies 3 and 5; light brown loam, a little chalk flecking. Slight traces of denser chalk on west side.
 - 5 Gully, 0.9m wide, 0.18m deep. Enclosure I
 - 6 Same as 4, but 0.11m deep and 0.75m wide.
 - 7 Ditch, NW-SE: 1.7m wide, 0.58m deep. 2 fills. Enclosure I?
 - 8 Same as 6 and 4; 0.75m wide, 0.2m deep.
 - 9 Pit, 0.68m diam.; 0.08m deep. Prehistoric.
 - 10 Fill of Pit 10: dark brown loam, charcoal and hazelnut shells.
 - 11 Surface finds to west of reservoir.
 - 12 Fill of Ditch 7: brown/dark brown loam with a little chalk.
 - 13 Fill of Ditch 7: dark brown loam, 65% chalk.
 - 14 Gully, NW-SE, 0.8m wide, 0.2m deep. Enclosure I.
 - 15 Fill of Gully 14: brown/dark brown loam, 40% chalk on west side, much less to east.
 - 16 Ditch, NW-SE, 1.1m wide, 0.32m deep. Enclosure II.
 - 17 Fill of Ditch 16: brown loam with chalk lumps, less on east side.
 - 18 Gully, E-W, 0.63m wide, 0.09m deep. Enclosure II.
 - 19 Fill of Gully 18: rich brown loam, 65% chalk.
 - 20 Gully, NW-SE, 0.7m wide, 0.11m deep. Enclosure II.
 - 21 Fill of Gully 20: brown loam, 5% chalk at base, 80% chalk in upper part.
 - 22 Ditch/gully or ?posthole, 0.85m wide, 0.14m deep. Enclosure I.
 - 23 Fill of 22: brown loam, 65% chalk.
 - 24 ?Posthole, 0.6m wide, 0.8m long, 0.1m deep.
 - 25 Fill of 24: dark brown loam, 40% chalk.
 - 26 Finds, unstratified, collected from near Enclosure I by workmen.

Appendix 3: Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Summary

Ordnance Survey sheet TF 47NW code NGR Description

D 4309 7538 "Roman" sword and helmet in Rigsby churchyard tomb, since identified as 16thC.

T 4308 7537 St. James Church, Rigsby; Norman origins.

U 437 768 Deserted medieval village

OS sheet TF 47SW

I 444 735 Roman coin hoard, 600+ coins, found 1725 in 2 urns at spring head in Well Walk.
Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus, Claudius Gothicus, Carausius.

J 447 735 Roman coin, Commodus, found 1923 opposite front gate of Well Hall. It has been suggested that this dropped from the 1725 hoard (Tatham 1923, 122).

P 445 741 Roman coins, including post 330AD vota, in collection of F. James.

Air Photograph

A cropmark of an undated interrupted ditch is visible at TF 4335 7520, SE of Rigsby church, on air photograph (NMR ref.2923/19A) taken 25.7.1976 by P. Everson (LAS collection). The ditch is certainly overlain by later ridge and furrow from medieval cultivation. Rigsby church lies 0.8km north of the excavated site.

References

Tatham, E.H.R. 1923 'Roman remains at Dexthorpe and Ulceby', Lincolnshire Notes and Queries 17, nos.6-8, 113-122.

White, W. 1872 Directory of Lincolnshire, 3rd edn.

EARLY BRONZE AGE POTTERY FROM MILES CROSS HILL, LINCS. (TF43317457 & TF43377460)

Introduction.

94 later prehistoric sherds, mostly very small and weighing a total of only 74 grams, were recovered from the site. Sixteen of these (36g), deriving probably from three vessels, were recovered from the base of a possible pit (MX93/10). The remaining sherds were recovered from the pipeline easement (ATM93/2) and comprised mainly small scraps seemingly derived from a single vessel. One of the sherds from Context 10 appears also, on the grounds of its fabric and decoration, to have belonged to this vessel, thus supporting the excavator's suggestion that the whole collection may have derived from a single feature. A full list of pottery by context is provided in archive, with details of fabric, vessel part, form, dimensions, surface finish, decoration, abrasion, surface deposits, method of manufacture and firing. Each entry in this archive represents an individual sherd, a group of joining sherds, or a group of non-joining sherds with identical attributes.

The following conventions are employed in the fabric descriptions: Condition: unabraded (original surfaces unworn); moderately abraded (part of original surfaces worn); abraded (original surfaces substantially worn); very abraded (all surfaces worn).

Frequency of inclusions: rare $(\langle 3\% \rangle)$; sparse (3-10%); moderate (11-25%); common (26-40%); abundant $(\langle 40\% \rangle)$.

Size of inclusions: fine (<0.25 mm); medium (0.25-1 mm); coarse (1-3 mm); very coarse (<3 mm).

Fabrics

All vessels were manufactured from a shelly fabric (S1) characterised by moderate to sparse poorly sorted fine to coarse angular shell, combined with moderate to sparse well-sorted fine to medium rounded quartz. Firing conditions and surface colour vary markedly between each of the proposed vessels, as described below. The fabric is soft, sandy in feel and has an irregular fracture.

Forms

All sherds derived from handmade vessels, mainly of uncertain form. Five sherds (13g) from Context 10 joined to form a small carinated fragment, interpreted as probably part of a small lid with a slightly tapering rim (Fig. 4.1).

Surface Treatment

The 'lid' preserves faint traces of several lightly incised diagonal lines immediately above its base (Fig.4.1), possibly decorative in nature. Nine other sherds (20g) from the same context, but probably from another vessel with oxidised surfaces (orange) and unoxidised core (light grey), preserve several faintly incised lines, arranged apparently in a random fashion. One other sherd from Context 10 and several of the many small scraps from the

easement (ATM93/2), all possibly from the same vessel, preserve impressed linear ornament executed probably with a comb; these sherds are too small for the layout of the decoration to be determined, but several preserve two widely spaced (c5mm) and roughly parallel lines (Fig.4.2).

Typological Affinities and Dating

The linear comb impressions recall most strongly the comb-impressed decoration which was occasionally applied to collared urns and other early Bronze Age vessels from the East Midlands (eg.Broughton, Lincs.: May, 1976, fig.41.2; Belvoir, Leics.: Allen, 1988, fig.15.3:18; Bramcote; Notts.: Allen, 1988, fig.15.7:61), while the randomly incised decoration may also be parallelled on early Bronze Age vessels from this region (eg Stainsby, Lincs.: May, 1976, fig.43.1). Close parallels cannot be cited for the lid, although significantly larger examples are known to have capped Deverel-Rimbury vessels from the region (eg Allen et al, 1987, fig.13.4[A]). In view of its small size, however, and its association with other pots for which an early Bronze Age date may be suggested, we might speculate whether it had served as a cover for a small pygmy cup or related vessel.

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- 4.1. Fabric S1. Possible lid fragment, with tapered direct rounded rim; carinated profile. Faint traces of incised diagonal lines on 'shoulder'. Oxidised interior (orange/buff), but otherwise irregularly fired (orange/buff/light to dark grey). Moderately abraded. Context 20, MX 93 (pit?).
- 4.2. Fabric S1. Example of one of several sherds with roughly parallel lines, formed possibly by comb, from Context 2, ATM 93. Oxidised outer surface (buff) but otherwise unoxidised (dark/light grey). Unabraded.
- 4.3. Fabric S1. As 1.2, except that interior also oxidised (buff/orange). Context 10, MX93; probably the same vessel as 4.2.

REFERENCES

Allen, C.S.M. (1988) Bronze Age Pottery of the Second Millennium bc in the East Midlands of England. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Nottingham.

Allen, C.S.M, Harman, M. and Wheeler, H. (1987) 'Bronze Age cremation cemeteries in the East Midlands' *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 53, 187-221.

May, J. (1976) Prehistoric Lincolnshire. Lincoln.

REPORT ON THE ROMAN POTTERY from MX93, Miles Cross Hill, Well. Alford Trunk Main, July-August 1993

Margaret J Darling

CLAU, 30 September 1993

1. INTRODUCTION:

This has been recorded in the archive format of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, the resulting computer database being available on the CLAU system. No details of the individual contexts or their relationships was available, so the provenance of the pottery is not discussed.

The quantity amounted to only 206 sherds, as Table 1:

TABLE 1: Quantities and dates by context

Sherds	percent	Weight	percent		Cxt	Date
5	2.43%	2	0.08%		8	ROMAN
3	1.46%	15	0.64%		11	3?
110	53.40%	816	34.81%		12	ML3+
47	22.82%	454	19.37%	``	13	ML3?
4	1.94%	2	0.08%		15	PROB M3
37	17.96%	1055	45.01%		26	L-VL4
206	100.00%	2344	100.00% TC	TAL		

2. OVERALL CHRONOLOGY:

The bulk is 3rd century, and probably the latter half, but extends to the late 4th century on a single vessel. The earliest sherd is an ?jar body sherd in an Iron Age tradition pimply fabric, the date range of which could extend to the mid-late 2nd century.

3. DETAILED DATING:

Contexts 8, 11 and 15 contained only chips of pottery, for which dating (as above) is either impossible or very tentative.

- (12) was mostly one vessel, a GREY narrow-necked jar with a cordon at base of neck. SHEL bss might be dales ware. Dating is primarily from NVCC folded scaled decorated beaker with a late grey/red brown fabric which suggests ML3 conservatively, possibly running into 4c. but providing too little evidence for certainty.
- (13) again had many sherds from a single GREY vessel, jar or bowl with a string base. 4 tiny chips of SHEL not identifiable, and not certainly the same as in (12). Rim fragments of a wide-mouthed bowl with a simple curved-over rim could be the same vessel as in (12), and would suggest a similar date, ML3. An unusual inclusion is a sherd of IAGR of the pimply type, possibly from the shoulder of a jar with a shoulder groove. The source of this fabric is unknown, but its date is as likely to be 2nd century as earlier. The fabric occurs on jars of Roxby type A of Antonine date, but the Roxby fabric description suggests more standard grey fabric (Rigby & Stead 1976, 139). Jars of this type are known from Brough (Corder's old excavations).

(26) The only context with better evidence for date contained:

NVCC bowl, possibly of the copy Dr 36 type which in Lincoln occurs first in contexts dated to the L3E4. GREY DPRS, a 3rd century type of plain rimmed dish. GREY BWM, rim/body of a wide-mouthed bowl very much of the Lincoln Rookery Lane RL40 type, but could perhaps be similar to Messingham bowls from the Churchyard site which should be 4c (Rigby & Stead 1976, 147). GREY BWM, wide-mouthed bowl rim fragment is close to Lincoln Rookery Lane RL38 type. GREY BTR, bowl with a heavy triangular rim, broadly a later 3rd c. type. GREY BIBF, a inturned bead-and-flange bowl, of the type of Lincoln Swanpool D23, also made in the Messingham kilns, known from the North site (Rigby & Stead 1976, 152), possibly slightly later than the Churchyard site. GFIN a rouletted beaker, with curvilinear body profile, decorated with zones of rouletting. The only parallel I can think of is a Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk example with a curved rim from local kilns (Darling & Gurney 1993, fig 137, no 6). A mid-3rd or, conservatively, early-mid 3rd date is probable.

The date of most of the above would be late 3rd-4th, but the BIBF should be very late 4th century (the earliest date would be late 4th).

4. CONDITION:

The pottery was mostly fragmented, some heavily so, and abraded, with consequent loss of surfaces.

5. SHERD LINKS:

The only definite link was between 12 and 13 where the rim fragments of a probable wide-mouthed bowl appeared to be from the same vessel.

6. OVERVIEW OF FABRICS AND FORMS

FABRICS:

TABLE 2: Quantities by fabric

Sherds	percent	Weight	percent	Fabric
2	0.97%	69	2.94%	GFIN
145	70.39%	2031	86.65%	GREY
1	0.48%	25	1.07%	IAGR
4	1.94%	42	1.79%	NVCC
3	1.46%	6	0.26%	OX
51	24.76%	171	7.30%	SHEL
206	100.00%	2344	100.00%	TOTAL

NVCC Nene Valley colour-coated ware: only two vessels, a folded beaker in a later type of grey and redbrown fabric from 12, and a footring base of a possible imitation of a samian Dr 36 in normal cream fabric from 26.

OX Oxidized: two vessels, a curious small ?bowl with a cordon, very abraded sandy grey-cored redbrown fabric small sherds from 12, and a chip in a finer cream-brown fabric from 8.

GFIN Grey, fine: single vessel from 26, body sherds of a beaker with a curvilinear profile, the bulges decorated with zones of rouletting. Fine fabric with silt sized quartz and tiny black iron ore particles. Not as fine as Parisian fabric; possibly from a source within the area.

IAGR Gritty Iron Age tradition fabric: a single body sherd from 13, possibly from a jar with a grooved shoulder. The fine black wheel-thrown fabric has a scatter ill-sorted quartz, occasional red-brown and greyish earthy inclusions, producing pimply surfaces. The source of this fabric is unknown, and without a rim, very difficult to date, but more likely to be 1st-2nd century than later. I would hesitate to date it 1st century since use of Iron Age tradition fabrics continued into the 2nd century.

SHEL Miscellaneous shell-tempered fabrics. It is possible that there are two fabrics represented, but certainty is difficult as they are mostly only chips. One could possibly be dales ware, and is hand-made. The other appears to be thinner walled and possibly wheel-thrown.

GREY Sand-tempered grey: all the grey fabrics were fairly standard quartz sand-tempered with commonabundant mostly sub-angular grains, some more ill-sorted. Sandwich effects with contrasting cores were common. Probably more than one source is involved due to differing dates; the fabrics of the late inturned bead-and-flange bowl and the wide-mouthed bowls of probably earlier date differ slightly.

FORMS:
Analysis of the forms is as Table 3: TABLE 3: Quantities by form

Sherds		percent	Weight	percent	Form	
		73	35.44%	1068	45.56%	-
	Bowls:					
		2	0.97%	39	1.66%	B36?
		2	0.97%	5	0.21%	B?
		1	0.48%	34	1.45%	BIBF
		1	0.48%	54	2.30%	BTR
		2	0.97%	144	6.14%	BWM
		10	4.85%	67	2.86%	BWM?
	Beakers:					
		2	0.97%	3	0.13%	BKFOS
		2	0.97%	69	2.94%	BKROU
	Closed	jars:				
		43	20.87%	153	6.53%	CLSD
		1	0.48%	25	1.07%	CLSD?
		6	2.91%	88	3.75%	JNN
		- 57	27.67%	558	23.80%	JNN?
	Dishes:					
		4	1.94%	37	1.58%	DPR
_	· ·	206	100.00%	2344	100.00%	TOTAL

There is only one classifiable jar form, but the CLSD sherds are probably from jars, as are probably most of the unclassified body sherds. The group is too small to recognize any pecularities in the assemblage. The fragmentary nature of the curved rims in 12 and 13, probably from the same vessel, preclude certainty that the vessel was a wide-mouthed bowl rather than a large jar, but the former is probable.

7. DRAWABLE VESSELS:

- (12) GREY Narrow necked jar with cordon.

 Possibly the OX small bowl with cordon, but little to give pitch.
- (26) GREY BIBF GREY BWM GREY BTR GFIN beaker body

8. CONCLUSIONS:

The quantity is too small to draw many conclusions beyond overall date-range which is likely to be 2nd to late 4th century; one sherd in a long-lived fabric is insufficient to indicate 1st century. There are no exceptional vessels or fabrics, and for the size and date, there appears to be a normal mix of vessels.

Wed Sep 29 18:48:45 GMT 1993 8, GREY, -, -, -, -, CHIPS DK GRY; GRY-BN SURFS, -, 4, 1 8, OX, -, -, -, -, CHIP FINE LT CR-BN THIN-WALL, -, 1, 1 8, ZDATE, -, -, -, -, RO, -, -, -11, GREY, CLSD, -, -, -, THINNISH WALL BS, -, 1, 3 11, GREY, DPR, -, 1, -, -, RIM/BS; STRAIGHT SIDE, -, 2, 12 11, ZDATE, -, -, -, -, 3?, -, -, -12, GREY, BWM?, -, -, -, RIM FR; CURVED; SKETCH; SAME IN, 12, 1, 12 12, GREY, CLSD, -, -, -, BS FAB2; SMALLISH VESS, -, 1, 3 12, GREY, CLSD, -, -, -, BS FAB3, -, 4, 28 12, GREY, JNN, -, 1, S, -, RIMS/BSS; CORDON BASE NECK; SKETCH, -, 6, 88 12, GREY, JNN?, -, 1, -, -, BSS PROB X JNN, -, 57, 558 12, NVCC, BKFOS, -, 1, -, -, BSS GRY/RB FAB, -, 2, 3 12, OX, B?, -, 1, -, -, RIM/BS DIAM 11 CORDON; SKETCH, -, 2, 5 12, SHEL, CLSD, -, -, -, BASE ABR BSS/CHIPS, -, 37, 119 12, ZDATE, -, -, -, -, ML3+, -, -, -12, ZZZ, -, -, -, -, NEARLY ALL 1 VESS JNN; DATE BKFOS, -, -, -13, GREY, -, -, 1, -, -, BSS DIFF VESS, -, 2, 49 13, GREY, -, -, 1, -, -, BSS DIFF VESS, -, 8, 49 13, GREY, -, -, 1, -, -, BSS PROB SAME VESS AS BASE, -, 18, 115 13, GREY, -, -, 1, -, -, STRING BASE; J OR B, -, 5, 156 13, GREY, BWM?, -, 1, -, -, RIM FRS/BSS AS IN, 12, 9, 55 13, IAGR, CLSD?, -, -, -, BS; WHEEL; GROOVE ?SHLDR, -, 1, 25 13, SHEL, -, -, -, -, TINY BLK EXT. BSS, -, 4, 5 13, ZDATE, -, -, -, -, ML3?, -, -, -13, ZZZ, -, -, -, -, MOST 1 GREY VESS; DATE ON BWM, -, -, -15, SHEL, -, -, -, -, CHIP OX. EXT SURF, -, 1, 1 15, SHEL, -, -, -, -, CHIPS DK GRY; THINNER; WHEEL? AS 13, -, 3, 1 15, ZDATE, -, -, -, -, PROB M3, -, -, -26, GFIN, BKROU, ROUZ, 1, S, -, BSS UNUS. CURVY; CF CAISTER 137-6; SKETCH, -, 2, 69 26, GREY, -, -, -, -, BASAL J OR B, -, 1, 100 26, GREY, -, -, -, -, BASE SKETCH, -, 1, 41 26, GREY, -, -, -, -, BASE W HOLE POST-FIRING; SKETCH, -, 1, 176 26, GREY, -, -, -, -, BSS, -, 16, 219 26, GREY, -, -, 1, -, -, BASE SHS, -, 2, 109 26, GREY, BIBF, -, -, S?, -, RIM FR; CF SP-D23 & MESSINGHAM, -, 1, 34 26, GREY, BTR, -, -, S?, -, RIM FR; HEAVY TRIANG, -, 1, 54 26, GREY, BWM, -, -, S, -, RIM FR; SQUARISH; CF RL38?; SKETCH, -, 1, 22 26, GREY, BWM, -, -, S, -, RIM/BODY CF RL40; MESSINGHAM; SKETCH, -, 1, 122 26, GREY, DPR, -, 1, S?, -, J RIMS; BEVEL RIM; ST. SIDED; SKETCH, -, 2, 25 26, NVCC, B36?, -, 1, -, -, FTRG/BS GROOVED INT; ?RPNV81, -, 2, 39 26, SHEL, -, -, -, -, BSS PROB DWSH, -, 6, 45 26, ZDATE, -, -, -, -, L-VL4, -, -, -

MX93 MILES CROSS HILL, WELL. ROMAN POTTERY

26, ZZZ, -, -, -, -, DATE ON BIBF, -, -, -

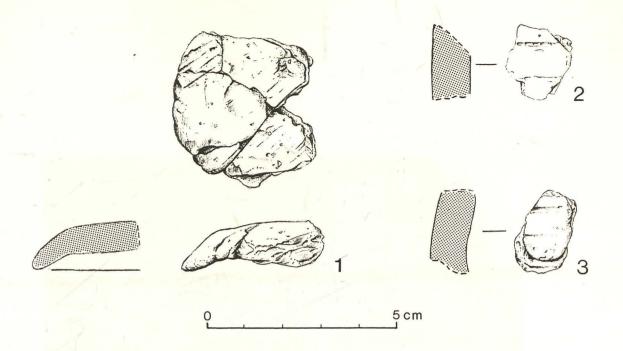


Fig. 4 Miles Cross Hill. Prehistoric pottery from the excavations. (J.Goddard).



Pl.1 Air photograph of Miles Cross Hill, Well: showing the chalk quarry and the covered reservoir. R. Walkington (before 1970).



P1.2 The pipe trench beside the reservoir compound; darker soil marks Ditch 7.

Pl.3 Ditch visible in trench sides before archaeological excavation.





Pl.4 Enclosure I, looking east, with darker subsoil to west and south of gullies.

Pl.5 Enclosure I after excavation.





Pl.6 Section across Enclosure Gully 3 at edge of reservoir compound, looking NW.

Pl.7 Section across Gully 5, looking west.





Pl.8 Gully 22 and Posthole 24 to west of Ditch 7, looking north-west.

Pl.9 Enclosure II, marked by photographic scales, looking east.





P1.10 Section across Gully 20.

Pl.11 Section across Gully 16.





Pl.12 Section across Ditch 7, with later Gully on west edge; looking south-east.

Pl.13 Ditch 7, looking north-east.





Pl.14 Pit 9 (in right foreground), with Enclosure II beyond: before excavation, looking west.

Pl.15 Bronze Age Pit 9, half-sectioned.

