



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM

**Land off Stamford Road
Oakham, Rutland**

**Archaeological Investigations
2000**

**Planning Application 99/0585/9
and 00/0393/0 (outline)**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology



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Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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Land off Stamford Road, Oakham, Rutland
Archaeological Investigations 2000

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Rutland County Museum Accession Number R.A10.2000

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Land off Stamford Road, Oakham, Rutland

Archaeological Investigations 2000

1.0 Summary

An archaeological excavation on land off Stamford Road, Oakham, Rutland (NGR SK869086), was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological consultants on behalf of David Wilson Estates. The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) in April-June 2000, ahead of a residential development scheme. Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the site had shown the area to be rich in Prehistoric and Roman remains. Excavation revealed a series of Late Iron Age/Romano-British enclosures and associated features situated along the southern bank of the stream that formed the northern extent of the site. Archaeological deposits survived largely at the bottom of the valley slope where they were protected from later truncation by ploughing due to a build up of colluvium/alluvium. Further up the hill slope, to the south, only the most substantial features survived.

Four periods of activity were identified. In the Late Iron Age (Period 1) two substantial ditches (subsequently frequently re-cut) defined a plot in the northwest corner of the field. The remains of two round-houses and several associated gullies and pits were excavated within this area. A smaller, contemporary enclosure was located immediately to the east. Period 1 ditches were re-cut on a similar alignment some time in the later 1st century AD (Period 2), and then again in the late-1st-early-2nd century AD (Period 3). Post-Roman and modern (Period 4) features were also identified, including medieval ridge and furrow.

The evidence suggests that flash floods occurred frequently during occupation of the site, necessitating the re-cutting of eaves-drip gullies and other more shallow features, as well as substantial ditches on a regular basis. Division of the land appears to have been on a north-south alignment, abutting the stream to the north. The original north-south plot boundary appears to have been largely observed over the centuries. Even when there was a slight contraction of the enclosure in the 1st century AD (Period 2) the initial orientation is reproduced.

The archive will be deposited with the Rutland County Museum (Accession Number R.A10.2000)

2.0 Introduction

This report summarises the results of trial trenching and open area excavation on land to the east of the town of Oakham, Rutland, to the north of Stamford Road (centred on NGR SK869086, Figure 1). The work was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of David Wilson Estates and was undertaken in April-June 2000 (Planning Application 99/0585/9 and 00/0393/9 (outline)). An area excavation (of 2277 sq. m in total) followed extensive evaluation of the site, which included a desk-based assessment (JSC368/98/02), a geophysical survey (Snee 1999),

and a programme of trial trenching. Previous excavation in the vicinity of the site was undertaken in 1996-7 (Ellis, Hewson and White 1997).

2.1 Aims

The aims of the excavation were to:

- preserve archaeological features by record.
- contribute towards an understanding of the early settlement in the valley.
- determine the settlement economy, principally by examination of any faunal remains, and by examination of any charred plant remains (selective wet sieving), in particular the site's relationship with the surrounding landscape.
- characterise the site chronology through study of the pottery and other artefacts recovered.

2.2 Method

The excavation followed on directly from a programme of trial trenching undertaken by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants. Following a desktop assessment and geophysical survey a total of eight trenches was excavated as part of the evaluation, four extra trenches being excavated at the request of the County Archaeological Officer. Individual trench descriptions are not reproduced in this report, although they are held in the evaluation archive (Accession Number R.A10.2000). Those trenches containing archaeological features were, with the exception of Trench 6, subsumed within the area excavation and thus in this report have been conflated with the overall results of that work. All finds from the evaluation appear in the tables in Section 4.0 of this report.

The removal of topsoil was undertaken by 360° excavator under direct archaeological supervision. Colluvium requiring removal to permit definition of archaeological features at their uppermost horizons was undertaken as part of the same operation. A base plan of features was prepared using a FastMAP FM750 Data Logger. Sampling by hand excavation comprised not less than 50% of discrete features. A minimum of 25% of linear features was sampled to determine their form, function and date, and to determine the stratigraphic sequence. All datable features were sampled for environmental analysis, principally for charred plant and smaller faunal remains.

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-formas for context and features, supplemented by plans (at 1:20 and 1:100), sections (at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50), monochrome print, colour print and colour slide photography. It is intended to deposit the paper and finds archive with Rutland County Museum (Accession Number R.A10.2000).

2.3 Summary of previous archaeological work

Archaeological work in the vicinity of the site has been multi-staged and undertaken over a period of years. Work has included desktop assessment, field-walking, geophysical survey, and area excavation on a site to the east, where a series of linear

features aligned largely on a north-south axis was identified by geophysical survey (Barker 1997).

Excavation of the site to the east revealed the northern and eastern sides of an Early to Middle Iron Age enclosure characterised by deep, probably V-shaped, ditches (Ellis, Hewson and White 1997, 30). The ditches had been recut in the Late Iron Age and other domestic and agricultural features were also dated to this period. Part of an enclosure dating to the 1st century AD was also excavated, and a pottery kiln and associated clay quarry (*ibid* 32). Later Roman occupation was represented by gullies and pits. The series of enclosures was interpreted as a farmstead, with agricultural and industrial activities taking place around the periphery. Continuity of land ownership from the Middle Iron Age up to the 3rd century AD was suggested, and the site appeared to have been abandoned at this point (*ibid* 34). Post-Roman and modern features included evidence for ploughing dating from the medieval period onwards.

3.0 Results

3.1 Summary of geophysical survey results

The survey revealed that substantial disturbance had occurred in the southeast corner of the site, which would have been sufficient to mask any archaeological anomalies present. A machine track running diagonally across the area also produced a clear response, and a probable modern service was located along the southern field boundary. Several anomalies were located in the lower part of the valley, to the north, and areas of probable disturbance were located in the northwest corner. The majority of magnetic anomalies lay up slope to the southwest and along the western side of the site.

Ridge and furrow on a northeast-southwest orientation was detected across the whole site, as well as traces of modern ploughing. The series of parallel linear features that showed up probably relates to the land drains that were uncovered criss-crossing the site during the main excavation.

3.2 Summary of excavation results (Figure 2)

The site comprised an area of rough pasture which had a thick layer of colluvium sealing and protecting the archaeological deposits. An earlier layer of colluvium had built up over the prehistoric and Roman archaeological deposits which had been truncated by medieval ridge and furrow. Survival was best where the ridges occurred, as some furrows cut quite deeply into the natural subsoil.

The following results are presented under period headings based on dating of the pottery and the stratigraphic sequence on the site.

Period 1	Late Iron Age – Transitional (100BC-60AD)
Period 2	1 st century AD
Period 3	Late 1 st century – early 2 nd century AD
Period 4	Post-Roman

3.2.1 Period 1 Late Iron Age – Transitional (100BC-60AD)

A substantial ditch (F107, F115, F123, F132, F188, F195, F196) orientated north-south was excavated, containing flint, including two cores, quantities of pottery, slag, fired clay, and *Rumex* sp. charred seeds. It had been recut and slightly realigned several times (F105, F116, F137, F143), probably due to silting by hill-wash and flash-flooding of the stream, the re-cuts also containing pottery, slag, and animal bone. A second large ditch (F187), on a northwest-southeast alignment, was located in several of the trial trenches further up the hill slope to the southeast. The same ditch was detected by geophysical survey (Snee 1999, 4) and may represent the continuation of a pit alignment identified from aerial photographs located in the northwest corner of the field. The pit alignment may, however, be the continuation of the ditch, obscured at that point by the ridge and furrow (*ibid*). At its intersection with the aforementioned ditch it was filled by the same series of clay-rich silt deposits, suggesting that they were contemporary, although no datable artefacts were recovered. It seems likely that these represent two sides of a large rectangular enclosure.

The ditches appear to define a settlement focus identified by eaves-drip gullies from two round houses (F119 which had been re-cut twice (F120, F121)) and the remains of a second (F108, F113, F181) directly to the east. The eaves-drip gully F119 contained pottery, and a flint core, barley, slag and burnt bones were noted in a soil sample. A series of small linear gullies with U-shaped profiles (F111, F124, F139, F144, F149, F159, F164, F165, F175, F189, and F191) and pits (F102, F106, F125, F126, F127, F129, F145, F146, F154, F156, F160, F162, F167, F169, F184, F185, F190) were clustered within the area defined by the two large ditches. Pottery and flint flakes and cores were recovered from some of the gullies. The pits produced fragments of pottery, flint and animal bone, and samples taken from some of the pits revealed charcoal, burnt bones and charred cereal seeds including wheat, barley, and *Rumex* sp.. A burnt deposit along the western lip of the early enclosure ditch suggests the dumping of domestic or industrial waste, burnt bone and charred barley seeds were found in the deposit.

A second, much smaller enclosure (F142, F163, F171, F173), c.15m in diameter, was located to the east of the main settlement and may have been used for livestock. The ring-ditch had a U-shaped profile, was c.0.2m deep and had rounded terminals at the entrance (F155, F173). A small curvilinear gully (F152) was the only internal feature. The enclosure ditch itself had been recut several times (F147, F148, F150, F151) along its southern edge.

3.2.2 Period 2 1st Century AD

A small V-shaped curvilinear gully (F170), c.0.5m wide and 0.3m deep, cut through the silted up Period 1 ditches. The gully was in turn cut by a large V-shaped ditch (F114, F122, F133, F179), c.1.45m wide and c.1m deep, that followed the same north-south alignment as the Late Iron Age ditches, but returned west creating a smaller enclosure. Two brooches were recovered from this ditch; a plain copper alloy brooch of Polden Hill type, complete, with the exception of the pin, a common brooch type of the period 50-70 AD (White section 4.3.1 below). The second was a near-

complete copper alloy penannular brooch consisting of a circular hoop in round-sectioned wire with a flattened terminal curled round on itself. The brooch is not diagnostic and may belong to any period from the early Iron Age to the early Medieval period (*ibid*). Pottery, animal bone and fired clay were also collected from the fills of the ditch, as well as charred barley seeds, charcoal and bones from soil sample residues. A small straight-sided pit with a flat base (F168), containing Roman material, was located within this later enclosure.

3.2.3 Period 3 Late 1st century – early 2nd century AD

The large Period 2 ditch was recut by a more shallow, bowl-shaped, gully (F104, F157, F186, F193). It followed the inner lip of the Period 2 ditch.

3.2.4 Period 4 Post-Roman

Medieval ridge and furrow was preserved beneath a layer of colluvium that had protected it from modern ploughing. The ridge and furrow truncated an earlier layer of colluvium into which features dating from Periods 1-4 were cut. Quantities of residual Roman material suggest truncation and a general mixing of deposits in the Post-Roman period. Two small pits (F128, F197) in the northwest corner of the site also contained Post-Medieval pottery and F128 contained a residual blade-like flint flake. Two Medieval half-pennies were recovered, one from the topsoil and the other from a plough furrow. Both coins are of similar date and certainly belong in the same reign. However, their value for dating purposes is slight. The clipping of the edges, followed by the cutting of both into halfpennies, indicates that they had been in circulation for some time, suggesting a deposition date well into the 14th century or later (*pers comm*. White section 4.3.2 below). Other finds from plough furrows included fragments of *tegula*, glass, and clay pipe.

4.0 Artefactual Data

Table 1 Finds Quantification

Find type	Quantity
<i>Pottery</i>	
Prehistoric	919
Roman	356
Medieval	4
Post-Medieval	23
<i>Total</i>	<i>1302</i>
Fired clay/daub	123
Animal bone	398g
Clay pipe	3
Coins	3
Iron	2
Copper Alloy brooch	2
Lead	4
Slag	68
Flint	84
Other stone	27
Charcoal	26
Miscellaneous	1

4.1 The Pottery by Annette Hancocks

In this summary report only ceramics derived from well-stratified and secure contexts have been subject to analysis. The report collates all the pottery recovered from the evaluation and the excavation. The research aims were to characterise the site chronology and settlement economy through analysis of the ceramics and to complement the published material existing for small rural settlements in Rutland and Leicestershire.

For ease of dissemination much of the pottery information is tabulated. Very little previous archaeological work on rural sites of the Iron Age and Roman period has been carried out in Rutland, and there is a scarcity of publications disseminating information for the region, although recently produced work has attempted to address this (Todd 1981; Adams *et al.* 1982; Cooper 2000). Small assemblages of similar date have been recovered from Whitwell and Empingham to the east of Oakham in the Gwash Valley (*ibid*).

For the purposes of this report the Late Iron Age and Transitional material (100BC-60AD) has been treated as a single assemblage. The stratified assemblage from Periods 1 and 2 derived from ditch, gully and pit fills. It was represented by good closed groups of pottery characterised by Late Iron Age ovoid and globular jars with brushed and scored decoration, and typical Transitional grog-tempered carinated forms. This is in contrast to the Period 3 assemblage, which derived largely from ditch fills, which was characterised by early Roman pottery forms such as beakers, platters, and globular and lid-seated jars.

Methodology

The material was recorded using the standard BUFAU pottery recording system and analysed on Access database. The fabrics were classified using a site-specific series and cross-referenced, where possible, to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC) and Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (LMARS) type fabric series. The fabrics are listed and described in Appendix II. Where possible, precise form types and broad vessel classes (for example bowl, flagon and mortarium) were recorded. Other characteristics noted included decoration, evidence for manufacture (wasters) and, if present, repairs (rivets and rivet holes). The assemblage was quantified in full: by sherd count, weight (g) and EVE. Only rim equivalents (EVE's) are published, but percentages for bases are recorded in the archive. The level of abrasion was not recorded for individual sherds, although general impressions were noted by context during the assessment.

Fabrics

Twenty fabrics were defined: these are quantified in Appendix I, Table 1, while detailed descriptions are in Appendix II. The most common fabrics were the locally produced wares, which dominated the assemblage. Generally, the local wares are poorly defined and could not be readily sourced using the NRFRC handbook or by comparison with published sites. The coarsewares do prevail over the finewares with reduced wares being more common than oxidised wares. The lack of finewares in the assemblage is worthy of note and is presumably an indication of the function and status of the settlement.

Discussion

The pottery associated with Period 1 and 2 occupation is characterised by large globular and ovoid jars. The forms are presented as a form series within phase groups by fabric and tabulated in Appendix I, Table 2. For a catalogue of illustrated forms see Appendix III. Some 60% of this assemblage derived from ditch fills, with a further 18% from gullies and 13% from pits. All of this material derived from well-stratified horizons. The Period 1 and 2 assemblage is characterised by seven distinct fabrics associated with Late Iron Age and Transitional forms (Appendix I, Table 2). Globular and ovoid jars with decorative motifs such as finger-tipping and scoring prevail. Forms such as butt beakers, necked jars and round-shouldered jars were occasionally recognised. Vessel size in these periods ranges from diameters of 100 to 180mm. There is some diversification of forms in Period 2, with the introduction of 'Romanised' fabrics and forms, such as oxidised and white-wares and platters, bowls and beakers.

It is apparent that certain decorative techniques, such as scoring, can be assigned to a limited range of fabrics within the assemblage. These fabrics include calcite-gritted ware (CG5) and grog-tempered wares (RT1 and XT1). Within this region the techniques of deep scoring regular vertical lines and finger-tipping rims are thought to be early Late Iron Age in date (400-200BC), whereas finger impressions on rims may be absent from later material. At Oakham, it appears that finger-tipping continues in use for a longer period, since the ceramic evidence and decorative motifs recorded complement evidence from the Lower Nene Valley that some scored wares could have continued in use alongside later vessels imitating 'Transitional' types (Rollo 1988). This is a pattern first recognised by Elsdon (1992) in the Trent and Soar Valleys, where the scored ware tradition continues into the first half of the 1st century AD, if not later, on rural sites.

By Period 3 the range of material is restricted to necked jar forms, carinated bowls and beakers. The majority of the pottery of Period 3 (83%) derived from ditch fills. The assemblage is recognisably post-Conquest in date and characterised by beakers, platters, and globular, necked and lid-seated jars. Greywares seem to dominate the period assemblage, occurring in platter, beaker and carinated bowl forms. The use of decoration is restricted to cordons on the girth of the beaker forms, white slip, horizontal incised lines and rustication. No absolute dating evidence was recovered for this period.

All of the vessel forms were produced in fabrics considered to be of local origin. There is no evidence for regionally traded coarsewares such as Black-Burnished ware, although small quantities of Verulamium Region White-ware and Nene Valley White-ware were observed. Samian and Dressel 20 amphorae were recovered. This was the only evidence for imported wares. Overall the assemblage was unabraded, but a high level of fragmentation was recognised. This is reflected in the low average sherd weight of 7g for the whole assemblage.

4.2 Prehistoric Flint *by Lynne Bevan*

Summary

A total of 84 items of humanly-struck flint was recovered, the majority of which consisted of 66 unretouched flakes and 11 substantial struck chunks. Six cores were also present in the collection (1000, 1001, 1017, 1019 x 2, 1042) and only one retouched item, a flake (1135).

Results

The raw material used was of a mixed nature. Some of the flint was of a fairly good quality, ranging in colour from mid-grey to brown with a translucent appearance, while some of it was a coarser, poorer-quality, opaque creamy-coloured flint. Several items had started to re-corticate. All remnant cortex was thin and compacted and characteristic of pebble flint from secondary deposits, probably river gravels. While it was noted that gravel flint was also utilised in a previously-studied assemblage from Oakham (Bevan 1998), the flint used was of a much higher quality than the present assemblage, perhaps reflecting different preferences during a earlier chronological period.

Two of the cores were coarse, barely-modified nodules and the others were multi-platformed flake cores. Both types of core are characteristic of flintworking from the Bronze and Iron Age periods. In contrast to cores previously recovered from Oakham (Bevan 1998), they had not been reduced to a particularly small size, indicating that good quality flint was not required for the low level of flintworking being carried out. This implies a later focus of activity than the Neolithic to Bronze Age date suggested for the previous assemblage (Bevan 1998), a possibility which is also supported by an absence of formal tools in the collection. The only potentially Neolithic item was a single blade-like flake (1059). All of the other flakes tended to be short and squat and indicative of a later prehistoric date from the later Neolithic to Bronze Age (Pitts 1978) and Iron Age (Humphries and Young 1999).

Discussion

While the site was the focus of habitation at some time during later prehistory, the small size of the collection and its general distribution on site do not indicate a settlement of any longevity or flintworking of any intensity. The presence of flint in potentially Iron Age features suggests either the redeposition of flints from earlier periods in Iron Age features, or that flint was still being used for certain tasks into the Iron Age. Flint manufacture and usage during the Iron Age certainly cannot be overlooked and a listing of the flint by context for comparison with Iron Age pottery might reveal a correlation.

4.3 The Small Finds *by Roger White*

4.3.1 Copper alloy brooches

Neither of the two brooches found has been analysed to determine the exact composition of the alloy. The term copper alloy thus covers the spectrum of possible alloys of this metal, including brass, bronze and gunmetal, all alloys attested in the Roman period.

Brooch 1 Description

The first brooch (SF 1, context number 1046), a complete copper alloy example of Polden Hill type, is well preserved and complete, with the exception of the pin. It measures 59mm in length, and is 20mm wide and 18mm high. It is plain, with the bow curving gently, and has a slightly humped profile at the head. There are slightly raised panels ('appendages') adjacent to the arms which are short and stubby, with double engraved lines at the ends. A hook projects at the back of the head to hold the iron pin, of which the six-coiled spring and iron axial bar survives. The ends of the axial bar are held in the pierced plates at the ends of the arms. The bow tapers to a knobbed foot, delineated from the bow by a single raised line. The catch plate is unpierced and plain, save for a single engraved line on the reverse where the plate ends and the bow begins. The plate has a gentle curve to it, tapering towards the reverse of the bow and ending as a ridge that does not meet the head.

Discussion

This is a common brooch type of the period 50-70 AD. Examples are found throughout southern Britain and especially in the Severn Valley region (Hattatt 1985, 82). However, a close parallel for this example was found in Norfolk (illustrated by Hattatt 1989, fig. 159, 898), demonstrating a wider distribution of this type.

Brooch 2 Description

The second example (SF 4, context number 1065) is a near-complete copper alloy penannular brooch, consisting of a circular hoop. It measures 21mm in diameter and is 2mm deep. It is made from round-sectioned wire and has a flattened terminal curled round on itself. A second terminal and the pin are missing. The hoop is undecorated and the surface is reasonably stable and well preserved.

Discussion

The brooch belongs in Fowler's Class C and in White's sub-class Ca (Fowler 1960; White 1988, 9). The very small diameter of the brooch is unusual and may relate to its use by a child or possibly for some more delicately woven fabric that would not support a large, heavy brooch. There are no dateable features on the brooch which might thus belong in any period from the early Iron Age to the early Medieval period. In terms of distribution, the type is common in Britain south of the Mersey-Humber line (Hattatt 1989, 254-5). However, the use of a well-shaped round wire and careful manufacture may be enough to confirm an early Roman date. Numerous parallels exist, a number of which are illustrated in Hattatt's collection (1989, fig.199).

4.3.2 Coins

Description

1. Cut long-cross halfpenny of Henry III (context 1001), class uncertain, 1247-72. London mint, moneyer uncertain (North 1963 I, 983-999). Cut made from reverse side, as shown by precise cutting along median line of long cross.

2. Cut long-cross halfpenny of Henry III (SF6, context 1001). Probably class 3 (1248-50), but mint and moneyer uncertain (North 1963 I, 988). Cut made from reverse side,

as shown by precise cutting along median line of long cross. Clear evidence of clipping at edge before cutting.

Discussion

Both coins are of similar date and certainly belong in the same reign. However, their value for dating purposes is slight. The clipping of the edges followed by the cutting of both into halfpennies indicates that they had been in circulation for some time (the practice of clipping the edges of coins to remove silver was much frowned upon by the authorities but was ubiquitous). This undermines their value as dating evidence, suggesting a deposition date well into the 14th century or later.

4.4 Charred Plant Remains by Marina Ciaraldi

Summary

In total seven samples were selected at the assessment stage, to determine if biological remains were present and

- to provide information on human activity on the site.
- to provide information about the environment surrounding the settlement.

Method

The samples were processed by bucket flotation and by using a 0.5 mm sieve to recover the flot and a 1mm mesh for the residue. The residue was sorted by eye while the flot was quickly scanned with a low-power stereomicroscope.

Results

The detailed results of the assessment are summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Archaeobotanical and biological assessment results

Sample number	Feature/Context	Date range	Vol.	Notes
2	Pit	M-LIA	10	Barley, <i>Triticum</i> sp., Cereals, <i>Rumex</i> sp., indeterminate seeds. Burnt bones from residue
6	Ditch	LIA	8	Cereals, <i>Rumex</i> sp.
7	?Hearth	LIA	10	<i>Triticum</i> sp. Burnt bones from residue
8	Round house gully	M-LIA		Barley, <i>Triticum</i> sp. Slag and burnt bones from residue
9	Ditch	Roman		Cereals, <i>Triticum</i> sp. Charcoal suitable for identification. Bones from residue
19	Ditch	M-LIA		
24	Pit	LIA		Cereals. Few charcoal fragments suitable for identification. Bones, some burnt, from residue

Discussion

The seven samples assessed contained only a few charred plant remains which were poorly preserved. Only sample 2 (F102/1004) contained a relatively rich charred plant assemblage, including wheat, barley grains and a few seeds of *Rumex* sp. Small

quantities of cereal grains were also observed in the other samples. Two samples (F784/1131 and F114/1035) contained charcoal fragments.

4.5 Other finds

Following an assessment of all the finds it was decided that no further work was necessary for any other material. However, a catalogue of these finds is included in Appendix IV below.

5.0 **General Discussion**

Excavation revealed two Late Iron Age/Transitional enclosures. The largest, only partially revealed by excavation, was marked by large V-shaped ditches surrounding two roundhouses and other ancillary structures that were attested to by the presence of lengths of gullies. The enclosure appeared to be rectangular in plan, on a north-south alignment, abutting the stream to the north. The north-south alignment of settlement was also noted in the previous excavation (Ellis *et al.* 1997, 1). The second enclosure, located just to the east, was much smaller, and irregular in plan. It seems likely that the latter was a livestock enclosure lying outside the main domestic focus of the settlement. Metal working during this period is suggested by the presence of iron slag in the enclosure ditch and some of the pits.

Redefinition of the Period 1 ditches occurred throughout subsequent periods, but the original boundary/enclosure ditch remained on the same alignment. Internal features for Periods 2 and 3 were, however, sadly lacking, probably due to ploughing in the Medieval period (Period 4). Although it is possible that a change had occurred in landuse within the enclosure, this does not, however, explain the continuity that occurs in the pottery assemblage.

Many enclosures have been identified in Leicestershire through aerial photography (Hartley 1989). Surface finds have dated several to the Iron Age. They are frequently rectangular and Hartley suggests that this is due to the pre-existing system of rectangular fields into which the enclosure was set. Hartley also noted that ditches were commonly attached to the corner of enclosures, as was the case at Stamford Road where the southern arm of the enclosure (F187) extended southeast away from the enclosure proper.

It seems likely then that at the Stamford Lane Site there was a small farmstead, with the same family unit inhabiting and farming the same plot for several generations, re-cutting the ditches as and when it was necessary. The ceramics demonstrate a long period of occupation on the site, beginning in the Late Iron Age and continuing into the Transitional period and beyond. Viewed as a whole, the pottery assemblage is indicative of low-level rural occupation throughout all periods, with abandonment of the settlement some time in the mid-2nd century. Trade and exchange mechanisms were largely small-scale, with pottery reaching the site from local markets (pers. comm. Hancocks). Even the very few sherds of 'imported' wares will, of course, represent local marketing patterns rather than a wider network of supply of goods (Griffiths 1989). The lack of diversity, in terms of forms and fabrics, amongst the

pottery assemblage is further evidence for the low status and domestic character and nature of occupation.

It is proposed that the site will be published in a volume of the British Archaeological Reports (British Series), Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit Monograph series entitled *Excavations on Iron Age and Romano-British Sites in Leicestershire and Rutland*, and on completion of the report the archive will be deposited with Rutland County Museum (Accession Number R.A10.2000).

6.0 Acknowledgements

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Appendix I

Table 1 Pottery: fabric, sources and quantities in assemblage

Fabric Name	LMARS	NRERC	Qty	% Qty	Wt(g)	% Wt(g)	Rim EVE	% EVE
	Fabric							
Grog tempered	GT1	-	24	2	855	12	65	0.65
Mixed gritted ware	MG3 [RT2]/GW	-	1	<1	16	<1	17	0.17
Reduced transitional, coarse	RT1	-	190	19	958	13	85	0.85
Reduced transitional, coarse	RT1 [GT5/6]	-	5	<1	86	1	-	-
Reduced transitional, fine	RT2 [GT5/6]	-	1	<1	20	<1	14	0.14
Reduced transitional, fine	RT2/GW	-	70	7	545	7	66	0.66
LIA, Roman	SW3	-	33	3	183	2	21	0.21
LIA, Roman	SW2 [RT2]/GW	-	1	<1	20	<1	20	0.20
Transitional	XT	-	4	<1	34	<1	-	-
Transitional, coarse	XT1	-	121	12	813	11	34	0.34
Transitional, fine	XT2	-	5	<1	52	1	-	-
Total LIA/Transitional			455	46	3582	51	-	-
Amphorae	AM9B	BAT AM 2	1	0.10	43	1	-	-
Samian	Samian (EG)	HGB SA	2	0.20	10	<1	11	0.11
Samian	Samian (CG)	LGF SA	1	0.10	12	<1	-	-
Total Roman imported wares			4	0.40	65	1	-	-
Calcite-gritted ware	CG5	-	363	36	2095	28	187	1.87
Grey ware	GW	-	130	13	1081	15	76	0.76
Oxidised ware	OW	-	24	2	100	1	29	0.29
Whiteslip ware	WS	-	4	<1	50	1	-	-
Total local wares			521	53	3326	47		
Whiteware	WW3 (NV)	LNV WH	9	1	24	<1	-	-
Whiteware	WW5	VER WH	1	<1	6	<1	10	0.10
Total regional traded wares			10	1	30	1	-	-
TOTAL			990	100	7003	100	-	-

Appendix I

Table 2 Form Series within phase groups by fabric, (Appendix III for catalogue and illustrations)

Phase	LMARS fabric (code)	Form category
Unphased	Samian (EG) Calcite-gritted ware (CG5) Grog-tempered ware (GT1), coarse	Curle 23 Globular jar with concave neck and everted rim Necked jar with concave neck and everted rim
1: Late Iron Age	Calcite-gritted ware (CG5) Grog-tempered ware (GT1), coarse Greyware (GW) Reduced Transitional, coarse (RT1) Reduced Transitional, (fine)/greyware (RT2/GW) Reduced Sandy ware (SW3) Transitional, intended finish uncertain/patchy (coarse) (XT1)	Fig 1.1, Fig 1.2x 2, Fig 1.3, Ovoid jar with concave neck and bead rim, Fig 1.4, Fig 1.5, Ovoid jar with upright neck and flattened direct rim, Fig 1.6, Fig 1.7, Ovoid jar with upright neck and rounded direct rim, Fig 1.8, Fig 1.9 Fig 1.10 Fig 1.11 Fig 1.12, Fig 1.13, Fig 1.14 Fig 1.15, Fig 1.16, Carinated bowl with plain bead rim Necked jar with concave neck and everted rim Fig 1.17, Fig 1.18, Ovoid jar with concave neck with everted rim, Ovoid jar with concave neck and everted rim, Ovoid jar with neckless neck and single internal channel, Ovoid jar with upright neck and flattened lip; rim slightly expanded externally, Fig 1.19
2 Late Iron Age/ Transitional	Calcite-gritted ware (CG5) Grog-tempered ware (GT1), coarse Greyware (GW) Oxidised ware (OW) Reduced Transitional, coarse (RT1) Reduced Transitional, (fine)/greyware (RT2/GW) Sandy reduced ware [Reduced Transitional (fine)]/greyware (SW2 [RT2]/GW) Verulamium Region White-ware (WW5) Transitional, intended finish uncertain/patchy (coarse) (XT1)	Globular jar with concave neck and everted rim, Necked jar with concave neck and everted rim, Fig 1.20, Fig 1.21, Ovoid jar with neckless neck with flattened lip; rim slightly expanded externally Fig 1.22 Fig 1.23, Fig 1.24, Fig 1.25x 2, Fig 1.26 Fig 1.27 Necked jar with concave neck and everted rim Fig 1.28, Fig 1.29 Cooking pot with everted, near upright rim Beaker with neckless, squared off everted rim Fig 1.30
3 Roman	Calcite-gritted ware (CG5) Grog-tempered ware (GT1), coarse Greyware (GW) Mixed Gritted ware [Reduced Transitional (fine)]/greyware (MG3 [RT2]/GW) Oxidised ware (OW) Reduced Transitional, fine [grog-tempered] (RT2 [GT5/6]) Reduced Transitional, (fine)/greyware (RT2/GW)	Necked jar with concave neck and everted rim Fig 1.31 Fig 1.32, Lid-seated jar type Fig 1.33 Fig 1.34 Fig 1.35 Fig 1.36

Appendix II

Iron Age Type Fabric Descriptions

The coding system used is based on that defined by Knight (1998, 5). Four alphabetical characters are employed. The first two characters indicate the main inclusion type, employing two letter codes listed below. The third character designates the quantity of the main inclusion (e.g. SHMC: moderate coarse shell). Recommended conventions for the description of frequency classes and modal size classes are those summarised by Knight (1998, 21). If material being categorised lies between two codes, it should revert to the lower designation (rare to sparse fine quartz = QURF). If a fabric contains several main inclusions (e.g. shell and quartz) a combination of codes may be employed (e.g. SHMC/QUMC = moderate coarse shell and moderate coarse quartz). This series has been cross-referenced to the concordance of Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (LMARS) (Pollard 1999).

GRCC QURM Common, coarse grog with rare, medium quartz. LMARS fabric RT1

GRCM Common, medium grog (white, orange pellets). LMARS fabric GT1

GRCM QURM Common, medium grog with rare, medium quartz. LMARS fabric RT1

GRCM QURM Common, medium grog, with rare medium quartz. LMARS fabric RT1

GRRM Rare, medium grog. LMARS fabric XT1

QUCC Common, coarse quartz (see Romanised variant). LMARS fabric GW

QUCF Common, fine quartz. LMARS fabric SW3

QUCM Common, medium quartz. LMARS fabric RT2/GW

QURF Rare, fine quartz. LMARS fabric XT2

QUVC GRCM Very common, coarse quartz with common, medium grog. LMARS fabric RT1

SHRM GRCM Rare, medium shell with common, medium grog. LMARS fabric CG5

SHCM GRCM Common, medium shell with common, medium grog. LMARS fabric CG5

VOCF IRRF Common, fine voids with rare, fine ironstone. LMARS fabric XT

Roman Type Fabric Descriptions

Each fabric is described following the system proposed by Peacock (1977) and refined further by Tomber and Dore (1998, 5-9). This has been cross-referenced to the LMARS concordance (Pollard 1999).

Amphorae (Fabric Group A)

Baetican fabrics

A02 Baetican (Late) amphorae 2 (BAT AM 2); Tomber and Dore 1998, 85. LMARS fabric AM9B

Grog tempered wares (Fabric Group F), including transitional fabrics

F018 Wheelmade, hard. Brown 7.5YR 5/3 margins and grey 7.5YR 5/1 core and surfaces. Common, well sorted and rounded quartz (0.01mm) and sparse, poorly sorted and angular grog (0.01-0.03mm). LMARS fabric RT1 [GT5/6].

F019 Wheelmade, soft. Red 2.5YR 5/8 margins and surfaces with black 10YR 4/1 core. Very common, well sorted, angular grog (0.02mm) and very rare, well sorted and rounded quartz (0.25mm). LMARS fabric GT1.

F020 Wheelmade, hard. Light grey Gley 1 7/N margins and surfaces, with dark grey Gley 1 4/N core. Common, well sorted, angular grog (<0.25-1mm). LMARS fabric GW.

Reduced wares (Fabric Group G)

G0 Nene Valley/Nene Valley related greywares. LMARS fabric GW.

G06.08 Wheelmade, hard. Dark grey (2.5YR 4/1) core and Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) margins and surfaces. Very common well-sorted and rounded quartz (0.01-0.02mm) and sparse, poorly sorted and angular organics. LMARS fabric GW.

G06.10 Reduced greyware with grog
Wheelmade, soft to hard. Black (5Y 2.5/1) throughout. Common, well-sorted, angular grog (0.01-0.03mm), common, poorly sorted elongated voids (0.02mm) and very rare well-sorted and rounded quartz. LMARS fabric MG3 [RT2]/GW.

G06.10.1 Reduced sandy greyware with grog
Wheelmade, soft. Grey 10YR 5/1 throughout. Very common, well rounded and sorted quartz (0.01-0.03mm) and sparse, poorly sorted, angular mica (0.02mm). LMARS fabric GW.

G06.13 Sandy greyware
Wheelmade, hard. Very dark grey Gley 1 3/N core and margins with Grey Gley 1/5/N surfaces. Very common, well sorted and rounded quartz (0.02-0.03mm) and rare, poorly sorted, angular limestone (0.01mm). LMARS fabric GW.

G06.15 Sandy greyware
Wheelmade, hard. Reddish brown 2.5YR 5/4 margins and internal surface, with reddish grey 2.5YR 5/1 external surface and grey Gley 1 5/N core. Common to rare, well sorted and rounded quartz (0.02mm). LMARS fabric GW.

G06.17 Sandy greyware
Wheelmade, hard. Grey Gley 1 5/N margins and surfaces; with light red 2.5YR 6/8 core. Common, well rounded and sorted quartz. LMARS fabric GW.

G09.9 Black-slipped greyware
Wheelmade, hard. Dark grey Gley 1 4/N core and margins with black Gley 1 2.5/N surfaces. Very common, well sorted and well rounded quartz (0.25-1mm). LMARS fabric GW.

G010.2 Micaceous greyware 2
Wheelmade, hard. Dark greenish grey margins and core (Gley 1 3/1 10GY) and red 2.5YR 5/6 core. Common, well sorted and rounded quartz (<0.25mm) and rare, poorly sorted, angular limestone (<1mm). LMARS fabric GW.

Oxidised wares (Fabric Group O)

O06.10 White-slipped sandy oxidised ware
Wheelmade, very hard. Moderate, well-sorted and rounded quartz (0.01mm) and sparse, poorly sorted, angular ironstone. Traces of patchy white-slip on external surface. LMARS fabric GW.

O06.18 Sandy oxidised ware
Wheelmade, hard. Reddish yellow 5YR 6/8 margins and surfaces with grey 5YR 6/1 core. Common, well sorted and rounded quartz (0.01-0.03mm), rare, poorly sorted and angular grog (0.01-0.02mm) and rare, poorly sorted and angular voids (0.01-0.02mm.) LMARS fabric OW.

O06.19 Sandy oxidised ware

Wheelmade, hard. Red 10YR 5/6 throughout. Common, well sorted and rounded quartz (0.02mm.) LMARS fabric GW.

O06.20 Sandy oxidised ware. Wheelmade, hard. Reddish grey internal margin and internal surface, with red 2.5 YR 5/6 core, external margin and external surface. Rare, well sorted and rounded quartz (<0.25-1mm) and rare, poorly sorted, angular voids (<0.25mm.) LMARS fabric WS.

O06.21 Sandy oxidised ware

Wheelmade, hard. Red 2.5 YR 5/6 margins and surfaces with light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 core. Common, well-sorted and rounded quartz (<0.25-1mm.) LMARS fabric GW.

Samian (Fabric Group S)

S01 South Gaulish (mostly La Graufesenque) LGFSA, Tomber and Dore, 1998, 37.

S04H Eastern Gaul (Heiligenberg) HEISA, Tomber and Dore, 1998, 37.

White slip wares/whitewares (Fabric Group W)

W08 Verulamium Region White ware (VER WH), Tomber and Dore 1998, 154

Wheelmade, hard. Margins, internal surface and core 5YR 7/6 Pink with external surface 5YR 7/4 pink. Very common, well-sorted and well rounded quartz (0.01-0.03mm.) LMARS fabric WW5.

Appendix III

Catalogue of illustrated forms

Phase I (Fig AH/1.1-1.19)

Calcite-gritted wares (CG5)

- 1 Butt beaker, with neckless, everted rim. Diam. 100mm (6%). Hearth F110, 1024
- 2 Globular jar with concave neck and everted rim. Decoration consists of brushing on external surface, possibly with twigs. Motif observed on shoulder and girth. Diam. 100mm (10%). Pit F184, 1131
- 3 Necked jar, with concave neck and bead rim. Diam. 130mm (28%), Pit, F125, 1025
- 4 Ovoid jar, with concave neck and flattened lip, but outer edge of rim gently rounded. Groove on rim surface. Diam. 100mm (6%). Ditch F155, 1088
- 5 Ovoid jar, with neckless, flattened lip; rim slightly expanded externally and internally. Finger-tipping in rim surface. Diam. 110mm (6%) Gully F171, 1113
- 6 Ovoid jar, with upright neck, flattened lip; rim slightly expanded internally. Light vertical scoring present on shoulder and at girth. Diam. 170mm (12%). Gully F119, 1042
- 7 Ovoid jar, with upright neck, flattened lip, rim slightly expanded externally. Diam. 180mm (5%). Pit F168, 1110
- 8 Round-shouldered jar with upright neck, flattened lip; rim slightly expanded externally and internally. Fine scratched lines on body with finger nail impressions on external rim edge. Diam. 160mm (19%). Gully F151, 1144
- 9 Decorated wall sherd with vertical scoring. Ditch F142, 1076

Grog-tempered ware (GT1)

- 10 A flat base angle (FLT). Diam. 80mm (36%). Pit F126, 1057

Grey ware (GW)

- 11 Carinated bowl, with simple bead rim and groove at girth. Diam. 100mm (14%). Ditch F105, 1008

Reduced Transitional (coarse) (RT1)

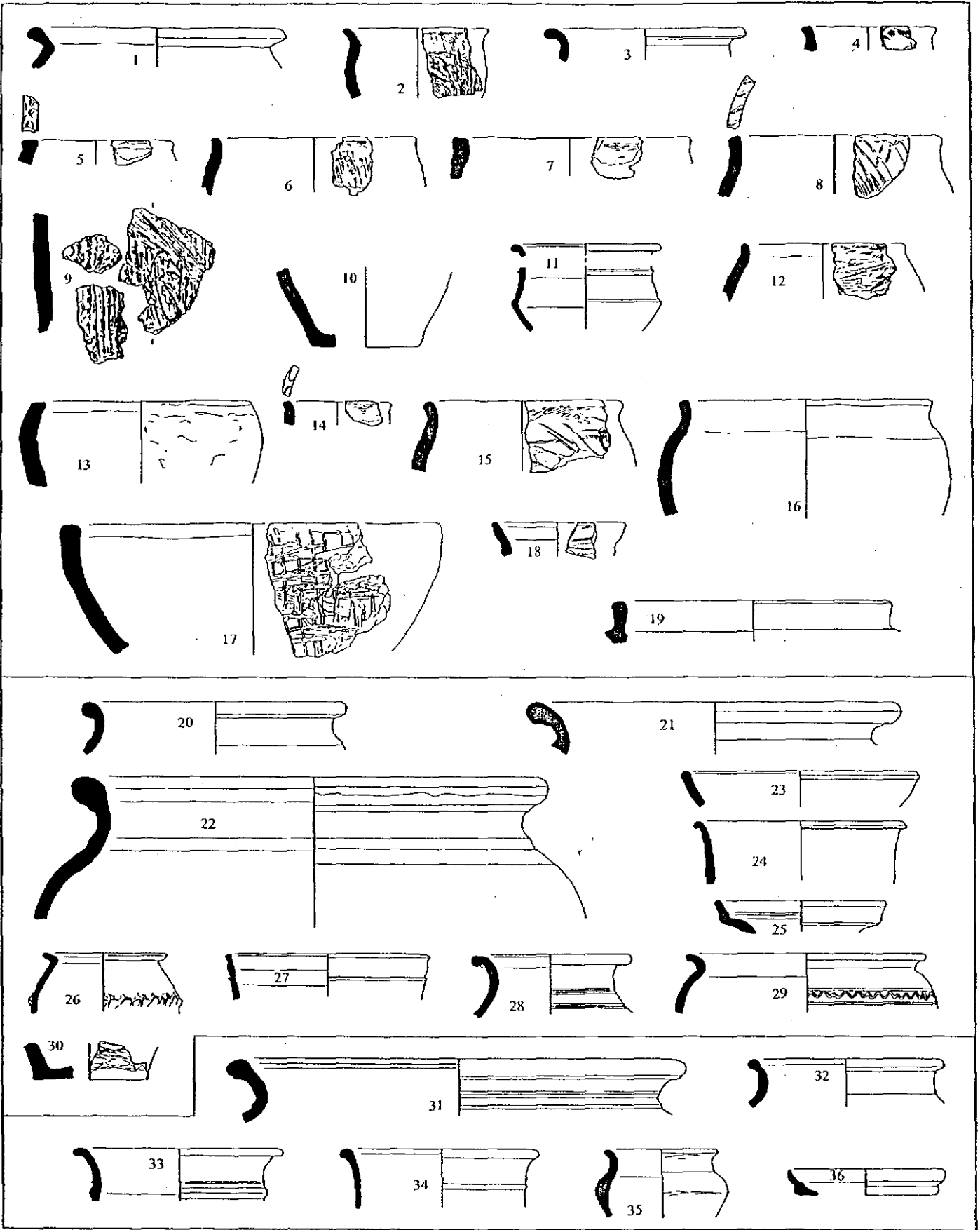
- 12 Globular jar, with concave, everted rim. Decoration comprises finely scratched incised, linear lines on body wall. Diam. 100mm (15%). Pit F102, 1004
- 13 Globular jar, with neckless neck, rounded direct rim, with sharp internal angle at base of rim. Slight concavity at base of internal angle. Diam. 200mm (26%). Ditch F149, 1081
- 14 Ovoid jar, with neckless neck, rounded lip; rim slightly expanded externally. Finger-tipping on rim surface. Diam. 80mm (6%). Ditch F123, 1052

Reduced Transitional (fine)/greyware (RT2/GW)

- 15 Globular jar, with concave neck and everted rim. Finely scratched incised linear lines on shoulder and girth. External sooting. Diam. 130mm (15%). Gully F119, 1042
- 16 Ovoid jar, with upright neck and flattened direct rim. Diam. 80mm (17%). Ditch F139, 1099

Transitional, intended finish uncertain/patchy (coarse) (XT1)

- 17 Globular jar, with neckless neck and flattened direct rim. Decoration comprises finely scratched incised linear and geometric lines on body. Diam. 270mm (8%). Pit F167, 1107, DR037
- 18 Globular jar, with upright neck and flattened direct rim. Finely scratched incised, horizontal lines on body. Diam. 100mm (4%). Ditch F163, 1102
- 19 Round-shouldered jar, with concave neck and rounded lip; rim slightly expanded externally. Diam. 60mm (20%). Ditch F107, 1019



Phase 2 (Fig AH/1.20-130)

Calcite-gritted wares (CG5)

- 20 Necked jar, with concave neck and everted rim. Diam. 200mm (16%), Ditch, F133, 1033
21 Necked jar, with concave neck and rounded lip; rim slightly expanded externally. Diam. 240mm (7%). Ditch F133, 1047

Grog-tempered ware (GT1)

- 22 Necked jar, with simple bead rim. Diam. 350mm (18%). Ditch F114, 1034

Grey ware

- 23 Curving-sided bowl, with simple bead rim. Diam. 130mm (7%), Ditch, F133, 1009
24 Butt beaker, with simple bead rim. Diam. 160mm (6%), Ditch, F114, 1035
25 Platter, with simple bead rim. Diam. 100mm (5%), Ditch, F133, 1047
26 Globular jar, with an almost upright, everted shallow cupped. Rusticated decoration. Diam. 80mm (15%). Ditch F133, 1009

Oxidised ware (OW)

- 27 Straight-sided bowl, with flat topped triangular rim. Diam. 140mm (11%). Ditch F122, 1046

Reduced Transitional (fine)/greyware (RT2/GW)

- 28 Necked jar, with simple bead rim. Diam. 100mm (12%). Ditch F133, 1009
29 Necked jar, with simple bead rim. Decorated with incised wavy line at girth, banded by horizontal incised lines. Diam. 160mm (15%). Ditch F133, 1009

Transitional, intended finish uncertain/patchy (coarse) (XT1)

- 30 Flat base angle (FLT), with internal sooting and incised, horizontal linear scoring. Diam. 90mm (29%). Gully F182, 1127

Phase 3 (Fig AH/1.31-1.36)

Grog-tempered ware (GT1)

- 31 Necked jar, with simple bead rim with cordon at base of neck. Diam. 330mm (14%). Ditch F104, 1010

Greyware (GW)

- 32 Necked jar, with simple bead rim. Diam. 130mm (11%). Ditch F104, 1012

Mixed Gritted ware [Reduced Transitional (fine)]/greyware (MG3 [RT2]/GW)

- 33 Necked jar, with simple bead rim. Diam. 140mm (17%). Ditch F104, 1010

Oxidised ware (OW)

- 34 Beaker, with simple bead rim. Diam. 150mm (18%). Ditch F157, 1093

Fine Reduced Transitional with some coarse grog-tempered (RT2 [GT5/6])

- 35 Carinated bowl, with neckless, simple everted rim. Diam. 80mm (14%). F157 1093

Reduced Transitional (fine)/greyware (RT2/GW)

- 36 Platter, with simple plain rim. Diam. 90mm (14%). F104, 1012

Appendix IV

Catalogue of Finds by *Umberto Albarella, Lynne Bevan, Annette Hancocks, and Roger White*

Worked Stone by *Lynne Bevan with specialist identification by Rob Ixer*

Only one object of worked stone was recovered, an almost-circular pebble-shaped stone of an acidic igneous rock of non-local origin, the surface of which appears to have been deliberately smoothed (1042). That this stone might have been slingshot should not be overlooked, but, while comparison with other finds categories from the same context might provide further dating information, this identification cannot be proven.

Metalwork by *Lynne Bevan*

A small wedge-shaped iron object was recovered which might have been the stem of a large nail or part of a tool, but the degree of corrosion precluded identification (1102). Other items of metalwork consisted of a possible mount or fitting of leaded copper alloy, a tinned hinge from a book or chest, a small roll of lead sheet and a small, square lead fragment with a letter 'H' on it. All of this material was unstratified and of uncertain date.

Coins by *Roger White*

Note: Die axis is given as a clock face position.

1. (1001) Diameter: 18mm; weight: 0.66g. Die axis 2

Obv: [H]ENRICUS [REX

Half of bust showing nose, right eye, right ear within pelleted border.

Rev: – LUND

Half of double-line long cross with triple pellets in angles of cross. Pelleted border between pellets and inscription.

2. (1001) S.F.6 Diameter: 15mm; weight: 0.53g Die axis 12

Obv: [HENRICUS R]EX III

Half of bust showing nose, left eye, left ear within pelleted border.

Rev: [–]

Half of double-line long cross with triple pellets in angles of cross. Pelleted border between pellets and inscription.

Slag by *Annette Hancocks*

The slag was rapidly scanned and weighed. 2.8Kg of slag were recovered from 26 contexts. At least two possible smithing hearth bottoms were recognised amongst the group. No metalworking residues were recovered from the bulk sample residues.

Fired clay by *Annette Hancocks*

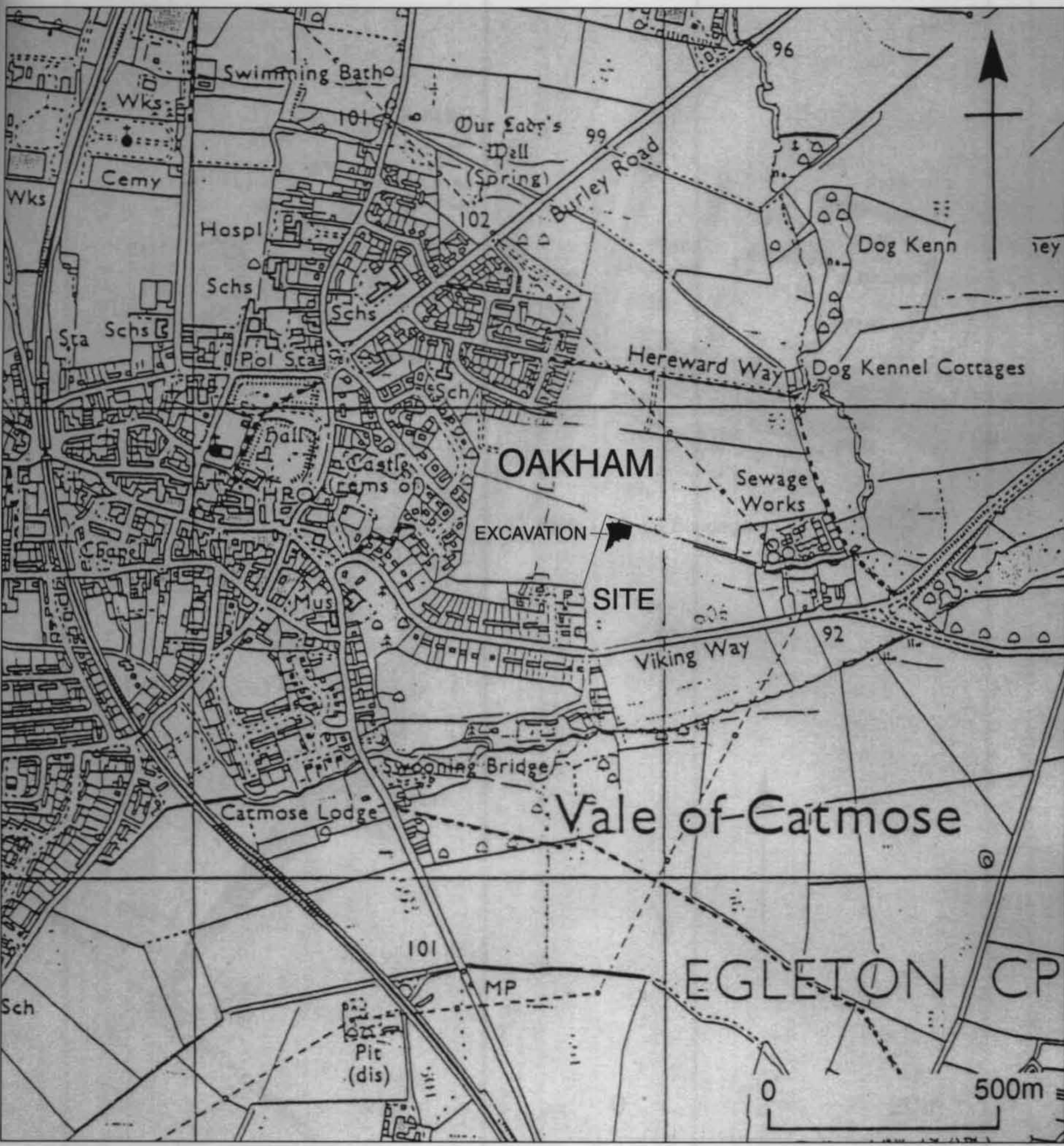
Seventy two fragments, weighing 512g, were rapidly scanned for diagnostics such as clay lining for pits, kiln furniture, wattle impressions, loomweight fragments and finger moulding. No diagnostic pieces were observed.

Miscellaneous by *Annette Hancocks*

Small quantities of clay pipe, *tegula* tile and vessel glass were recovered from the fill of medieval plough furrow F101 or from unstratified layers.

Animal Bone by *Umberto Albarella*

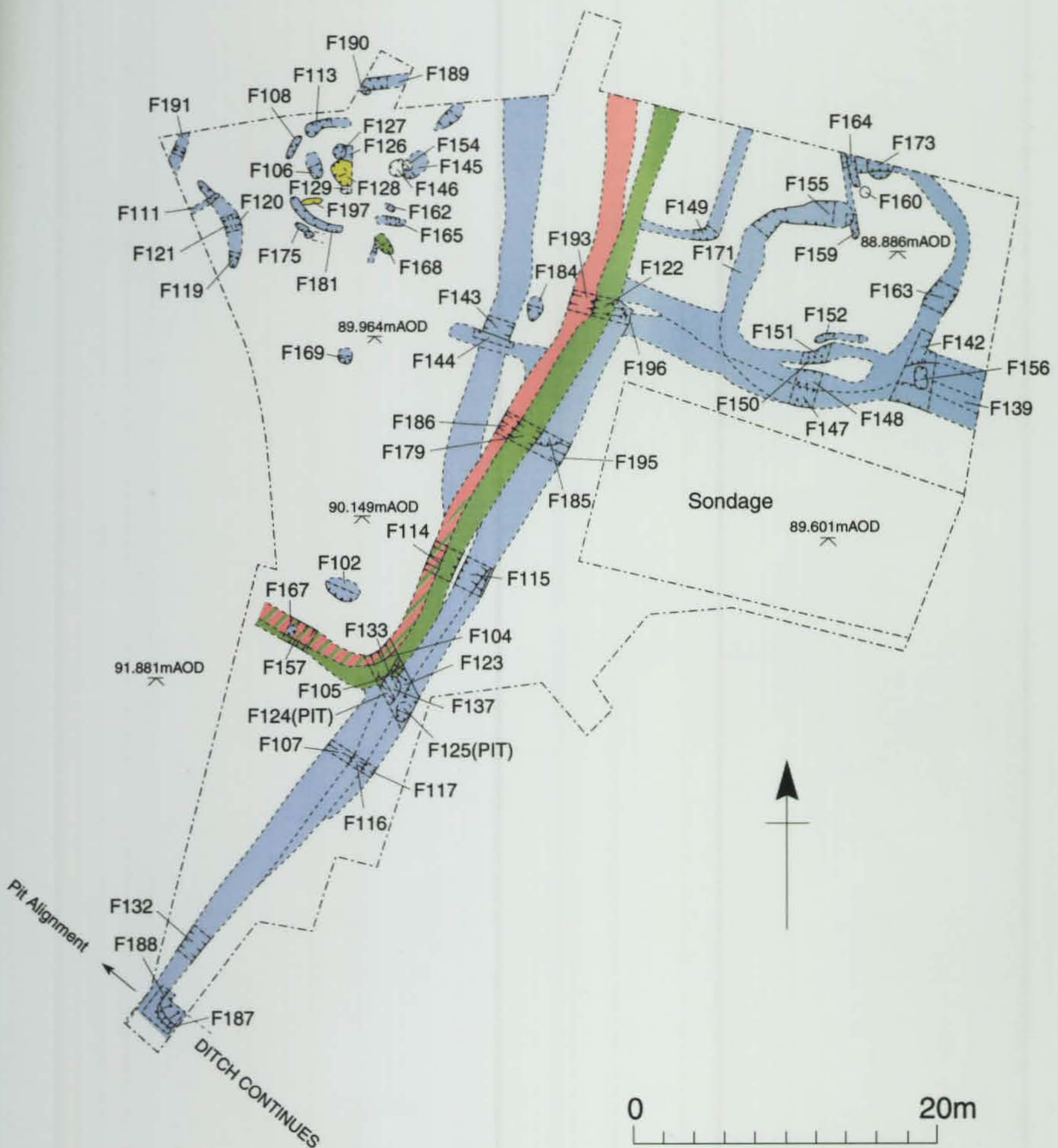
A very small assemblage (less than 400 grams) of vertebrate remains of Iron Age/Romano-British date were collected during the excavation. The assemblage is mainly represented by teeth of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse, almost all in a fragmentary condition. A handful of cattle and sheep/goat bones is also present. A fairly high proportion of the bone fragments is burnt, in some cases even calcined. The poor preservation is probably due to soil conditions unsuitable for bone preservation.



- Period 1 Late Iron Age Transitional (100BC - 60AD)
- Period 2 1st Century AD
- Period 3 Late 1st Century - early 2nd Century
- Period 4 Post Roman

Figure 1

Figure 2



- Period 1 Late Iron Age - Transitional (100BC - 60AD).
- Period 2 1st Century AD.
- Period 3 Late 1st Century - early 2nd Century.
- Period 4 Post Roman.

Figure 2

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B. U. F. A. U.

