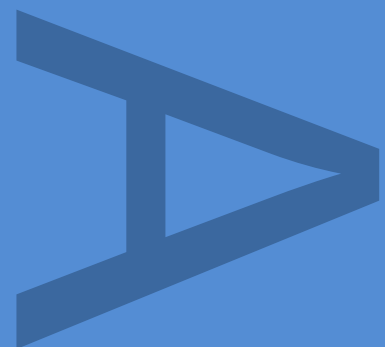


**STONTON CATCHMENT WATER  
FRIENDLY FARMING PROJECT,  
AREAS 3 & 4A, ROLLESTON,  
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
OBSERVATION**

**June 2014**




DOCUMENT VERIFICATION



STONTON CATCHMENT WATER FRIENDLY  
FARMING PROJECT, AREAS 3 & 4A, ROLLESTON,  
LEICESTERSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Quality Control

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**Stonton Catchment Water Friendly Farming Project, Rolleston, Leicestershire:  
Archaeological Observation**

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**Local Planning Authority:** **Harborough District Council**

**Central National Grid Reference:** **Pond site 3 – SK 73418 01877  
Pond site 4a- SK 74324 00960**

**Site Code:** **SCWP14**

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**June 2014**

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## ABSTRACT

*An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Sites 3 and 4a on the Rolleston Estate, Leicestershire as part of the Stonton Catchment Water Friendly Farming Project. The work was undertaken as part of a planning condition. A total of seventeen ponds ranging in depth from 0.6m-1m deep were excavated within the two sites intermittently from 31st January 2014. At Site 3 a colluvial subsoil produced an assemblage of abraded late Roman pottery, tile, animal bone and worked stone, the assemblage was indicative of nearby domestic activity. Its deposition is likely due to hill wash from possible settlement sites identified on the eastern and northern valley slopes beyond the perimeter of the investigation area. A small assemblage of late medieval and post-medieval pottery was found within the topsoil. No evidence for archaeological activity was found at Site 4a.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Archaeological Observation (watching brief) was carried out by Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) as part of the Stonton Catchment Water Friendly Project, Rolleston, Leicestershire (Figures 1 & 2). The watching brief observed the excavation of multiple ponds at two sites (Pond Site 3 and 4a) intermittently from January 2014.
- 1.2 The development sites lies in an area with potential for the presence of archaeological remains within the parish of Rolleston. Pond Site 3 is located to the north-east of the historic medieval settlement core of Rolleston (MLE: 16854) and consists of nine ponds (Figure 3) situated within a steep river valley centred on NGR SK 73418 01877. Pond site 4a was situated to the north of Rolleston within the base of an undulating narrow valley/spring line. The results of the excavation for eight ponds (Figure 5) centred on NGR SK 74324 00960 at this site forms part of this report.
- 1.3 The sites had previously been the subject of an Archaeological Evaluation in April 2013 by Leicester University Archaeological Services (Kipling 2013). A written scheme of investigation (PCA 2014) detailing the method by which the current watching brief would be undertaken was prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork, in consultation with the County Archaeology Office for Leicestershire, and in accordance with the Institute for Field Archaeology Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- 1.4 A total of seventeen ponds ranging in depth from 0.6m-1m deep were excavated and recorded intermittently from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 with the aim of identifying and recording any surviving archaeological remains and or deposits that would have been impacted upon by the groundwork's. This was achieved through the identification and recovery of Roman, late medieval and post-medieval pottery, Roman tile, animal bone, worked stone and Prehistoric lithics, within the colluvium and topsoil layers of Site 3.
- 1.5 The archaeological observation was project managed and undertaken by Kevin Trott of PCA Midlands. The archaeological watching brief was monitored by Teresa Hawtin (Senior Planning Archaeologist, Harborough District Council).
- 1.6 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited at Leicestershire Museum under the site code X.A34.2013.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

- 2.1.1 Pond Sites 3 and 4a are characterised by the bedrock of Dryham Formation of inter-bedded Siltstone and Mudstone formed during the Jurassic period. The superficial deposits are formed from mid Pleistocene sand and gravel Glacio-fluvial. (British Geological map viewer)

### **2.2 Topography**

- 2.2.1 The sites are located to the north and north-east of the small historic medieval settlement of Rolleston that lie close to Harborough Road & New Inn Lane (B6047) in the west. To the North-west is Bushy Road with Skeffington Road to the north-east. The whole area is undulating with small rolling hills and shallow riverine valleys, both sites are within the bases of two of these valleys that slope gradually towards the south. The two study sites are surrounded by agricultural land both pasture and arable. Site 3 is within a particular steep valley.
- 2.2.2 The level on each pond changes as they progress southwards down the valleys. At Pond Site 3 the most northern pond (2C) is recorded at a level of 175.17m AOD the most southerly pond (8A) is 162.67m AOD. Within Site 4a pond 1A, the most northerly, is 153.63m AOD. The most southerly pond 1I is 140.91m AOD.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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- 3.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area with a potential for the presence of archaeological remains particularly dating to the prehistoric periods (MLE: 964926). In addition, a Roman road is thought to run west of Rolleston (MLE: 8910) and several settlements (MLE: 1734) are also known in association.
- 3.2 The pond sites are situated within the environs of the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement of Rolleston, adjacent to areas of well-defined Ridge and Furrow earthworks, evidencing medieval ploughing regimes, as well as crop-marks relating to former field boundaries (MLE: 1729).
- 3.3 The place-name 'Rolleston' has Saxon origins, and it is likely that it began to develop as a notable settlement in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The Domesday Book of 1086 records that in the Gartree Wapentake *'Geoffrey Alselin holds 10c. of land in Rolleston from Geoffrey. Before 1066, 6 ploughs. In lordship 1 plough. 1 man-at-arms with 7 villagers and 1 smallholder have 3 ploughs. Meadow, 8 acres. The value was 20s; now 25s. Toki held all this land with full jurisdiction.'* (28,5).
- 3.4 Within the settlement of Rolleston are located several Historic buildings that include the Grade II listed church of St. John (LHER: 1086988) and Churchyard (LHER: 1017493), as well as Rolleston Hall (MLE: 321248) that is built on the site of its Tudor predecessor. There are two Grade II listed buildings within the Rolleston environs, New Inn (MLE: 10746) and Gardener's Cottage (LHER: 1335912).
- 3.5 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by ULAS in April 2013 prior to the 2014 excavation of the ponds on both areas 3 and 4a. Five evaluation trenches were investigated within site 3 (ULAS site1) and a further four trenches at site 4a (ULAS site 4). No artefactual or structural archaeological evidence was recorded at either site. However, they did identify a series of alluvial deposits typical of stream side locations. (Kipling 2013)



## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of Pond Sites 3 and 4a. Examination of the spoil heaps for archaeological material was also made. Any finds that were recovered were bagged and labelled per context for post excavation analysis.
- 4.2 Stripped areas and pond profile sections were scrutinised to identify, characterise and record any archaeological features and geological conditions that were exposed.
- 4.3 Records comprised survey, drawn, written and photographic data. The drawn record comprised an initial plan (scale 1:50 or 1:100) for each trench or stripped area. Thereafter, single context and/or excavated feature plans were produced for all exposed and excavated features. Trenches and features were tied into the OS grid. Sections were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.
- 4.4 The written record comprised context descriptions on PCA pro-forma context sheets. The photographic record will comprise monochrome of the stripped pond areas and supplemented by colour and digital photographs. The adopted field techniques and recording systems are detailed within PCA Operations Manual I (Taylor & Brown 2009).
- 4.5 The site was given the PCA code SCWP14.

## **5 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **5.1 Phase 1: Alluvial Steam Deposits (Figures 4 & 6)**

5.1.1 Alluvial deposits (Site 4a [103], [106], [109], [112] & [115]. Site 3 [203], [206], [209], [212] & [215]) were encountered in both watching brief areas. Within Site 3 the alluvium was a mid-light brown, compact silty clay, the depth seen ranged between 0.22-0.3m. A single very abraded, sherd of oxidised pottery dated to the Roman period was encountered within Pond 2G [209]. The alluvium encountered at Site 4a was similar but the only difference was a slightly darkening in colour, its depth ranged from 0.23 to 0.6m. The only notable difference was seen in Pond 8A, here the alluvium contained rare lenses of a peaty deposit [115].

### **7.2 Phase 2: Colluvial Sub soil (Figures 4 & 6)**

7.2.1 The alluvial horizon at Sites 3 & 4a were overlain by a sub-soil colluvium (Site 4 [102], [105], [108], [111] & [114]. Site 3 [202], [205], [208], [211] & [214]). This sub soil layer at Site 3 measured c.0.11 to 0.3m thick, it comprised moderately compact dark brown silty clay with occasional water worn pebbles and flint gravel. The pebbles and gravel were infrequently encountered across all 9 ponds. Within ponds 2H and 2I ([211] & [214]) two flint flakes were recovered these shows signs of retouch, although badly abraded. The worn cortex on the flake from [211] suggests the raw flint was sourced from local glacial till (Bishop Appendix 2). Context [211] and [214] also produced thirteen fragments of animal bone, mostly cattle with a single burnt bone fragment, along with several fragments of worked stone including part of a quern and roof slate. (Trott Appendix 4 & 5)

7.2.2 Fragments of abraded, late Roman pottery were recovered from all five contexts within Site 3. The assemblage consisted of fifty-six sherds of mainly greywares with the odd colour-coated and oxidised fragments. Identifiable vessels consisted of domestic jars, flagons and bowls. (Rowlinson Appendix 3). The largest concentration of pottery recovered from the site consisted of thirty-three sherds and two tile fragments. This was encountered within Pond 2I [214] at the lowest point of valley.

7.2.3 The subsoil within Site 4a was moderately compact silty clay, it varies slightly in colour across the ponds from mid brown to a dark-mid brown with occasional water worn pebble inclusions. This was recorded in all contexts except [108]. No further artefactual material was encountered.

### **7.3 Phase 3: Top Soil (Figures 4 & 6)**

- 7.3.1 Sealing the colluvium across both sites was the grassed topsoil (Site 4a [101], [104], [107], [110] & [113]. Site 3 [201], [204], [207], [210] & [213]). This topsoil was fairly uniform across both sites consisting of moderately compact, dark brown humic silty clay. The only variation was the amount to rootlets within the soil. At Site 3 rootlets were more prolific due to the wooded nature of the area. A single abraded fragment of Roman grey ware and a small fragment from a Staffordshire Mottled-ware cup was recovered from the topsoil [213] of Pond 2I. A sherd from a 16<sup>th</sup>-mid 17<sup>th</sup> Cistercian cup fragment and a mid-17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century Stafford/Derbyshire Black-glazed jug/jar sherd were recovered from the topsoil within Pond 2A [201].

## 8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

8.1 The archaeological watching brief sought to address the following objectives (Cooper 2006; Knight et al 2012):

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation.

No archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief at Site 3 that supported the findings of the previous evaluation (Kipling 2013), although pottery and tile dating from the late Roman period was predominately collected from the subsoil layers along with animal bone, worked stone and Prehistoric lithics. A small quantity of late medieval and post-medieval pottery was retained from the topsoil. It is likely the pottery is the result of hill wash associated with the scatters of Roman pottery and tile, identified on the valley sides to the north and east of the investigation area (Figure 3). No artefactual evidence of Saxon or early-mid medieval activity was found at Site 3 and it is doubtful that this area was utilised throughout these periods, although a single late medieval sherd and two post-medieval sherds may derive from ploughed-out ridge & furrow that was once present upslope.

At Site 4a, no archaeological features were recorded or artefactual material found during the watching brief. This supported the earlier findings of the evaluation (Kipling 2013)

- To set the site and its potential archaeological remains if encountered into the context of the wider landscape.

The Roman pottery retrieved at Site 3, was all abraded given the nature of its discovery; within the base of the stream valley; it is most likely the result of hill wash from a nearby undiscovered settlement. A brief walk over survey of the surrounding cultivated valley sides conducted by Kevin Trott, identified a dense scatter of Roman building material and pottery located east of Ponds 2H and 2I (Figure 3). A further less dense scatter of Roman pottery was also identified to the north of site (Figure 3). The evidence suggests there was settlement activity within the area during the late Roman period.

- To confirm the presence or absence of any Prehistoric or Roman activity and land-use relating to the Saxon origins to the later documented settlement of Rolleston in the Domesday Survey.

Limited evidence for prehistoric activity was identified at Site 3 in the form of two abraded flint flakes. The flints were likely hewn from local glacial wash flint and their battered nature suggests they are the result of hill wash. It is possible to suggest

some prehistoric activity may have taken place within the wider environs of the Rolleston estate (MLE: 964926).

Evidence of late Roman activity was present on the site within the colluvial subsoil. The assemblage took the form of pottery, tile, animal bone and worked stone. The assemblage was indicative of settlement activity; although its abraded nature suggests its deposition maybe a result of hill wash. Scatters of Roman material identified on the eastern and northern valley slopes indicate the possibility of a late Roman settlement.

No evidence of Saxon or early-mid medieval activity was found during the watching brief. The single late medieval sherd and two post-medieval pottery fragments were relatively un-abraded and could of derived from the now ploughed-out ridge & furrow that in places still survive on the Rolleston Estate.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 The archaeological watching brief at Site 4a of the Stonton Catchment Project, on the Rollerston Estate, found no evidence of any archaeological features or artefacts. The watching brief clarified the earlier evaluation that no archaeological activity was present within this study area.
- 9.2 The monitoring of the ponds at Site 3 identified a quantity of Roman artefacts that potentially relate to a settlement on the valley sides close to the site. A rapid walker over survey of the cultivated valley sides by Kevin Trott, identified two potential scatters of Roman material on the northern and eastern slopes. The Leicestershire HER also notes several metal detecting finds of Roman date within nearby fields (Teresa Hawtin, pers. Comm.). The presence of prehistoric flints and later medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from Site 3 suggest nearby utilisation of the surrounding landscape within these three broad time frames.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Dr Chris Stoate of The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust Ltd for funding the archaeological investigations and Teresa Hawtin (Senior Planning Archaeologist Leicestershire County Council) for monitoring the investigations.
- 10.2 The author would like to thank Kevin Trott for his project management and for undertaking the watching brief. In addition, the author would also like to offer her thanks to Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations and Ian Rowlinson and Jane Young for their pottery and tile analysis.

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**Appendix 1: Context Index**

Site	Context	Type	Interpretation	Pond	Description
Site 4a	101	Layer	Top Soil	1A & 2A	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 60% rootlets. Averaging thickness 0.3m.
	102	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	1A & 2A	Moderately compact, dark to mid brown, silty clay with occasional water worn pebbles. Thickness 0.25m-0.28m
	103	Layer	Alluvium	1A & 2A	Compacted light brown sticky silty clay, with no inclusions. Thickness recorded 0.28m to 0.3m. Continued below level of excavation.
	104	Layer	Top Soil	3A, 4A & 5A	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 50% rootlets. Averaging thickness 0.20m
	105	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	3A, 4A & 5A	Moderately compact, dark to mid brown, silty clay with occasional water worn pebbles. Thickness 0.3m
	106	Layer	Alluvium	3A, 4A & 5A	Compacted light brown clay, with no inclusions. Thickness recorded varies from 0.5m to 0.23m. Continued below level of excavation.
	107	Layer	Top Soil	6A	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 70% rootlets. Thickness 0.25m.
	108	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	6A	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with no inclusions. Thickness 0.22m.
	109	Layer	Alluvium	6A	Compacted light brown sticky silty clay, with no inclusions. Thickness recorded 0.3m. Continued below level of excavation.
	110	Layer	Top Soil	7A	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 70% rootlets. Thickness 0.18m.
	111	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	7A	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with occasional water worn pebbles. Thickness 0.18-0.2m.
	112	Layer	Alluvium	7A	Compacted light brown sticky silty clay, with no inclusions. Thickness recorded 0.6m. Continued below level of excavation.
	113	Layer	Top Soil	8A	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 80% rootlets. Thickness 0.18m.

	114	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	8A	Moderately compact, dark to mid brown, silty clay with occasional water worn pebbles. Thickness 0.18m-0.20m
	115	Layer	Alluvium	8A	Compacted light brown sticky silty clay, with peaty lenses. Thickness recorded 0.6m. Continued below level of excavation.
Site 3	201	Layer	Top Soil	2A & 2B	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 40% rootlets. Thickness 0.18m -0.22m
	202	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	2A & 2B	Moderately compact, mid brown, silty clay with occasional gravel flints and water worn pebbles. 0.25 -0.30m thick. A single fragment of roman pottery was recovered.
	203	Layer	Alluvium	2A & 2B	Compact mid-light brown clay, no inclusions c.0.24 -0.30m thick. Continued below level of excavation.
	204	Layer	Top Soil	2C -2F	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 40 -50% rootlets. Thickness 0.20m - 0.23m
	205	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	2C -2F	Moderately compact, mid brown, silty clay with occasional gravel flints. 0.11 -0.16m thick. A single fragment of roman pottery was recovered
	206	Layer	Alluvium	2C -2F	Compact mid-light brown clay, no inclusions c.0.22 -0.28m thick. Continued below level of excavation.
	207	Layer	Top Soil	2G	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 40% rootlets. Thickness c.0.32m
	208	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	2G	Moderately compact, mid brown, silty clay with occasional gravel flints and water worn pebbles. 0.22m thick. A single fragment of roman pottery was recovered
	209	Layer	Alluvium	2G	Compact mid-light brown clay, no inclusions c.0.20 -0.22m thick. Continued below level of excavation. A single fragment of roman pottery was recovered
	210	Layer	Top Soil	2H	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 40% rootlets. Thickness c.0.3m
	211	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	2H	Moderately compact, mid brown, silty clay with occasional gravel flints pebbles. 0.24m thick. Fragments of animal bone, pottery and a lithic were recovered.
	212	Layer	Alluvium	2H	Compact mid-light brown clay, no inclusions c.0.3 thick. Continued below level of excavation.

	213	Layer	Top Soil	2l	Moderately compact, dark brown, silty clay with 40% rootlets. Thickness c.0.12 Fragments of pottery were recovered.
	214	Layer	Colluvium subsoil	2l	Moderately compact, mid brown, silty clay with occasional gravel flints and water worn pebbles. 0.22m thick. A small assemblage of pottery and fragments of bone and a lithic recovered from this layer.
	215	Layer	Alluvium	2l	Compact mid-light brown clay, no inclusions c.0.3 thick. Continued below level of excavation.

## Appendix 2: Lithic Assessment (Barry Bishop)

### Introduction

The archaeological investigations at the above site resulted in the recovery of two struck flints. This report describes the struck flints and assesses their archaeological significance. Both pieces were recovered from sub-soil horizons. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology established by Saville (1980).

### Description

#### **Context [214] Subsoil**

Large retouched flake in a chipped and rolled condition. It has recorticated and has a blue-white surface but recent chipping indicates it to be made from a fine-grained translucent brown flint. The flake is sturdy and has a wide unmodified striking platform measuring 10mm in depth, a moderately pronounced bulb of percussion and a retouched distal termination. Its dorsal surface comprises two adjacent flake scars, both originating from the same direction as the flake was struck. The distal end of the flake has heavy inverse scraper-like scalar retouch that forms a slightly off-centre blunt-pointed 'nose'. There are also sporadic invasive flakes removed inversely from along the left lateral margin. Much of its edges, however, are obscured by post-recortication damage. It measures 55mm long by 36mm wide and is 13mm thick

#### **Context [211] Subsoil**

Laterally split flake in a chipped condition and showing a slight milkiness indicating the very first stages of recortication. It is made from a fine-grained translucent brown flint that has a prominent opaque grey stripe running through and it retains a patch of worn nodular cortex on its dorsal face and on striking platform. Its striking platform measures 11mm in thickness and is partially flaked, although the blow that detached the flake fell onto the remnant of cortex. The flake has a moderately prominent bulb of percussion and a slightly hinged distal termination. In addition to the patch of cortex, its dorsal surface comprises three flake scars, all detached in same direction as the flake. It measures 33mm wide by >27mm wide and is 10mm thick.

### Discussion

The two pieces are in a chipped condition and are likely to have spent some time in an active burial matrix, such as a ploughsoil, prior to recovery. They are both made from flint, the worn cortex on the piece from context [211] suggesting that the raw materials for this at least were obtained from derived sources, most probably the flint-bearing glacial tills that can be found in the vicinity of the site (e.g. Henson 1985; Cooper 2006, 62). Neither of the pieces is particularly diagnostic; the flakes are broad but reasonably well struck and the retouched implement is a non-formal type. Overall they would perhaps best fit within Later Neolithic or Bronze Age industries, although it is entirely possible that the pieces are not contemporary.

## Significance and Recommendations

The struck flints indicate prehistoric activity at the site, most probably during the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age, although the assemblage is too small to indicate the precise chronology or nature of the occupations. It does contribute to a wider appreciation of prehistoric landscape use in the area, and provides further important evidence for prehistoric activity within the East Midlands claylands, an area believed until relatively recently to have been largely avoided during much of the prehistoric period (Clay 2002; 2006).

Due to the size of the assemblage no further analytical work is warranted. As it has some potential in contributing to a wider appreciation of landscape use in the area it should be recorded in the Historic Environment Record and a brief description included in any published account of the fieldwork.

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## Appendix 3: Roman Ceramics Assessment (Ian Rowlandson)

### Introduction

The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery* (Darling 2004) using the Leicestershire Museum codes commonly in use (see Pollard 1999, Clark 1999 etc.). Additional codes have been introduced following City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit form codes when suitable codes were not evident (Darling and Precious 2014). The archive record (see below) provides a full record of the pottery and will be curated in an Access database, available from the author in a digital format.

The ceramics presented for assessment totalled 56 fragments, weighing 880g RE 0.45. A total of ten fragments of tile weighing 268g were included within this total. Much of the pottery from this group consisted of small and often abraded sherds most commonly in the greyware GW5 fabric group. The tile also consisted of small fragments, many that could not be attributed to a type although examples of tegulae and an imbrex were retrieved.

Roman ceramics dating summary					
Context	Spot date	Comments	Fragments	Weight (g)	Total RE %
202	Roman	A fragment from a large greyware handled jar or flagon.	1	43	16
205	Roman	A single greyware sherd.	1	15	0
208	Roman	A single greyware sherd.	1	4	0
209	Roman?	A single oxidised sherd.	1	9	0
211	M2+	A small group including a rim fragment from a greyware necked jar or bowl and a shell-gritted sherd. A fragment from an imbrex tile was also retrieved from this context.	15	213	7
213	Roman	A single greyware sherd.	8	26	0
214	4C	A medium sized group including a fragment from a colour-coated bowl or dish, a straight sided colour-coated bowl with a bead and flanged rim, a greyware flanged bowl, a greyware flagon or handled jar and a large jar or bowl in an oxidised fabric. Fragments from Roman tiles including tegulae were also retrieved from this context.	33	583	22

### Conclusions

This is a small assemblage and much of it is in an abraded condition. It is likely that there was Roman activity in the vicinity of this site with the diagnostic sherds present suggesting that this was mostly in the late Roman period. The fragments of tile presence also suggest the possibility of building with a tiled roof in the vicinity. The limited size of this assemblage along with the poor condition of many of the sherds makes the dates offered for this group broad and limits further interpretation of how the Romano-British inhabitants of the site lived.

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Roman ceramics archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Drawing	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weigh (g)t	Rim diam	Rim eve
202	GW5	1		1	ABR		RIM HANDLE SCAR; LARGE FLAGON OR HANDLED JAR; ABRADED		1	43	10	16
205	GW5	-		1	ABR		BS; ABRADED		1	15	0	0
208	GW5	-		1			BS		1	4	0	0
209	MISC	-		1			FRAGMENT OF TILE? OXIDISED FRAGMENT WITH REDUCED EXTERNAL SURFACE		1	9	0	0
211	CB2B	-		1	ABR		BS; BOURNE-GREETHAM TYPE SHELL GRITTED FABRIC		1	5	0	0
211	GW5	-		1			BS		1	2	0	0
211	GW5	-		1			BS; FTG; GROOVED FINISHED BASE; PERHAPS EARLY ROMAN WITH BLACK SURFACES AND OXIDISED CORE		1	9	0	0
211	GW5	-		8			BS; MISC FROM CLOSED FORMS		8	82	0	0
211	GW5	4A		1			RIM FRAGMENT FROM A NECKED JAR OR BOWL		1	18	22	7
211	GW6	-		1			BS; FROM CLOSED FORM ?JAR		1	43	0	0
211	IMB	-		1			ROMAN IMBREX TILE OXIDISED WITH SHALE		1	34	0	0
211	MG	-	HM	1	ABR		BS; 'MIXED GRIT WARE'BLACK SURFACES OXIDISED CORE; ABUNDANT QUARTZ SAND AND SPARSE		1	20	0	0



Roman ceramics archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Drawing	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight (g)	Rim diam	Rim eve
							LARGER ROCK GRAINS UP TO 3MM					
213	GW5	-		1			BS		1	3	0	0
213	RTIL	-		3			SCRAPS OF OXIDISED TILE WITH SHALE		3	10	0	0
214	C2	5/6		1	ABR		BASE; BOWL OR DISH		1	25	0	0
214	C2	6F.2		1	ABR; BURNT		RIM; BEAD AND FLANGE		1	17	22	6
214	CG1	-		1	ABR		BS		1	6	0	0
214	GW5	-		3	ABR		BS		3	39	0	0
214	GW5	-		11	ABR		BS; MISC		11	148	0	0
214	GW5	1		1	ABR		HANDLE		1	9	0	0
214	GW5	10A		1	ABR		RIM; LID		1	6	18	4
214	GW5	4A		1			BS; NECKED JAR OR BOWL		1	7	11	6
214	GW5	6F.1		1	ABR		RIM; BEAD AND FLANGE; CLARK 1999 FIG. 78.360		1	15	0	2
214	GW6	-		1	VAB		BASE		1	33	0	0
214	OW	-		1	VAB		BS		1	6	0	0
214	OW5	-		1	ABR		BS		1	19	0	0
214	OW5	-		2	VAB		BS		2	9	0	0

Roman ceramics archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Drawing	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight (g)	Rim diam	Rim eve
214	OW5	4		1	ABR		RIM; JAR BOWL		1	29	26	4
214	RTIL	-		1			ROMAN TILE FRAG; OXIDISED		2	28	0	0
214	RTIL	-		1			ROMAN TILE; T=18MM; OXIDISED WITH SHALE REDUCED SURFACES		1	87	0	0
214	TEG	-		1			ROMAN TEG FRAG; OXIDISED WITH SHALE		1	76	0	0
214	TEG	-		1			ROMAN TEG; T=20MM; OXIDISED WITH SHALE; FLANGE		1	18	0	0
214	TEG	-		1			ROMAN TEG; T=20MM; TRIMMED?; OXIDISED WITH SHALE; FLANGE		1	6	0	0

---

## Appendix 4: Animal Bone Assessment (Kevin Trott)

### Introduction

The site lies within the Rollaston estate adjacent the historic village core of Skeffington. The archaeological investigation provided some prehistoric and Roman settlement activity through to the post-medieval activity. Most of the site stratigraphy comprises a modern former ploughsoil and underlying colluvial soil deposits. However, there does appear to be a Roman settlement situated near the eastern boundary to site 3.

Animal bones were recovered from deposits dating to the Roman parts of this sequence, all of which were hand recovered. Their condition can be described as moderate to good with some lamination and root etching.

### Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

### Description of faunal assemblage by phase

The site provided a grand total of 13 hand collected animal bones. All of these bones were taken from a single dated deposit (see Table 1) and these are described below.

#### Roman

There are 13 bones, with the majority from cattle; of Roman date range (see Table 1) these were taken from the colluvial layer 211. They include a cattle scapula and fragments from a metatarsal as well as unidentifiable long bone 'chips'. The assemblage also included a sheep/goat tibia, as well as a single burnt bone element.

Date:	Roman
Species	
Cattle	11
Sheep/Goat	1
Burnt	1

**Table 1: Counts of animal bones sorted by date (centuries AD)**

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## Conclusion and recommendations for further work

This small collection is in relatively good condition and recovered from a well dated deposit. However as most of the bones were derived from a colluvial deposit it can be assumed that there is a high risk of re-deposition. However, as stated the bones are relatively well preserved and there appears to be a discernible bias towards cattle in this colluvial layer. It can be shown that the Roman collection was largely dominated by cattle with little sheep, and that most of the animals eaten were adult.

No further work can be recommended for this collection. It is recommended that the bone assemblage is retained with the site archive for future reference.

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## Appendix 5: Worked Stone (Kevin Trott)

### Methodology

All three items were examined at X20 under a binocular microscope. The identifications were limited to observations achievable at this magnification and without resort to thin section. The inventory is arranged by order of examination number (Ex). The context number is also given.

### The stone artefacts

Context	Source	Description
211	Pennines/Yorkshire	Upper Millstone Grit rotary quern with convex grinding profile
211	Swithland/Leicestershire	Small broken fragment from a Swithland stone roofing slate
214	Bristol or Forest of Dean coalfield	Small square-in plan tabular broken fragment of Coal Measures Sandstone with roughly smoothed opposing surfaces and single edge/corner. Potentially a shelf fragment

### Commentary

The stone fragments are interestingly not dominated by local stone suppliers. A single broken fragment from a shelf in Coal Measures Sandstone is not currently paralleled in any excavated and published Roman sites in Leicestershire, although the author has reported on similar examples of this West Country stone being present in Roman Lincolnshire.

The Pennine Millstone Grit quern is not uncommon in the East Midlands (along with Neidermendig Lava querns), as the nearest Roman quarry to Leicestershire is at Wharnccliffe Craggs north of modern day Sheffield (Peacock 2013, 137-139).

The final fragment of stone consists of a local Swithland stone roofing slate which was quarried around the village within Swithland Wood. The earliest evidence of slate use in this area dates from Roman times when it was acquired from natural outcrops rather than deep quarries. Diamond shaped Roman slate roofing tiles have been found all over Charnwood and Leicestershire. The slate was also employed as building stone and utilised as levelling courses that can be seen in the surviving bath house/basilica wall known locally as Jewry Wall in Leicester.

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## Appendix 6: Post Medieval Ceramics (Jane Young)

### Introduction

In total, three sherds of post-Roman pottery were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered is all of post-medieval date.

The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire (Young et al.) and Nottingham (Nailor and Young 2001) fabric codenames with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames (see Table 1 and Connor and Buckley 1999). The Roman and post-Roman Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University was consulted and every effort was made to parallel the sherds found on this site with examples in it.

Recording of the post-Roman assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001).

### Condition

The pottery is in a fairly fresh condition with sherd falling into the small to medium size range (below 30grams). The assemblage is in a stable condition

### Overall Chronology and Source

A range of three identifiable post-Roman pottery types was identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: *Pottery codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd and vessel count*

Lincolnshire codename	Leicestershire codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds
BL	EA2	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	1
CIST	CW2	Cistercian ware	1480	1650	1
STMO	EA	Staffordshire Mottled ware	1680	1780	1

Topsoil deposit 201 produced a small sherd from a thick-walled Cistercian ware cup of 16th to early/mid 17th century date and part of a Staffordshire/Derbyshire Black-glazed Earthenware jug or jar of mid 17th to 18th century date. A small sherd from a Staffordshire Mottled ware cup of late 17th to 18th century date was recovered from topsoil deposit 213.

### Summary and Recommendations

This small assemblage suggests occupation in the area in the post-medieval period. This post-medieval pottery probably dates to between the 16th and 18th centuries and although slightly fragmentary is represented by fairly fresh sherds.

## **Retention**

This small assemblage should be retained for future study, especially as part of any characterisation of fabrics for a future local type series.

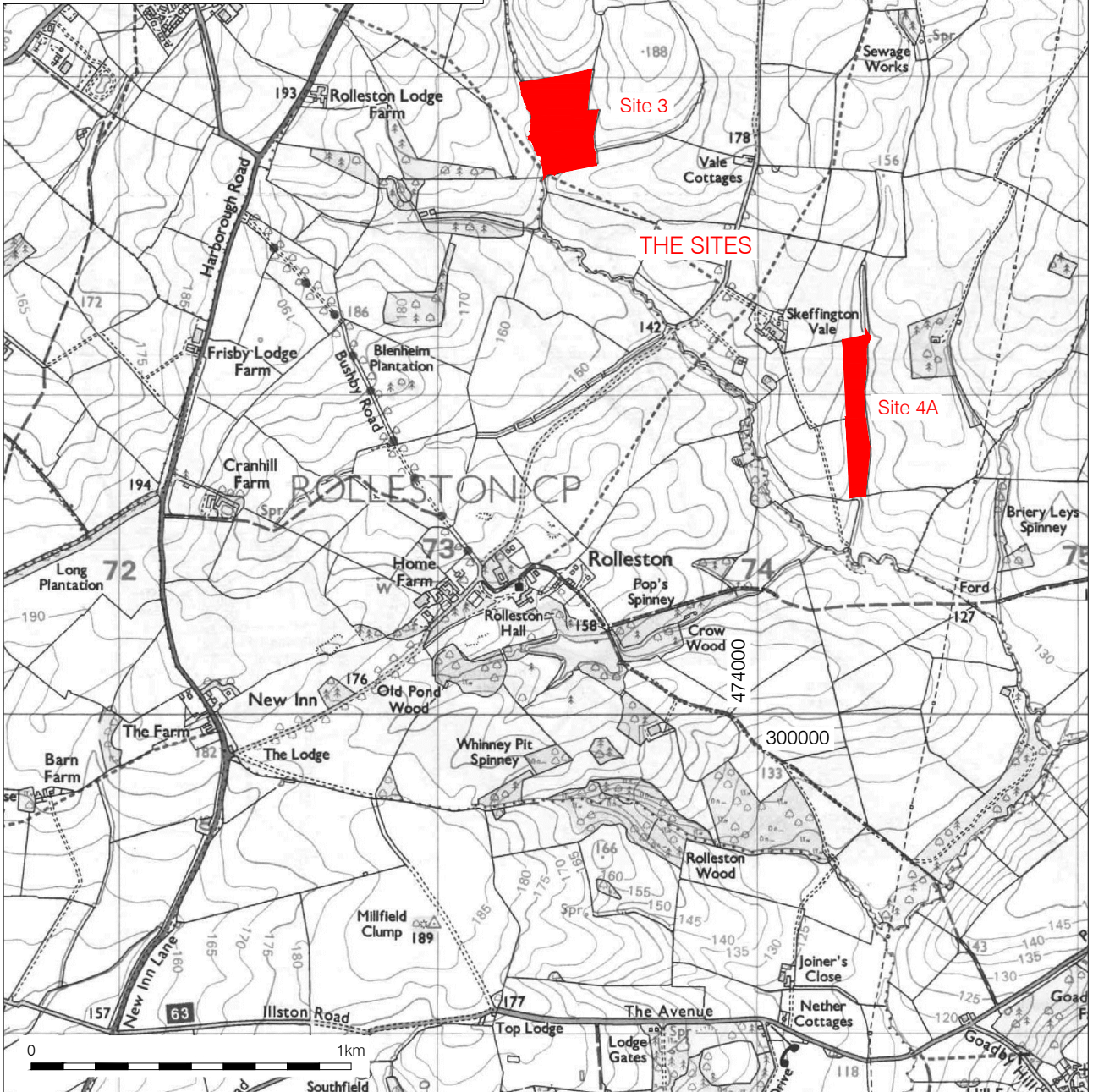
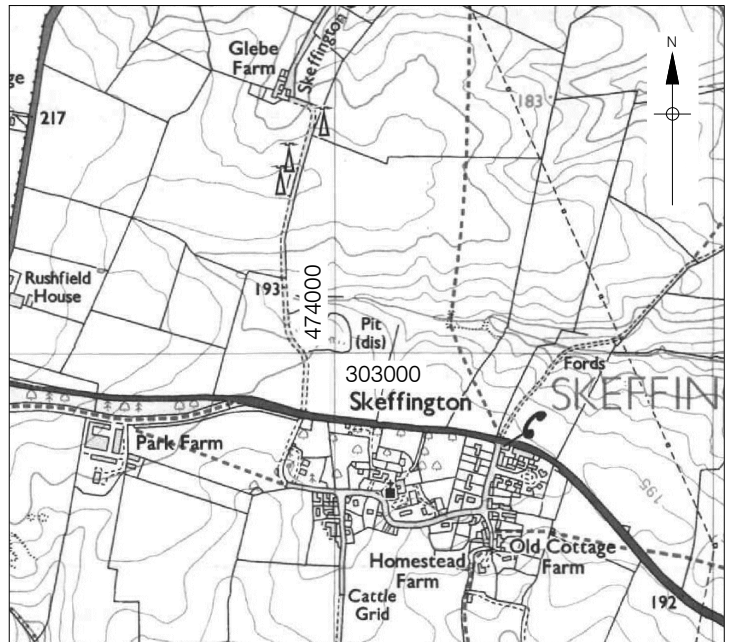
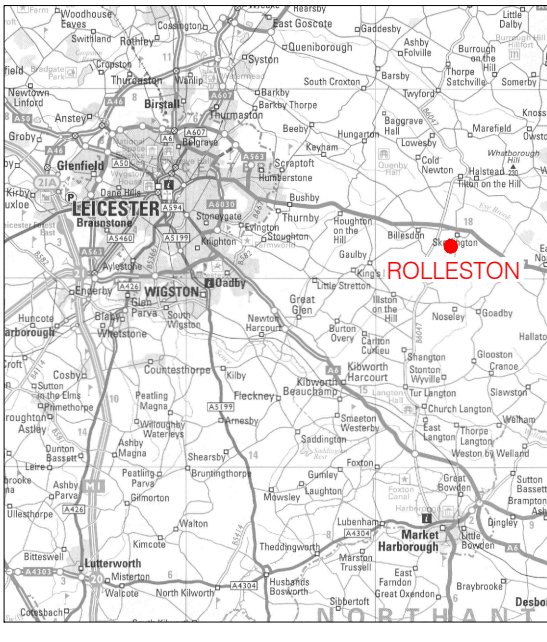
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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:400,000 & 20,000 at A4

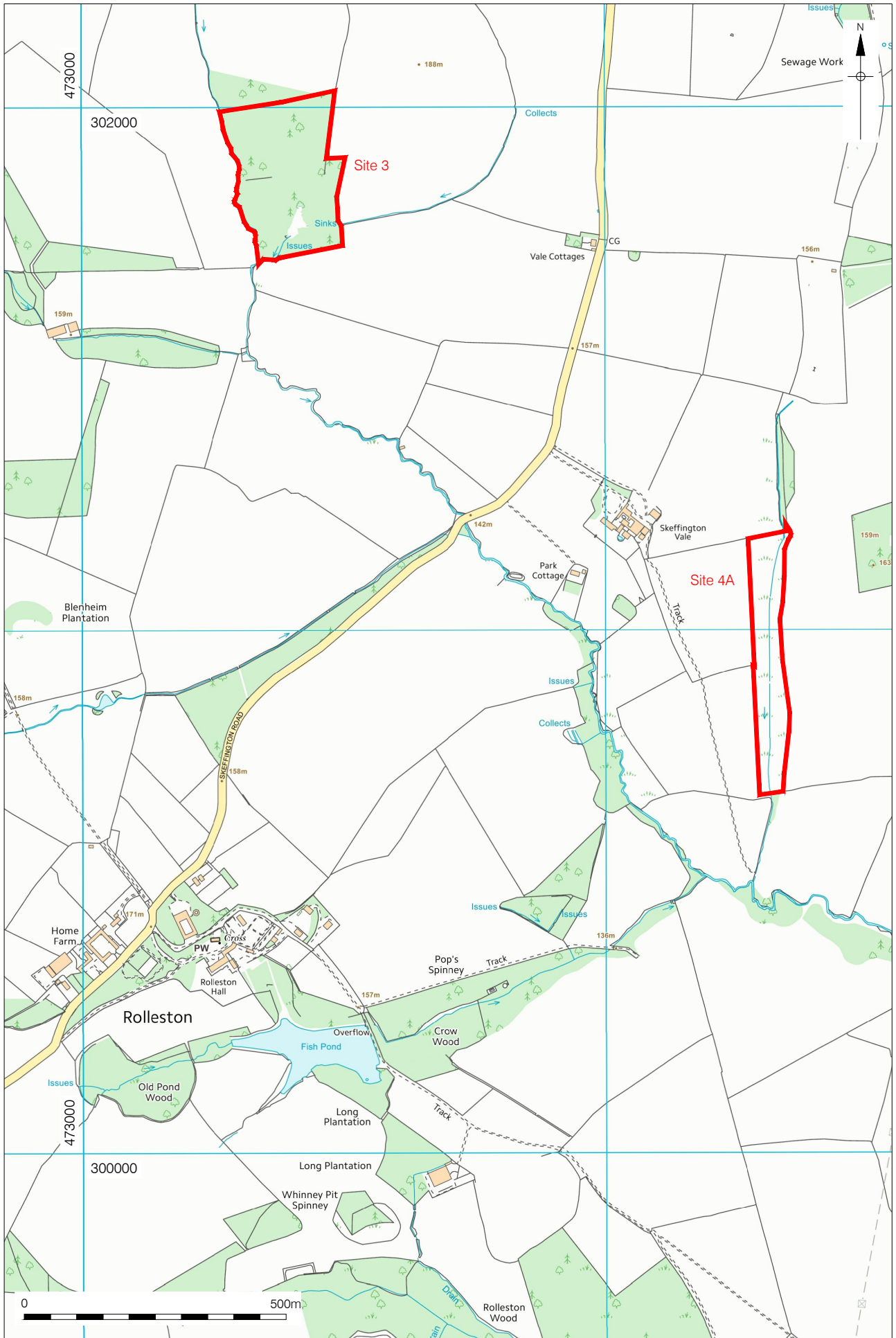
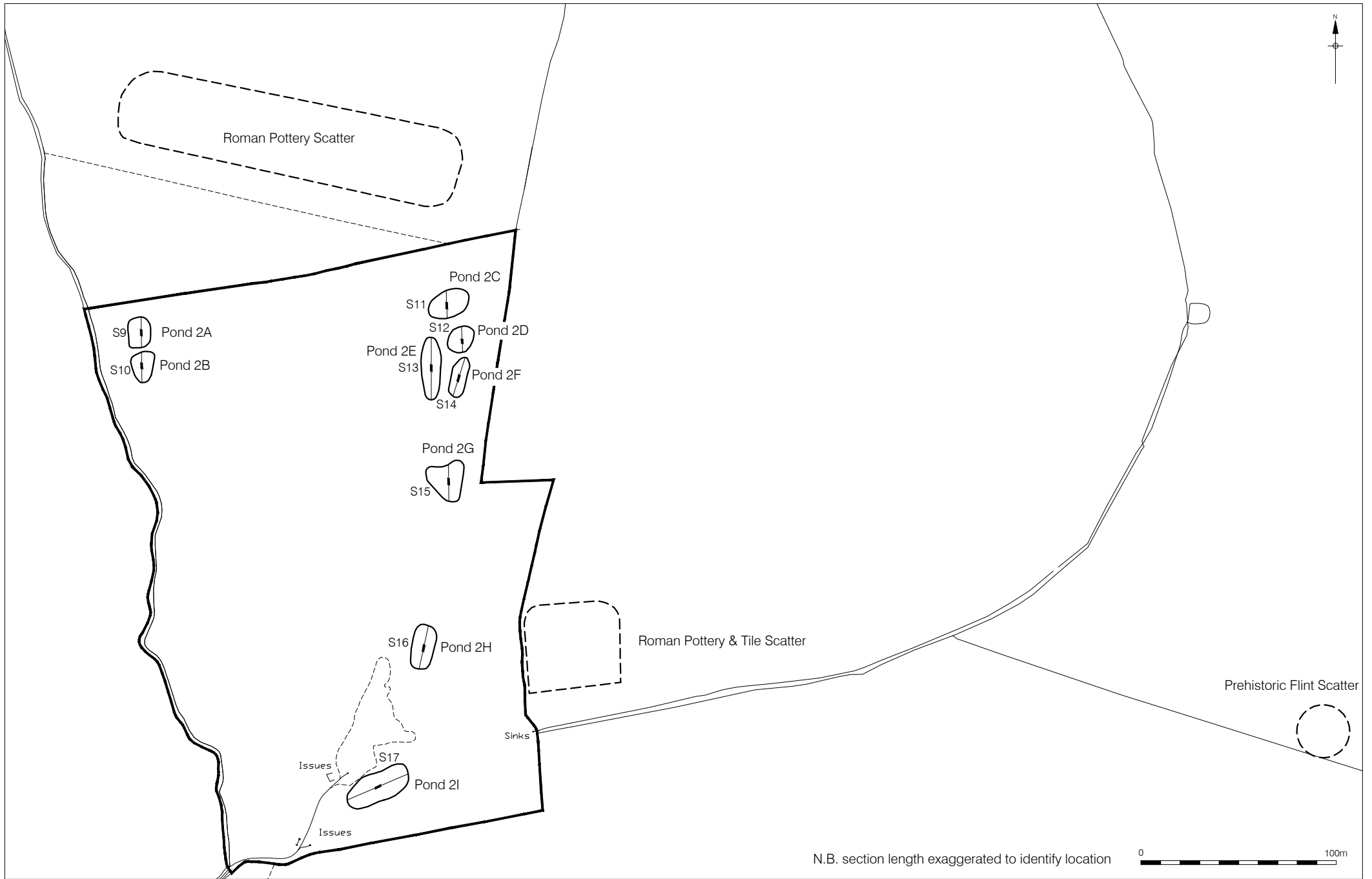
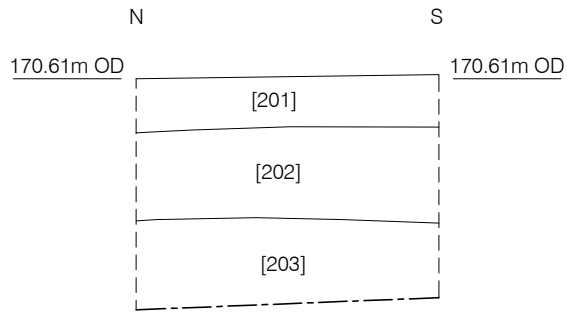
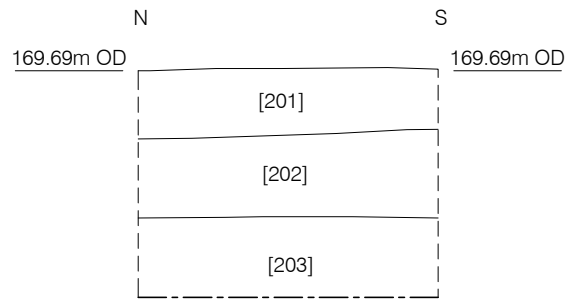


Figure 2  
 Plan of Sites  
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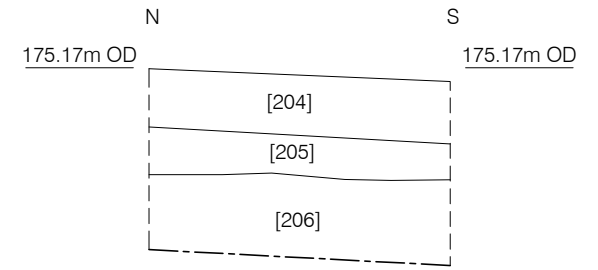




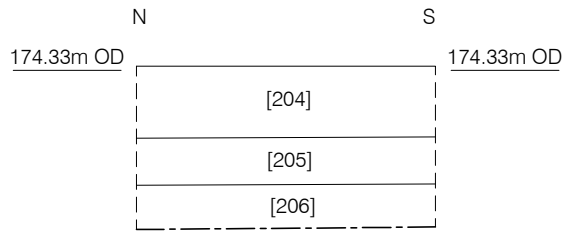
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West Facing



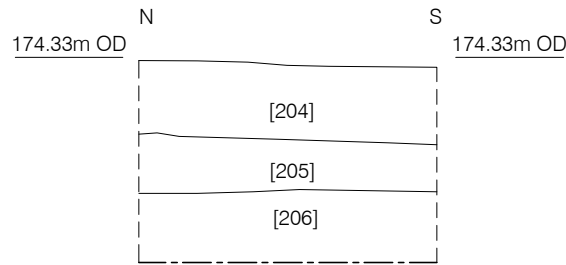
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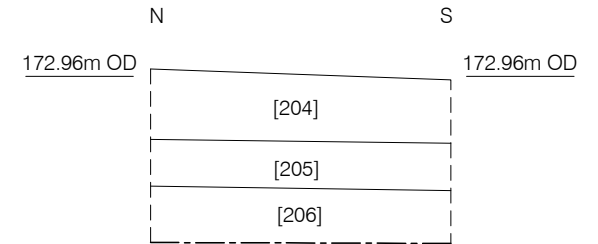
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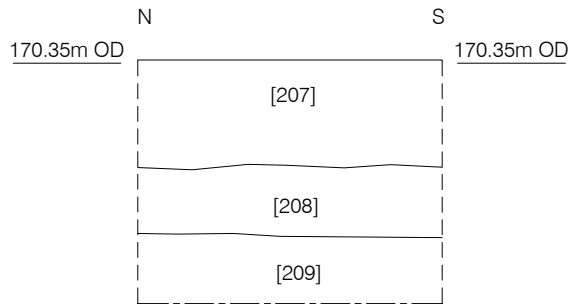
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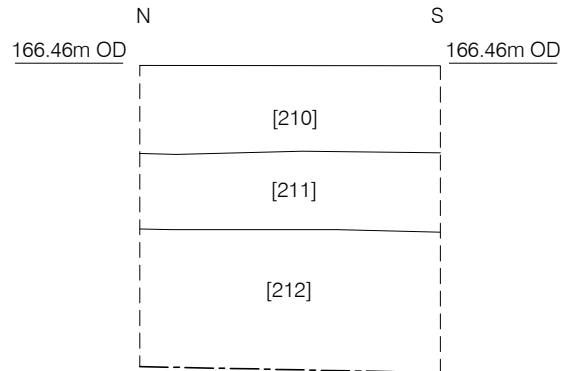
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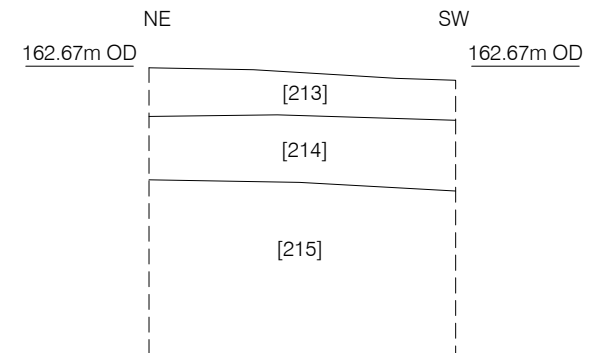
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Section 15  
Pond 2G  
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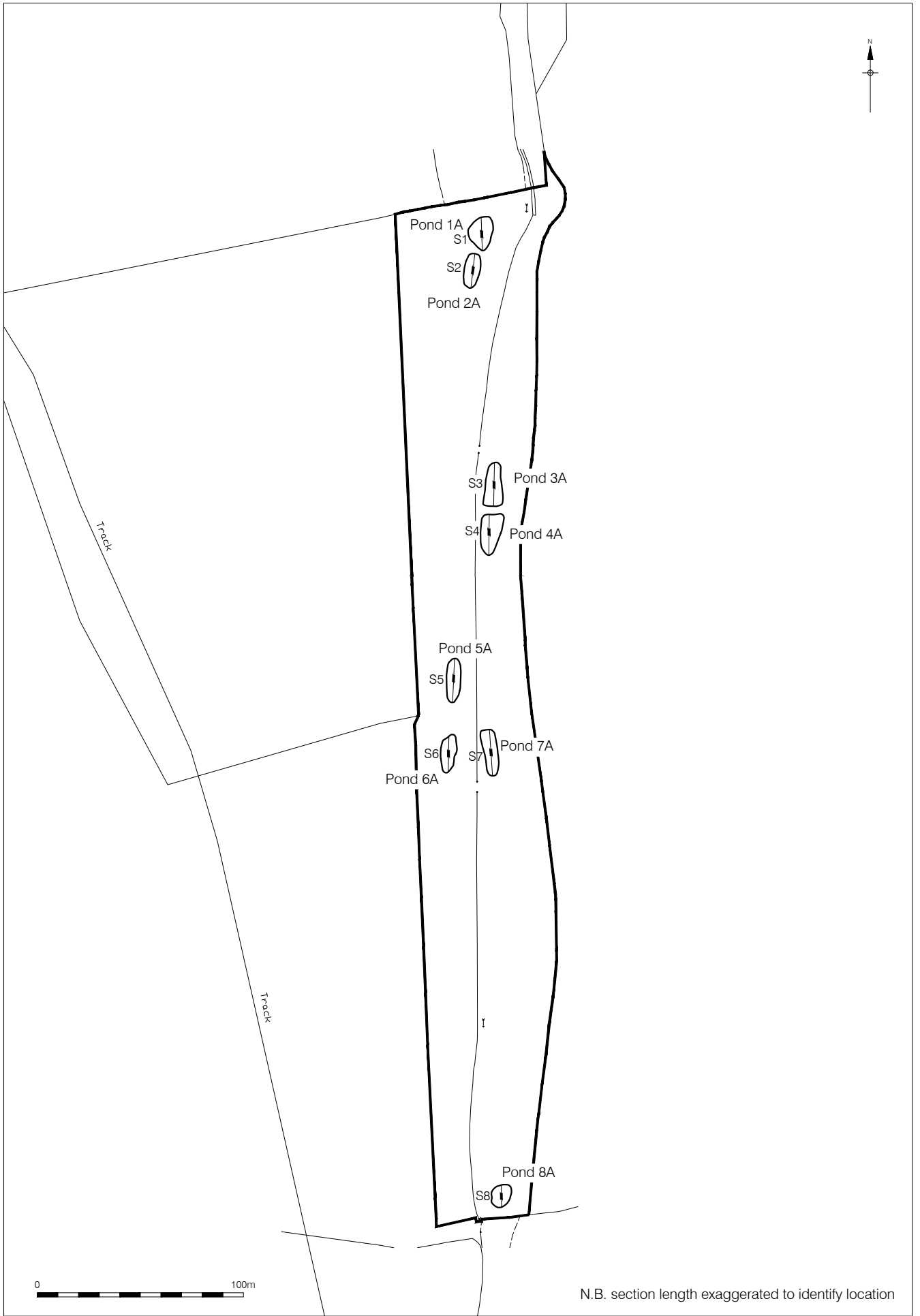


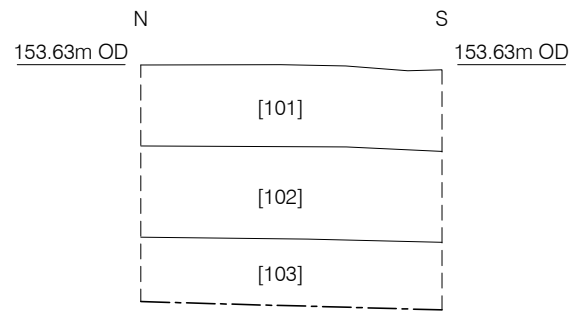
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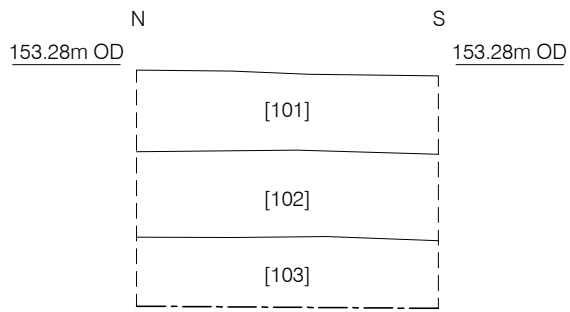
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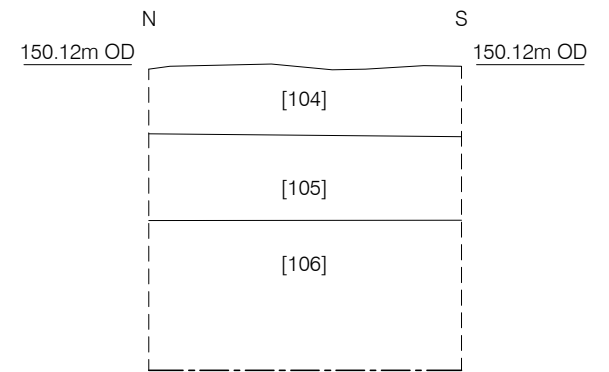




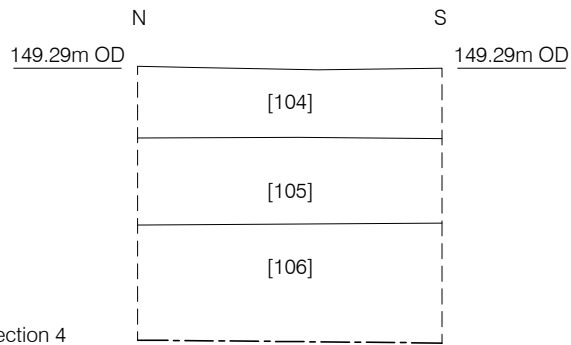
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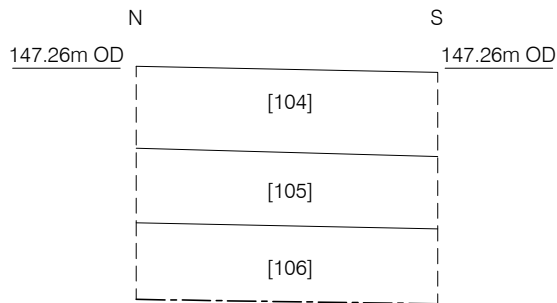
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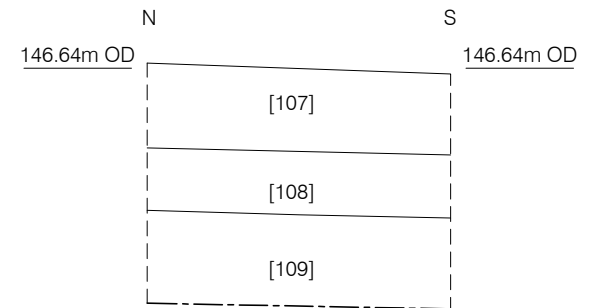
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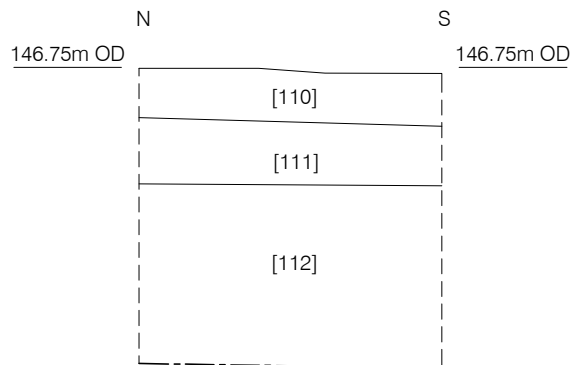
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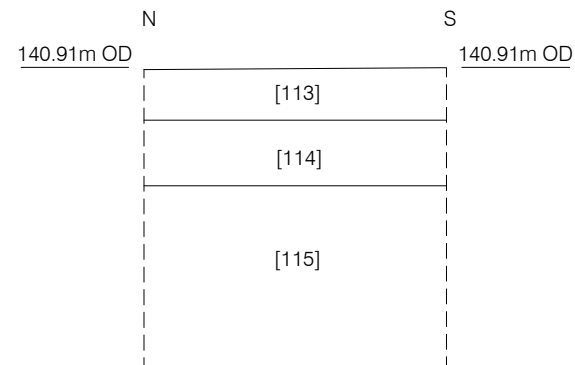
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Section 6  
Pond 6A  
West Facing



Section 7  
Pond 7A  
West Facing



Section 8  
Pond 8A  
West Facing

0 1m  
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Figure 6  
Site 4A Sections  
1:25 at A4

## Plates

### Site 3



Plate 1: General view of Pond 2A (looking North-West)



Plate 2: Base of pond 2B (looking North-West Scales: 1x1m & 0.4m)



Plate 3: General working view of pond 21 (looking South)



Plate 4: Representative section of Pond 21 (looking South, Scales 1x1m)





Plate 5: General View of Pond 2H (looking South, Scales 1x1m)



Plate 6: Representative section of Pond 2H (looking East, Scales 1x1m)

## Site 4



Plate 7: Base of pond 7A (looking South, Scales 1x2m)



Plate 8: Representative section of Pond 7A (looking East, Scales 1x2m)



Plate 9: General working view of Pond 8A (looking South-East)



Plate 10: Representative section of Pond 8A (looking East, Scales 1x1m)

## Oasis:

OASIS ID: preconst1-181754

### Project details

Project name	Stonton Catchment Water Friendly Farming Project, Rolleston, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Sites 3 and 4a on the Rolleston Estate, Leicestershire as part of the Stonton Catchment Water Friendly Farming Project. The work was undertaken as part of a planning condition. A total of seventeen ponds ranging in depth from 0.6m-1m deep were excavated within the two sites intermittently from 31st January 2014. At Site 3 a colluvium subsoil produced an assemblage of abraded late Roman pottery, tile, animal bone and worked stone, the assemblage was indicative of nearby domestic activity. Its deposition is likely due to hill wash from possible settlement sites identified on the eastern and northern valley slopes beyond the perimeter of the investigation area. A small assemblage of late medieval and post-medieval pottery was found within the topsoil. No evidence for archaeological activity was found at Site 4a.
Project dates	Start: 31-01-2014 End: 17-06-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH ROLLESTON Stonton Catchment Water Friendly Farming Project, Rolleston, Leicestershire

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Site coordinates	SK 73418 01877 52.609348395 -0.915650385786 52 36 33 N 000 54 56 W Point
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Site coordinates	SK 74324 00960 52.6009820161 -0.902477937552 52 36 03 N 000 54 08 W Point
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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Kevin Trott

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	X.A34.2013
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	X.A34.2013
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A34.2013
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

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### Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title                      Stonton Catchment Water Friendly Farming Project, Rolleston,  
Leicestershire:

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Kathryn Brook / Kevin Trott

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Entered by                      Kathryn Brook (KBrook@pre-construct.com)

Entered on                      17 June 2014

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