



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM

**Excavations of Land off
Northfield Avenue,
Rocester, Staffordshire. A
Post-Excavation
Assessment and Research
Design**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit



Institute of Field
Archaeologists

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 860
June 2002

**Excavations of Land off Northfield Avenue, Rocester, Staffordshire
A Post-Excavation Assessment and Research Design**

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Excavation off Northfield Avenue, Rocester, Staffordshire in 2001-2002. A Post-Excavation Assessment and Research Design.

Summary

This report briefly summarises the results of a 12-weeks excavation of part of the second-century *vicus* to the north of the Roman fort complex at Rocester, Staffordshire (NGR SK110393) and provides an initial quantification of the excavation paper archive, finds assemblages and environmental assemblage. An assessment is made of the academic value of further post-excavation analysis of this material, and proposals are made for a post-excavation programme leading to publication.

Introduction

This report briefly summarises the results of a 12-weeks excavation between November 2001 and February 2002 at the 'Northfield Avenue Site' (Figure 1), in part of the second century *vicus* to the north of the Roman fort complex at Rocester, Staffordshire (NGR SK110393) and provides an initial quantification of the excavation paper archive, finds assemblages and environmental assemblage. An assessment is made of the academic value of further post-excavation analysis of this material, and proposals are made for a post-excavation programme leading to publication. The report follows procedures defined in The Management of Archaeology Projects (MAP 2).

Following site purchase, an archaeological evaluation was conducted on this site, and significant archaeological deposits were immediately identified. An area excavation commenced on the site in late 2001. The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Michael Goodall Quality Homes, in advance of proposed redevelopment of the plot. The archaeological evaluation and excavation were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation and Excavation (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994), briefs prepared by Staffordshire County Council and specifications prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, all conforming to procedures defined in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of Environment 1991).

For the purposes of this report, the results of the evaluation and excavation phases have been conflated.

Site Location

The site comprises a parcel of land planned for development off Northfield Avenue, Rocester, Staffordshire (NGR centred on SK11153970). The field was under grass and rough, scrub vegetation before site works commenced. A number of earthworks was visible across the site; these earthworks were previously noted during a field inspection in November 1990. In the field to the north can be noted ridge and furrow earthworks and a WW2 pillbox. The earthworks were recorded by hachure survey and the site was evaluated by trial trenching (Figure 2). Area excavation then followed.

* Ref.

- Was this not a continuation^{contract} of the existing settlement?

The Archaeological Background

The site, whose underlying geology comprises river terrace sand-gravel, lies within an area of known archaeological context. Rocester is located at a point where the Roman road from Derby to Chesterton crosses the River Dove. Excavations in the 1960s confirmed the presence of a Roman fort and associated *vicus*. This area was further investigated in the period 1985-87, when it was shown that there was a complex sequence of late-first-century Roman military activity and three successive forts, the latest of which was occupied until c. AD 200. A 'small town', or village, developed in the third and fourth centuries and was, in turn, succeeded by Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation. This archaeological and historical development is outlined in Esmonde Cleary and Ferris (1996) but will be briefly repeated here.

Prehistory

Cropmarks of two ring ditches are recorded to the south of the village, down towards the confluence of the rivers Churnett and Dove. Fieldwalking here a number of years ago by a local amateur archaeologist recovered worked flints (Pat Drayton pers. comm.). Scatters of prehistoric material have been found at a number of excavation locations around the village: Late Neolithic and Late Iron Age pottery, and Mesolithic and Neolithic flints were found at the New Cemetery site (Esmonde Cleary and Ferris 196, 39, 182-183); Mesolithic and Neolithic flints at Dove First School (unpublished 1986); and Mesolithic and Neolithic flints at Orton's Pasture (Ferris, Bevan and Cuttler 2000, 53). It is noted that a prehistoric bronze axe was found at Arkwright's Mill in the eighteenth century (Gunstone 1964, 32) but, more significantly, there is a recorded find of prehistoric material, comprising a complete Beaker, uncovered in the 1930s during the construction of Northfield Avenue (Fowler 1955, Clarke 1970). The evaluation at Northfield Avenue recovered prehistoric worked flints, including a barbed and tanged arrowhead broadly contemporary with the nearby Beaker find.

Romano-British Period

Three overlying but overlapping Roman forts were sited at Rocester, dating from the later first century to c. 200 A.D. Excavations at Mill Field to the east of the fort complex in 1986 (unpublished) found evidence of a banked enclosure contemporary with the military presence. To the south of the forts, in the area of Orton's Pasture, lay two enclosures, one of which was associated with a small shrine building, again contemporary with part of the period of the military occupation. A *vicus*, possibly partially within an enclosure, lay to the west of the forts (Ferris and Bevan Forthcoming). It is not known where the northern limits of the three forts are situated. The location of the military cemetery is also presently unknown, but this could lie to the north of the forts. It has previously been suggested by pottery specialists that there may have been kilns operating in Rocester at some stage in the Roman period, producing coarsewares and, perhaps, mortaria, though the locations of any such kilns had not been identified. ↗

A civilian settlement grew up following abandonment of the last fort at Rocester and this was later enclosed by a substantial clay rampart. This phase ?

pottery contributing to an understanding
of the settlement economy.

of Roman activity at Rocester is poorly understood, both spatially and in terms of chronology, though it is likely that the later settlement did not extend much further north than the area of the New Cemetery.

The evaluation identified a principally second-century Roman presence on the Northfield Avenue site, as represented by archaeological deposits and features and a considerable quantity of Romano-British pottery. Contemporary environmental remains, in the form of charred plant remains, were also recovered by soil sampling.

Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods

The excavations at the New Cemetery site encountered Saxon and medieval ovens which, it was suggested, lay on the very fringes of the village in those periods. A number of low earthwork features existed on the Northfield Avenue site and there was, therefore, a suggestion that medieval and early post-medieval deposits might possibly also be expected here. Evaluation indicated the presence of medieval ditches or boundaries here, perhaps connected with field systems. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was also recovered.

Fieldwork

Aims

The objective of the archaeological excavation was to preserve the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval features 'by record'.

The particular aims of the excavation were:

- (1) To contribute towards an understanding of the early development of the area that became the village of Rocester and of the village itself. Prehistoric utilisation of the area might be further explored, along with the growth and layout of the Roman settlement features in relation to the fort complexes sited to the south.
- (2) To define the morphology of the remains, and to determine their development and chronology.
- (3) To determine the settlement economy, principally by examination of the faunal remains (selective dry sieving), and by examination of the charred plant remains (selective wet sieving), in particular the relationship of the settlement with the adjoining landscape.
- (4) To examine the pottery chronology and that of other material groups such as flint.
- (5) To contribute to the understanding of prehistoric, Roman and Medieval Staffordshire, with particular reference to other sites of similar date, recently investigated within the village and the county.

Method

The fieldwork comprised the following programme, undertaken in the order set down below:

- (1) The removal of topsoil overburden over the entire site by 360 excavator, with a toothless bucket, monitored by an archaeologist. Following this,

recording of any features cut into colluvium was undertaken, as appropriate. Subsoil or colluvium requiring removal to permit definition of archaeological features at their uppermost horizons was removed as part of a second operation. Spoil from machine excavation and hand-excavation was stored in bunds around the outside of the site.

(2) The subsoil surface, or the uppermost horizon of archaeological features and deposits revealed by machining was inspected and a review meeting was held on site with the client and curators to determine the precise strategy of subsequent sampling by hand-excavation, and the open areas within the overall site to be selected for detailed excavation (meeting held 15/11/2001).

(3) Detailed excavation of archaeological features and deposits was undertaken across the whole of the stripped area, following the strategy agreed at the review meeting, and following the aims set down in Section 4.1 above. The areas were dealt with in a staged manner, ie the area called Stage 1 was recorded and sampled first, in order to allow the area to be handed over to the developer once archaeological work here had been completed as per the strategy outlined below, and so on.

Sampling by hand excavation in all areas amounted to:

- a) not less than 50% of discrete features.
- b) 100% for features of probable industrial function.
- c) Excavation of linear features not associated with settlement was adequate to determine their form, function, date, and to determine the stratigraphic sequence up to 10%, including elucidation of sequence at any intersections of cutting linears.
- d) Excavation of linear features associated with settlement and settlement structures was a minimum of 25%.

Features of possible industrial function, such as kilns, ovens and hearths, were sampled for metallurgical residue analysis. Environmental potential existed, so environmental and bulk sampling was routinely carried out on the site, as recommended in the BUFAU Environmental Procedures Manual. Datable features were sampled for environmental analysis, principally for charred plant remains, and for smaller faunal remains.

On-site excavation was informed by feedback from finds and environmental specialists throughout, which assisted in the informed targetting of features for excavation, or further excavation, as the fieldwork proceeded.

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (at 1:20 and 1:50), sections (at 1:10 and 1:20), monochrome print and colour slide and print photography.

Post-Excavation Assessment

The Paper Archive

The paper archive resulting from on-site recording consists of context (layer) sheets, feature sheets, drawings on permatrace, black and white photographs and colour slides and prints. The quantities of material are as follows:

Context sheets: 632

Feature sheets: 365

Drawings: 180

BW photos: 264

Colour slides: 336

Colour prints: 72

The Stratigraphic Sequence

Initial post-excavation analysis of the stratigraphic record has led to the production of a provisional phasing of the site. The phasing has been created in relation to five main archaeological periods recorded as being present across the whole site, and to which otherwise undated archaeological deposits and features can generally be related by association or morphology. Without examination of the more diagnostic and closely-datable specialist ceramics from the site (ie the samian and mortaria) the earlier Roman phases have at this stage all been grouped together as Phase 2, being principally second-century in date. The phasing has been provided to the specialists undertaking the finds and environmental assessments.

A brief description of the principal features of each phase is given here, along with a list of each principal type of feature (ie pit, post-hole, slot, gully, wall etc). Individual phase plans have not been drawn up at this stage, as this can only be done definitively following more detailed analysis of the pottery from each individual feature, and the likelihood of the identification of sub-phases within this initial framework. Phase 1 is related to archaeological remains possibly of a late prehistoric date, Phase 2 represents the earliest Roman activity on site (principally second century AD), Phase 3 is concerned with the third and fourth century AD, Phase 4 reflects activity during the Medieval period (twelfth century to the end of the fifteenth century) and Phase 5 is concerned with evidence relating to the Post-Medieval and modern period.

Phase 1 Prehistoric - Late Iron Age (Figure 3).

The evidence of what may be the earliest archaeological remains on the site was confined to the north-western area of the excavation. A number of features of potential significance was uncovered, perhaps of prehistoric date. Three linear ditches (F858, F872/[F857/F870/F879/F886] and F808/F983) were excavated, each aligned east-west and of comparable dimensions. The first two were 0.15-0.3m deep and between 0.75m and 0.95m wide, the latter being 0.6-0.9m wide and 0.3-0.45m in depth. The northernmost of the ditches (F808/F983) had been truncated by a north-south aligned linear ditch (F979). The central ditch (F872) had been truncated to the west by a large V-shaped ditch (F811) and to the south by a northwest-southeast aligned linear gully (F873/F883). The western terminal of F872 had been masked by

F811 and appeared to relate to the western end of F858, which was situated approximately 4m to the south. The form and spacing of the three ditches perhaps suggests that they related to a field system. The marked lack of finds also served to imply that the ditches were probably not settlement features. Also possibly prehistoric in date was a large sub-circular pit (F871), situated approximately 2m to the north of F872. The pit measured 2.2m by 1.78m in diameter, 0.56m in depth and interestingly contained two worked flints and a pottery rim sherd of a coarse fabric, possibly of Late Iron Age date.

Principal Features

Ditches: F858, F872[/F857/F870/F879/F886] and F808/F983.

Pit: F871.

Phase 2 Early Roman (second century AD)

Phase 2 was characterised by three rectilinear enclosures and a possible fourth enclosure observed towards the extreme northeastern edge of the excavation. A number of subsidiary linear ditches and gullies, which respected the enclosures, was excavated, in addition to those truncated by the enclosure ditches. The aforementioned features may relate to farmstead-style occupation.

The extreme southeastern area excavated contained the northern limit of an enclosure (Enclosure 1), represented by a ditch (F816) measuring c.1.8m wide and 0.8m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The northern and western arms of the ditch (F816N and F816W) enclosed two pits (F842 and F834), situated on the extreme southern edge of the excavated area. The former, a small pit measuring 0.7m deep and 0.9m in diameter, had truncated F834 and been cut by a field drain (F843). Feature F834 was a large circular rubbish pit with a diameter of 1.8m and a depth of 1.1m, containing an almost complete amphora, along with mortaria, unusually large numbers of whiteware flagon sherds, quantities of animal bone, fragments of glass and copper alloy, iron objects and struck flints. A smaller rubbish pit (F848), containing Roman pottery and a large quantity of animal bone, was cut into the inner edge of F816N. A number of pits was excavated just outside the enclosure. Immediately to the west of F816W was a large pit (F867), 3m in diameter and 0.6m deep, and containing a large number of Roman pottery sherds and quantities of animal bone. It had been truncated by another, smaller, circular pit (F868), 1.0m in diameter and 0.6m deep. The cluster of probably contemporary pits situated outside the northern boundary of Enclosure 1 (F824, F826, F829, F833, F836, F837, F840, F846, F847, F849, F850 and F853) provided a marked contrast with those inside and was characterised by the relatively small quantities of Roman pottery and animal bone contained in their fills. The most notable of these pits (F829) was approximately 2.7m in diameter and in excess of 1.75m deep and contained small quantities of Roman pottery throughout the sequence of fills.

In the central area of the excavation was the northern limit of a second, large rectilinear enclosure (Enclosure 2), represented by ditch F875[/F960/F978]. Feature F875 was U-shaped in profile, varied between 1.1m and 1.25m in width and was between 0.2m and 0.3m in depth. The northern and western arms of the ditch were numbered F875N and F875W respectively, the eastern arm was attributed F960 and F978. The ditches contained small quantities of Roman pottery, occasional iron nails

and struck flint. A number of contemporary features was excavated inside the enclosure. These included a north-south aligned linear ditch (F815), 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep and containing Roman pottery, and, in common with F875, extending beyond the southern limit of excavation. F875 had been truncated by two narrow, shallow curvilinear gullies (F925/F889 and F953[F944/F945]), approximately 0.3m wide and 0.15m in depth, and a third, wider curvilinear gully F901[F930/F924/F928/F931]), between 0.6-0.75m wide and 0.15m in depth.

The enclosure ditches encircled a substantial circular pit (F909), measuring 5.2m in diameter and in excess of 1.2m deep, containing a moderate quantity of Roman pottery throughout the fills and, most interestingly, a copper alloy ring. It may have been used for water storage, and a series of post-holes (F902, F904, F911-F918), either truncating or set outside the edge of the pit, may indicate the one-time presence of a type of protective fence or cover for the pit. Also within the enclosure were two large circular pits (F932 and F1002), measuring 2.10m and 1.70m in diameter respectively and both being 0.40m deep and containing very little datable evidence. A possible well (F943) was also uncovered, approximately 1.70m in diameter and in excess of 1.20m deep and containing large quantities of Roman pottery and charcoal, animal bone and glass. To the south of the well were three further groups of features. Two shallow linear gullies (F900 and F926/F940/F891) were excavated, measuring approximately 0.25m deep and between 0.50-0.75m wide, in addition to ten insubstantial postholes and small pits (F893, F899, F919, F921, F922, F927, F936, F956, F966 and F969).

The internal dimension of the enclosure east to west was 32m. A distinctive funnel entrance to the northeast corner and the paucity of finds suggested it had perhaps served as a stock enclosure. To the west of Enclosure 2 was a number of pits (F859, F861-F864 and F866), ranging between 1m-2.50m in diameter and 0.40m-0.70m deep and containing relatively small quantities of Roman pottery. Pit F866 had truncated a linear feature (F874), which measured 1.80m wide and 0.50m deep, and interestingly containing flint, glass and pottery. It had been cut by a large V-shaped ditch (F811), aligned north-south, measuring 2-2.30m wide and 0.75m deep and containing a fairly high amount of Roman pottery and degraded animal bone.

To the northwest of Enclosure 2 was a cluster of pits (F882, F907, F937, F934, F1021, F881 and F935) and post-holes (F906, F941, F953, F944). The pits varied between 0.80m-2.20m in diameter and 0.20m-0.70m in depth and were notable for the small numbers of finds recovered. Immediately to the northeast of Enclosure 2 was a compacted stone surface (8349), a linear ditch (F1020), and a possible drip gully (F1019), which may have related to a small building, indicated by a robbed-out wall (F1012). The stone surface had a copper alloy ring embedded into it and was overlain by occupation deposits (8366 and 8355) which contained large quantities of Roman pottery, occasional iron objects and a quantity of animal bone. These apparent occupation layers were sealed by an upper stone surface (8364) and had been truncated by a possible robbed-out wall (F1012/F1023), which was made up of two layers of large stones. Situated to the south of the stone surface were three intercutting pits (F957, F970 and F971), the former being of particular interest, containing a large amount of Roman pottery and animal bone, along with glass and a copper alloy brooch.

To the east of Enclosure Two and running across the whole width of the site on a north-south alignment was a ditch (F807/F982) which measured between c.0.5m and 0.8m wide and 0.2m to 0.35m in depth, with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a medium-dark brown sandy clay-silt that contained fragments of bone, a moderate amount of Roman pottery, and small finds including a copper alloy pin. It had been cut by a large sub-circular pit (F1006) to the west, this being one of a pair of morphologically similar pits here. Pit F1006, measured approximately 5.0m in diameter and was infilled with large amounts of stone. To the south of F1006 was a second pit (F1013), approximately 5.0m in diameter and 0.50m deep, also with a substantial amount of stone in the upper fill and interestingly containing a brooch pin, glass, animal bone and a large quantity of Roman pottery.

In the northeastern area of the site (Plates 1-3) three arms of a third rectilinear enclosure (Enclosure 3), represented by ditches F1138/F1049/ F1125/F986, were uncovered. Part of the northern arm of the enclosure was defined by ditch F1138, continuing to the north of the excavated area. The eastern side was defined by ditch F1125/F1049. The southern arm of the enclosure, defined by ditch F986, perhaps continued to the west as ditch F1022. The western side was possibly represented by ditch F979, which truncated Phase 1 ditch F808/F983 and continued beyond the northern limit of excavation. The ditches contained a moderate amount of Roman pottery and occasional iron objects. Enclosure 3 appeared to represent a single structural entity, sub-divided into individual units by east-west aligned divisions. A number of these east-west aligned linear features (F1156, F1008, F1105/F1109 and F965) served to create the effect of a ladder enclosure. These shallow gullies/ditches ranged between 0.50-0.80m wide and contained small quantities of Roman pottery.

The eastern half of Enclosure 3 was comprised of an area of intensive industrial activity (Plate 4), most significantly represented by a kiln (F959/F1084/F1072/F981) and a series of possible hearths (F894, F1103 F1108 and F1074), the latter initially interpreted as post-pads during evaluation. A number of post-holes/stake-holes was also revealed (F984, F1069, F1090, F1027, F1091, F1130 F1151, F1160 and F1161). The kiln (F959) was approximately 2.25m long by 0.30m wide, lined with fired clay (8629) and by two courses of stones and bricks (Plates 5 and 6). A flue was located running east to west, containing Roman pottery and nails, which connected to a possible firing chamber (F1084) to the west and a stokehole (F981) to the east, measuring 0.25m wide and 0.75m deep. The kiln and hearths were associated with small working surfaces of cobbles (F896, F1099), layers of clay (8564, 8403 8463), and an extensive spread of stones (8455). Immediately to the northwest of this industrial complex was a large clay-lined well (F951), with a diameter of c.3.8m, but not fully excavated due to flooding. The well had been packed with large stones and contained animal bone and Roman pottery, most interestingly a number of highly burned pieces of pottery, so highly burned that they were almost vitrified.

Further industrial activity had taken place in the western half of the enclosure where three hearths (F947, F948 and F990), a large pit (F989), and three post-holes (F958, F991 and F992) were uncovered. One of the hearths (F947) comprised a number of red tiles set over a layer of clay (8345) which contained fragments of burnt bone, a piece of lead and sherds of Roman pottery. The sub-circular pit, or possible well (F989), was 2.0m in diameter and in excess of 1.30m deep, and contained a large quantity of iron nails, Roman pottery and a small amount of lead.

The presence of a possible fourth enclosure (Enclosure 4) at the extreme north-eastern corner of the site was suggested by a north-south aligned linear ditch (F1136/F1140) and a contemporary ditch (F1146), perhaps forming part of an enclosure, in association with a second north-south aligned linear ditch (F1152). Feature F1152 appeared to respect ditch F1138 of Enclosure 3, indicating a continuation of the sequence of enclosures to the northeast of Enclosure 3 beyond the limit of excavation. Further industrial activity, perhaps contemporary with that taking place inside Enclosure 3, was seen within and just outside Enclosure 4. The industrial process was represented by a series of keyhole-shaped kilns or furnaces (F1123, F1126, F1133, F1145, F1139), the latter having been truncated by enclosure ditch F1146. The features varied between 1.30m-1.60m in length and 0.35m-0.65m in width, were lined with clay and contained evidence of burning. The fills contained small amounts of Roman pottery and occasional pieces of metal and glass.

Principal Features.

Pits: F829, F834, F837, F840, F846, F847, F863, F871, F881, F882, F909, F934, F937, F949, F957, F970, F971, F977, F980, F989, F1002, F1006, F1013, F1021, F1030, F1037, F1050, F1058, F1068, F1075, F1080, F1082, F1084, F1092, F1107, F1108, F1149

Post-holes: F902, F904, F911-F918, F920, F941, F953, F958, F964, F1014, F1038, F1042, F1052-F1054, F1067, F1069, F1077, F1079, F1089, F1090, F1091, F1097, F1114, F1129, F1130

Gullies: F873/F883, F889/F925, F944/F945/F953, F901/F924/F928/F930/F931, F965, F973, F979, F983, F1007, F1008, F1011, F1020, F1031, F1035, F1036, F1062, F1096 F1102/F1105/F1109, F1120, F1156, F1159

Robbed-out wall: F1012/F1023.

Wells: F943, F951.

Phase 3 Later Roman Period (third and fourth centuries AD)

Phase 3 was characterised by a large linear feature, aligned north-south and extending across the central area of the excavation, perhaps relating to a Roman trackway. This ditch (F890) was very steep sided, measuring 0.95m to 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep. It was re-cut on the same alignment (F888) to create an equally steep-sided ditch, with a U-shaped profile and measuring 1.6m wide and 0.74m in depth. A moderate amount of Roman pottery was recovered from both the ditch and the re-cut. Feature F888 was filled with a very dark grey sandy clay-silt which contained sherds of hammerhead mortaria and later Black Burnished I (BB1) pottery.

Principal Features

Ditches: F888, F890.

Phase 4 Medieval period (twelfth-fifteenth century).

In the southeastern area of the site a north-south aligned linear feature (F831) was observed cutting the Phase 1 enclosure ditch F816. It had a U-shaped profile, was

0.45m wide and 0.16m in depth, and contained a small amount of green-glazed pottery. One feature of particular interest to the west of F831 and to the north of enclosure F816, towards the southern edge of the site, was a keyhole-shaped kiln or oven (F1041). The cut was approximately 2.50m long and 0.50m wide, with steeply-sloping sides, and was lined with clay. The flue contained a charcoal-rich fill (8434) and burnt wood, which was sampled. The sample illustrated that crop processing had taken place, as pure oat seeds were retrieved.

To the northeast of F1041, a second, large keyhole-shaped feature (F1005/F1088) provided evidence of malting activity. It was aligned east-west and measured 5.85m in length and 2.90m in diameter, with steeply-sloping sides. It had been lined with two layers of large stones (8265 and 8396), the cut being in excess of 1.20m deep, and contained both residual Roman pottery and Medieval sherds. A probable flue towards the western edge and the presence of carbonised wood suggested rake-out from a malting kiln. Evidence of further Medieval activity was seen to the northeast of F1005 where the western edge of a linear ditch (F1115) was exposed, measuring 1.35m wide and 0.4m deep, and extending beyond the east edge of excavation, respecting Phase 1 ditch F1066.

A number of features dating to the Medieval period was exposed in the central area of the site towards the southern edge of the excavation. A large circular pit (F885), approximately 2.50m in diameter and at least 1.30m in depth, contained both Medieval and residual Roman pottery. Situated approximately 2m to the southwest of F885 was a large, isolated posthole (F884), containing large packing stones. Two other large sub-circular pits were also assigned a Medieval date (F929 and F942). The pits ranged in diameter between 2.0m and 2.20m, had very steeply-sloping sides and extended to depths of between 0.80m-1.20m. Each pit had a combination of Medieval and residual Roman pottery within the infills and F942 also contained animal bone and iron nails.

Principal Features

Pits F885, F929, F942:

Post-hole: F884

Gully F831

Phase 5 Post-Medieval and Modern

In the southeastern area of the excavation a very large Post-Medieval pit (F827), containing large quantities of pottery, was exposed, measuring approximately 8.0m by 5.0m and at least 1.40m in depth towards the centre. The southern edge of the pit had truncated Phase 1 enclosure ditch F816. An east-west aligned Post-Medieval drainage ditch (F825) was cut by pit F827. It, in turn, truncated the Phase 3 medieval gully F831. A small number of features dating to this phase was located towards the extreme northern edge of the site, notably a circular pit (F967). It was 1.80m in diameter and 0.30m deep and had been cut by a post-hole (F868). Situated 1.50m to the west of F867 was F972, a north-south aligned drainage gully extending beyond the northern edge of excavation and containing Post-medieval pottery. There was also a small area of Phase 4 activity situated towards the southern edge of the site, incorporating a posthole (F897) and two pits (F876 and F903). Feature F876 was

+ agree with the idea of taking the opportunity
to review the total lithic assemblage for Rochester

approximately 3.20m in diameter and 0.35m deep, truncating Phase 1 linear ditch F815. Circular pit F903 was 1.20m in diameter and 0.60m deep and was cut through the southeastern edge of the large Phase 1 circular pit F909. The remains of the footings of a barn or other type of agricultural building were encountered along the southern edge of the central excavated area.

Principal Features

Pits: F827, F876, F903, F967.

Post-holes: F868, F897

Gully: F972

Finds and Environmental Assessments

Prehistoric Flint by Lynne Bevan, with quantification by Vickki Hudson

Four hundred and thirty pieces of worked prehistoric flint were recovered. Prehistoric flint came from the following contexts: U/S, 8000, 8001, 8003, 8004, 8007, 8008, 8015, 8016, 8017, 8019, 8020, 8021, 8022, 8023, 8029, 8030, 8034, 8047, 8053, 8057, 8081, 8082, 8088, 8089, 8104, 8105, 8106, 8108, 8117, 8120, 8129, 8134, 8138, 8139, 8149, 8155, 8162, 8185, 8189, 8198, 8201, 8202, 8209, 8210, 8219, 8230, 8241, 8249, 8252, 8263, 8268, 8278, 8284, 8306, 8312, 8315, 8316, 8318, 8331, 8343, 8363, 8405, 8407, 8415, 8419, 8423, 8428, 8439, 8445, 8446, 8450, 8451, 8453, 8456, 8457, 8471, 8474, 8478, 8480, 8485, 8489, 8519, 8523, 8533, 8534, 8565, 8566, 8567, 8578, 8581, 8584, 8593, 8596, 8612, 8624, 8625, 8626, 8632.

Among the assemblage was a barbed and tanged arrowhead (U/S), eleven scrapers (8004, 8015[2], 8019, 8021, 8089, 8138, 8189, 8407, U/S[2]), 51 cores, 103 blades, one microlith (U/S), 21 retouched items, 232 struck flakes and nine struck chunks of flint. Approximately a quarter of the assemblage, including the microlith, several of the cores and a number of blades, is of Later Mesolithic date. However, the majority of the assemblage would appear to be of Neolithic to Bronze Age date, in common with other lithic assemblages previously recovered in Rocester.

The Northfield Avenue assemblage is the largest collection of flint so far recovered from Rocester by archaeological excavation. While the assemblage requires detailed cataloguing and reporting in its own right, it will also need contextualising in relation to the flint assemblages from the New Cemetery site (79 items-Barfield and Kalali in Esmonde Cleary and Ferris 1996), Dove First School (18 items-Barfield Forthcoming), and Orton's Pasture (5 items-Bevan in Ferris, Bevan and Cuttler 2000), as well as to the prehistoric material recovered from the area of Northfield Avenue in the 1930s (Gunstone 1964; Fowler 1955; Clarke 1970). The opportunity will also be taken to set both the Northfield Avenue assemblage and the overall Rocester assemblage into its wider local and regional context. This is particularly important with regard to the Later Mesolithic component of the assemblage which will elucidate a period previously under-represented in this area.

Roman Pottery by Iain Ferris and Lynne Bevan, with quantification by Vicki Hudson, and incorporating comments from Ruth Leary

A total of 8891 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 138.28kg, was recovered. The vast majority of the assemblage would appear to be of an Antonine date, though some earlier material is present. Diagnostically later material has also been noted, principally from the backfills of the recut driveway or enclosure ditch F890. The composition of the assemblage by pottery type and relative quantities of feature sherds to plain and, where appropriate, decorated body sherds is shown in Table 1, together with the occurrence of stamps on samian vessels and mortaria. Samian, mortaria and amphorae are discussed separately below and the general coarsewares are then considered as a separate group.

	Rims	Bases	Stamps	Plain Body	Decorated Body	Total:
Samian	155	71	6	266	159	590
Mortaria	99	77	10	131	-	219
Amphorae	17	10 handle s-	2	321	-	349
Coarse pottery:						
Greywares	413	152	-	2571		3136
Orange/buff wares	236	76	-	1763		2075
White wares	89	41	-	761		891
BB1	170	26	-	407		603
Blackwares	84	24		353		461
Derbyshire ware	69	52	-	287		408
Fine wares*	27	16	-	116		159
Post-Roman:						
Medieval			-			311
16 th -20 th c		-	-			582

* includes mica-dusted wares, colour coats, Nene Valley, and glazed wares etc.

Table 1: Quantification of pottery of all periods.

Samian

A total of 590 fragments of samian was recovered, weighing 4745g, 39% of which comprised feature sherds, including approximately 155 rims, 71 bases, a 'bat's head' mortarium spout and three complete profiles. Almost 27% of the samian was decorated (159 sherds) and six stamps and six incidences of *graffiti* were identified among the assemblage. Almost 40% of the samian assemblage came from post-Roman deposits and will therefore only be scanned during full post-excavation analysis. The material will be reported on by Steve Willis.

Amphorae

A total of 349 fragments of amphorae, weighing 40,851g, was recovered, the majority of which were large, undiagnostic Dressel 20 body fragments, though 17 rim and 10 handle fragments were recorded. Large parts of a single amphora, comprising over 50 sherds, came from F834. However, in total almost 21% of the amphorae came from post-Roman contexts. Two stamps were noted during assessment (from 8348 and 8455). Cataloguing and quantification of this material will be required at full post-excavation stage, with specialist consultation with David Williams being required for the stamps and a small number of other sherds.

Mortaria

A total of 219 fragments of mortaria, weighing 18,348g, was identified among the coarse pottery, ten of which were stamped (U/S, 8001, 8004, 8015, 8070, 8230, 8316, 8356 (2), 8366). A full report on the mortaria will be required. This material will need to be set in context with previous mortaria assemblages from Rocester from the New Cemetery (Ferguson in Esmonde Cleary and Ferris 1996), Orton's Pasture (Bevan in Ferris, Bevan and Cuttler 2000) and the Mill Street *vicus* site (Bevan forthcoming). Reporting will be by Mrs Kay Hartley who will also produce a report upon the stamped mortaria. Mrs Hartley has previously commented on what she sees as the unusually large number of mortarium stamps that has been recorded in total from sites in Rocester and the ten new stamps from Northfield Avenue add another significant number to this total.

The Roman Coarse Pottery

A total of 7733 sherds of Romano-British coarsewares, weighing 111.1kgs, was recovered. Two instances of *graffiti* (8463 and 8483) were noted during assessment. It has been estimated that somewhere in the region of 15% of the coarseware assemblage came from topsoil contexts and 7% from cleaning layers. Pottery came from over 300 separate contexts, in the majority of cases in small individual assemblages of less than 15-20 sherds. The condition of the pottery was, on the whole, very good, with an average sherd weight of c.14.3g.

For the purposes of the assessment, the pottery has been quantified by sherd count in broad family groups, defined by macroscopic analysis only at this stage. Identification of certain groups is to some extent therefore inevitably subjective and some degree of overlap is possible between some groups, particularly in the case of some probable BB1 copies, as previously identified among the assemblage from the New Cemetery site (Leary in Esmonde Cleary and Ferris 1996), Orton's Pasture and the Mill Street *vicus* site, Rocester (Bevan in Ferris, Bevan and Cuttler 2000 and Bevan forthcoming). The main fabric groups represented, and their relative quantities are presented in Table 1. Initially, in post-excavation, a full quantification of the whole assemblage will be required by fabric, weight and EVEs using the pre-existing Rocester fabric series. However, further study will otherwise concentrate only upon providing spot dating and analysing and presenting in detail selected key groups (listed at the end of this assessment report), using the pre-existing form series from past excavations in Rocester (Bell 1986, Leary 1996, Bevan 2000, Bevan forthcoming) and the fabric series defined by Leary for the New Cemetery site (Leary 1996). The full quantification and the fuller analysis of key groups should allow a focused synthetic discussion of the assemblage to be presented.

Quantification of the whole assemblage will allow direct comparison to be made with the published assemblages from the New Cemetery site and Orton's Pasture and the soon-to-be published Mill Street *vicus* assemblage. The focus of subsequent research will be on the identification of contrasting areas of site function, such as food consumption and food storage, the latter suggested by a similarly-high proportion of grey ware storage vessels to that noted among previous assemblages from Rocester. Greywares, which account for over 35% of the total Roman pottery assemblage, are the dominant pottery fabric, followed by orange-buff wares at 23% and whitewares at 10%, and samian and BB1 both at c.7% of the overall assemblage.

In addition to the large and varied samian assemblage, some high quality coarsewares are also present among the assemblage, including sherds of green glazed wares, and an interesting group of mica-dusted vessels, with some potentially 'new' forms being identified to complement the existing known repertoire from principally the New Cemetery site (Leary in Esmonde Cleary and Ferris 1996). A very good example of a mica-dusted wine strainer (8270), with an exfoliating surface, may be a second. A greyware applique phallus (8015) may have been made on site but never attached to a vessel, or may simply represent an apotropaic object manufactured and kept for ritual purposes.

It is hoped that study of the mortaria assemblage will reveal further information regarding the military production of mortaria in the vicinity of the site and illuminate exchange mechanisms involved in the importation of mortaria from more distant kilns. Further stamped vessels increase the already unusually large number of stamped mortaria from Rocester as a whole (K. Hartley pers. comm.)

Some almost-complete coarse pottery vessels are present in the Northfield Avenue assemblage and it is intended to investigate the possibility that such vessels were deliberately selected for discard in certain features, such as pits, as previously noted among the Orton's Pasture assemblage where the site was at least partially-defined by a ritual or special function reflected in some aspects of the material culture (Bevan in Ferris, Bevan and Cuttler 2000).

Some of the vessels in the assemblage would seem to be later first-century-early/mid second-century in date, but the majority are of a second-century, Antonine date. While additional forms will require illustration, the overall impression of the assemblage at assessment stage is that many of the forms present have already been published and noted at Rocester (Bell 1986, Leary 1996, Bevan 2000, Bevan forthcoming) or at Derby (Dool *et al.* 1985). Somewhere in the region of 250 vessels may require illustration, including samian, amphora and mortaria sherds. The large number of grey ware jar forms seem to be very much already recorded forms from Rocester.

Coarse Pottery Key Groups (Number of form sherds in brackets-[]). Stratigraphic analysis will doubtless lead to the selection of further key groups.

Pottery Key Groups; Phase 2

Context 8007[13], 8008 [53], 8021[4], 8023[37], 8053[33], 8065[6], 8106[14], 8138[6], 8202[17], 8210[21], 8246[12], 8249[17], 8258[3], 8262[27], 8270[63], 8280[5], 8281[7], 8284[8], 8286[8], 8315[12], 8318[22], 8343[27], 8349[12],

8352[15], 8365[19], 8366[38], 8378[10], 8443[5], 8489[2], 8503[12], 8519[17], 8581[9].

Pottery Key Groups; Phase 3

Context 8151[2]

Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery

A total of 311 sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 5708g, was recovered. Medieval pottery came from the following contexts: U/S, 8000, 80001, 8004, 8015, 8019, 8020, 8022, 8023, 8038, 8044, 8115, 8135, 8143, 8145, 8150, 8161, 8210, 8222, 8230, 8246, 8263, 8265, 8318, 8331, 8395, 8466, 8489, 8519, 8525, 8533, 8563.

A total of 582 sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 12,378g, was recovered. Post-medieval pottery came from the following contexts: U/S, 8000, 8001, 8006, 8015, 8016, 8019, 8020, 8022, 8023, 8037, 8038, 8040, 8057, 8061, 8116, 8128, 8135, 8142, 8175, 8187, 8193, 8202, 8298.

The pottery consisted mainly of small, often abraded sherds. The earliest medieval pottery was represented by two thumbled rim cooking pots from the fill of the large oven F1005. These were the only examples of thumbled rims and are likely to date from the twelfth or thirteenth centuries. There were very few Midlands Purple sherds, suggesting that there was little material from the fifteenth century. However, the presence of a small number of cisterns or bung-hole jars indicates that there must have been some fifteenth-century activity. The lack of Cistercian ware may indicate a lack of occupation in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century, but it may just as likely indicate the very basic nature of the ceramics. Evans (1991) has demonstrated the traditional nature and lack of innovation in the ceramics of more remote communities, and the lack of Cistercian ware could also be another example of this. Nevertheless, the majority of the pottery seemed to date to the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries.

The sherd size and the presence of residual Roman pottery suggest that the pottery was not a primary deposition and may, for example, have been incorporated into middens which were later included amongst the feature fill material.

The range of fabrics was not great, but in keeping with the pottery of this area of Staffordshire. The fabrics could be paralleled amongst pottery previously recovered from Rocester (Rátkai 1996), Croxden Abbey (Rátkai 1997) and Uttoxeter (Rátkai 2002). The pottery has much greater affinities with the ceramics of Derbyshire, most notably the "gritty ware" tradition, which is typified by hard fired sherds in a heavily gritted, pimply textured ware. The whitewares of southern and central Staffordshire were largely absent.

Although glazed wares were present the assemblage had a strongly utilitarian nature. Forms were limited to cooking pot/jars, pipkins, bowls, jars/cisterns and jugs in the medieval period. Even in the post-medieval period there were few examples of the finer bodied better-made pottery such as mottled manganese ware and slipwares. There was, however, a small sherd from a more elaborate late seventeenth-early eighteenth-century slipware dish, which bore traces of a human face. Fine bodied

wares of the eighteenth century (eg white salt glaze stoneware and creamware) were represented by only a handful of sherds. Again it is not possible to say whether this reflects a lack of material from the second half of the eighteenth century or whether, as with the medieval assemblage, the post-medieval assemblage reflects a conservative, and possibly low status, ceramic tradition.

The largest group of medieval pottery came from the large kiln or oven F1005/F1008/F1088. The sherds were generally small and often abraded, suggesting that the group was not a primary deposition. This was reinforced by the presence of several Roman sherds within the group. The pottery was composed chiefly of utilitarian sandy wares and 'gritty wares'. The earliest pottery in the group was made up of two thumbled cooking pot rims of possible twelfth-thirteenth-century date. Other sherds dated to the fourteenth century but the absence of Midlands Purple ware suggests that the feature was largely backfilled by the early fifteenth century. One fill (8265) contained seventeenth-century coarseware but this is almost certainly intrusive.

Recommendations

There are several draw-backs to the further study of the post-Roman pottery. The most obvious of these is the lack of closed and/or closely datable groups. However, the assemblage is not without points of interest. The foremost of these is that the ceramics of this area of Staffordshire are largely unknown and unrecorded. In McCarthy and Brooks' (1988) survey of medieval pottery in Britain Staffordshire is largely a blank. Despite work over the last 15 years, it is clear that this area of the county is still woefully under-represented (*cf* Ford 1995). Secondly, the ceramic groups of both the medieval and post-medieval periods suggest a low status, conservative, rural ceramic tradition which would be repay some study on socio-economic grounds.

It is therefore recommended that the medieval form sherds be illustrated and their fabrics described, and that a note of the relative frequency of glazed to unglazed sherds is made, together with a broad quantification of vessel forms represented. It is also recommended that the post-medieval pottery is quantified by ware type and vessel form.

Brick and Tile by Erica Macey

The Tile

A small assemblage of tile, comprising of 370 fragments, weighing 26,032 grammes was recovered from the site. The fragments were quantified by count and weight and were examined macroscopically for the purposes of assessment. The assemblage consisted of small, largely unabraded, fragments and no complete examples were noted.

During the assessment a range of fabrics was noted; further research is recommended to determine the extent of this range. It was also noted that the assemblage seemed to span a broad date range, from known Roman forms such as *tegula* (8015, 8004, 8298, 8456 x 2, 8022, 8259 x 2, 8270 x 2, 8263, 1001) and *tubulus* (8151, 8245) to glazed Medieval tile (1007, 8001, 8027, u/s). Tile of probable Post-Medieval date was also noted, although this was unstratified and warrants no further action.

The small size of the assemblage means that it seems unlikely that any large buildings existed on the site at any time. The assemblage will benefit from further research in that the tile could be dated comparatively against pottery from the relevant contexts to achieve a close resolution of date. As previously mentioned, a further macroscopic examination of the varying fabrics will be necessary, as will a full catalogue of all tile by context, and the compilation of a short summary report.

The Brick

The brick assemblage comprised 128 fragments of brick, weighing 7492g. The fragments were quantified and assessed in the same manner as the tile. The assemblage was in a fragmentary state, with no complete examples recorded, although individual fragments were largely unabraded.

As with the tile, a range of fabrics was noted, and further research will determine the extent of this range. It will also be necessary to compile a catalogue of all brick by context and summarise the results in a short report. Beyond this, however, the small size of the assemblage means that no further work is recommended.

Other Finds by Iain Ferris, with quantifications by Vickki Hudson

Statement of Potential

Although relatively-small in size, the small finds assemblage is varied and interesting, both in artefactual terms and also in its dating potential. As with the pottery assemblage, the emphasis in terms of small finds study will be upon the comparison of artefactual groups from different features with a view to reconstructing different activity areas and discard mechanisms and also investigating the possibility of special/ritual deposition as suggested by certain aspects of the Orton's Pasture assemblage (Bevan 2001).

The finds have been listed and discussed by material below.

Worked Bone

One fragment of worked bone was recovered during the evaluation (U/S) and will require description and cataloguing.

Roman Window and Vessel Glass

A total of 208 fragments of glass was recovered from the following contexts: U/S, 8000, 8001, 8004, 8007, 8008, 8010, 8015, 8016, 8019, 8020, 8021, 8023, 8033, 8037, 8038, 8048, 8053, 8066, 8068, 8078, 8085, 8104, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8126, 8128, 8152, 8159, 8230, 8238, 8241, 8249, 8254, 8258, 8259, 8262, 8263, 8270, 8276, 8278, 8284, 8286, 8292, 8315, 8318, 8340, 8341, 8343, 8348, 8354, 8361, 8363, 8365, 8366, 8381, 8386, 8438, 8453, 8455, 8457, 8503, 8524, 8525, 8556, 8565, 8590, 8608.

Initial inspection suggests that 23 of these fragments are modern and 185 are Roman or potentially Roman. Most of the Roman glass came from common blue-green

bottles, though a number of bowls, a cup, and two or three flasks or jugs were also represented. Five fragments of possibly Roman window glass were also present.

A summary catalogue will be required for the window glass and undiagnostic bottle glass, and further research, including illustration, for the handle and two rim fragments. The compilation of a full catalogue and a short report is recommended for the illustrated material.

Glass Beads

Faience beads came from: 8004, 8015 (2) and 8366. Illustration, the compilation of a full catalogue and further research will be required for the beads.

Copper Alloy

Copper alloy objects included three coins (8001, 8015, 8019), three brooches (8004, 8022, 8270), five pins (8008, 8015, 8269, 8343, 8354), three rings or looped fittings (8015, 8269, 8359), a possible buckle (8154), five presently unidentified objects or fragmentary objects (8007, 8008, 8015, 8343, 8366), and a modern button (8000). Despite a high incidence of fragmentation among the assemblage, the condition of the copper alloy was generally stable. The coins will require cleaning for identification purposes and may help provide some additional dating evidence, though only one is from a useful context from a stratigraphic point of view. The compilation of a catalogue, further research on all identifiable objects and fittings, and selective illustration of the best-preserved pieces is recommended.

Lead

Lead came from U/S, 8000, 8004 (3), 8007, 8008, 8015 (2), 8018 (6), 8053, 8202, 8249, 8345, 8350, 8354, 8438, 8485, and 8590 and mainly comprised fragments of sheet or melted spatter. The compilation of a summary catalogue is recommended.

Iron

The iron assemblage was in a poor condition, with a high incidence of fragmentation and corrosion. Few identifiable items were present apart from nails, there being only one object from 8438. No items other than this are recommended for x-ray. With the exception of six or seven nails, the nails were all chronologically-undiagnostic nails, though mostly presumably Romano-British in date, of the kinds used for building and carpentry and classified as Type 1 nails by Manning (Manning 1985). A catalogue of the object and the nails should be compiled, but otherwise no further work will be required on the iron assemblage.

Iron nails came from the following contexts: 8000, 8001, 8004, 8006, 8008, 8015, 8016, 8019, 8022, 8023, 8024, 8028, 8048, 8053, 8060, 8067, 8068, 8085, 8099, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8128, 8143, 8148, 8149, 8150, 8151, 8198, 8199, 8202, 8210, 8245, 8246, 8249, 8258, 8259, 8262, 8264, 8269, 8270, 8278, 8281, 8284, 8300, 8310, 8312, 8315, 8318, 8320, 8323, 8324, 8331, 8337, 8343, 8350, 8352, 8353, 8354, 8361, 8362, 8365, 8366, 8378, 8395, 8410, 8416, 8422, 8438, 8455, 8463, 8475, 8489, 8500, 8502, 8503, 8508, 8512, 8519, 8525, 8533, 8569, 8571, 8572, 8600, 8614, 8616, 8620 and 8631.

Worked Stone

Twelve worked stone objects, mainly of the Roman period, were recovered. These included four rotary quern fragments (U/S, 8032[in two pieces], 8104[in two pieces] and 8455), a fragment from a beehive quern (8015) and a complete quern (again from 8032). All are in stone from either a Peak or Pennine source, with the exception of one imported fragment (U/S) in Neidermendig Lava, querns in this material normally being associated with the Roman army.

Other worked stone finds included: a stone with partially-surviving mouldings (8023), an edged sandstone block (8027), a large rubbing stone with tool cut marks at the side (8104), a whetstone (U/S), a possible whetstone (8544) and a pierced slate (1110), possibly from a modern farm building.

Further research and geological identification will be required upon all these items. Four items are recommended for illustration.

Slag

Small quantities of slag, together weighing 300g, were recovered from the following contexts: 8004, 8008, 8015, 8106, 8471. This activity cannot be adequately dated to the Roman period. Therefore no further action will be required upon this material.

Fired Clay

Fragments of fired clay, weighing 6582g, were recovered, either singly or in small groups of up to fifteen, from a number of contexts. Although almost-exclusively Roman in origin (apart from the largest quantities from 8015, 8360 and 8416), the small number of fragments is not significant and no further action will be required for this material.

Miscellaneous Finds

Fragments of charcoal (from 8015, 8098, 8183, 8263, 8439, 8585, and 8626), of shell (8015) and three fragments of clay pipe (from 8020, 8037 and 8135), were recovered for which no further action will be required.

Mammal and Bird Bones by Andy Hammon and Emma Hancox

Introduction

Only the animal bones from Romano-British contexts has been analysed as part of this assessment. Material from contexts containing medieval and post-medieval pottery mixed with residual Roman pottery have not been examined. At this stage of the post-excavation process no effort has been made to sub-divide the Romano-British material further, i.e. into early (Phase 2) or late Roman (Phase 3), given the combined Roman assemblage is itself relatively small, and it will simply be considered as Roman for the purposes of this assessment. Emma Hancox scanned the material and produced quantifications, and Andy Hammon correlated the results and wrote the narrative.

Quantity and Storage

The assemblage is contained in four museum boxes (measuring approximately 20 x 30 x 20 cm). The material is currently held at BUFAU.

Recovery

All the material considered in this assessment was hand-collected during the course of excavation. It must be noted that reliance on hand-collection may introduce a bias into the assemblage; the larger skeletal elements of the larger mammals are preferentially retrieved over the smaller skeletal elements and smaller species of mammal, bird and fish. Any additionally material recovered from the heavy residues of bulk samples from the site may require examination at full post-excavation analysis stage.

Secondary Deposition, Intrusive and Residual Material

The secondary deposition of animal bone can be inferred from the level of gnawing, predominately by canids and pig, noted within an assemblage. Although not quantified at this juncture the material contained moderate levels of gnawing and is therefore indicative of the majority of the assemblage having been retrieved from its original place of deposition. The presence of intrusive material is less problematic, principally as it is generally easier to recognise. Articulated well-preserved elements or species with known histories found out of context, such as rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) remains within Roman deposits, are both good indicators. No such elements or fragments were noted from the Northfield Avenue assemblage.

It is notoriously difficult to determine whether or not skeletal material is residual from the bones themselves. Although certain indicators, such as differential surface preservation, colour, fragmentation and angularity of breakage within particular deposits, can be used to infer the likelihood of residual material being present (Dobney *et al.* 1996). More commonly, an analogy is drawn between pottery residuality and probable animal bone residuality, although the depositional pathways of these two categories of artefact may be quite different, for instance pottery use-life (Evans & Millett 1992; Tomber 1991). The initial impression given by the Northfield Avenue material is that it appears reasonably homogenous and therefore does not appear mixed. No information is yet available as to the levels of residuality among the pottery assemblage.

Preservation

Preservation ranged from well to moderately well preserved, which was characterised by some exfoliation to the original bone surfaces. The differences in preservation may relate to either different or fluctuating moisture content in the burial environments or post-depositional treatment, such as cooking. Several contexts contained burnt material (8007, 8008, 8009, 8021, 8080, 8148, 8202, 8228, 8241, 8278, 8277, 8283, 8462, 8474 and 8492). The possibility that these fragments relate directly to the industrial activity taking place at Northfield Avenue will be explored during the final analysis.

Fragmentation

Fragmentation, represented by the proportion of isolated teeth within the assemblage, was moderate. Some of the fragmentation related directly to butchery and kitchen

activities, denoted by butchery evidence whereas some of the fragmentation observed related to post-depositional destruction, indicated by the presence of isolated equid teeth, the most durable of all skeletal elements.

Methods

The mammal bones were assessed following a modified version of the method described by Albarella & Davis (1994) and Davis (1992). This system considers a selected suite of anatomical elements as 'countable' (diagnostic zones); it does not include every bone fragment that is identifiable. Briefly, the skeletal elements considered are all the mandibular teeth; horn-core (complete transverse section); the skull (zygomaticus); scapula (glenoid articulation/cavity); distal humerus; distal radius; proximal ulna; carpals 2-3; distal metacarpal; pelvis (ischial part of the acetabulum); distal femur, distal tibia, calcaneum (sustentaculum), astragalus (lateral part), naviculo-cuboid/scafocuboid; distal metatarsal; proximal phalanges 1-3. At least 50% of the specified area has to be present for the fragment to be considered 'countable'.

The following skeletal elements were considered 'countable' for birds: scapula (articular end); proximal coracoid; distal humerus; proximal ulna; proximal carpometacarpus; distal femur; distal tibiotarsus; distal tarsometatarsus. No attempt during the assessment was made to distinguish between sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*). Neither was any attempt made to speciate the equid, cervid or bird remains. Mandibular fragments were considered to be 'ageable' when there were two, or more, teeth present with recognisable wear.

Von den Driesch (1995) defines the majority of measurements that would be taken during the final analysis. Additional measurements for pig (*Sus scrofa*) follow the definitions of Payne & Bull (1988). Humerus 'HTC' and 'BT', and tibia 'Bd', would be taken for all species following Payne & Bull (1988). Measurements 'BatF', 'a', 'b', '1', '3' and '4' for cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) metapodials would also be taken, using the criteria described by Davis (1992).

Overview

Table 2 summarises the number of countable (NISP) fragments in the Northfield Avenue assemblage, a total of 185. Cattle (*Bos taurus*) dominate the assemblage, followed by sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and pig (*Sus scrofa*). Equid, dog (*Canis familiaris*) and cervids also occur in low numbers. The bird remains include domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*). Table 3 outlines the number of ageable mandibles present for cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Table 4 summarises the number of measurable elements within the assemblage, using the criteria outlined above.

COUNTABLE FRAGMENTS						
Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Other	Bird	Comments	Total
104	28	17	30	6	Equid, dog & deer	185

Table 2. Animal bone. Countable fragments (NISP) by species.

AGEABLE MANDIBLES			
Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Total
5	18	3	26

Table 3. Animal bone. Ageable mandibles by species.

MEASUREABLE ELEMENTS					
Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Other	Bird	Total
24	28	3	2	2	59

Table 4. Animal bone. Number of measureable elements.

Potential and recommendations

The Northfield Avenue mammal and bird bone assemblage is generally well preserved and not especially heavily fragmented. Taphonomic indicators would also suggest that the assemblage is not overtly affected by reworking. It will therefore be possible to address legitimate archaeological questions associated directly with the interpretation of the site by analysing the animal remains. The two principle components of the final analysis should be a consideration of aspects of the agro-economy and the identification of any animal exploitation associated directly with the industrial activities taking place at Northfield Avenue.

The material represents a fairly typical Romano-British assemblage. The information potential of the assemblage unfortunately is limited, due to the sample size. Consequently, it will not allow for the precise nature of animal exploitation and husbandry practices to be examined, i.e. survivorship patterns constructed from teeth eruption and wear, and biometry to assess changes in husbandry. Notwithstanding this, it will be possible to draw some comparisons, and to integrate Northfield Avenue with other Rocester assemblages, such as Hammon (2000), Levitan (1996) and Murray (2001). Additional regional and national comparisons can be made using the vast number of published contemporary British sites.

The final analysis should only take place once the phasing has been completed, and the material can be sub-divided into early (Phase 2) and late Roman (Phase 3). Also the final analysis should only be undertaken once the heavy residue of any bulk samples have been sorted for additional bone fragments.

The Plant Remains by Marina Ciaraldi and Maurice Hopper

Numerous soil samples were collected during the excavation at Northfield Avenue, Rocester in order to investigate if and how biological remains were preserved. The samples were collected from various features and covered a period of time from the 1st century AD to the medieval period. Five phases were recognised on site. The samples here discussed come from the following phases:

Phase 2 Roman period (second century AD)

Phase 3 Late Roman period (third to fourth century AD)

Phase 4 Medieval period (twelfth to fifteenth century)

The plant material from Phases 2 and 3 has been considered here as a single assemblage due to the provisional nature of the spot dating.

This assessment discusses the plant remains recovered from twenty samples and looks at their potential in providing information on the following aspects of the site economy and environment:

- The presence of different areas of activity on site, particularly those related to crop processing or industrial production.
- The importance of the plant assemblage in comparison with those recovered from other sites in Rocester (Moffett 1996, Monckton 2000, Ciaraldi forthcoming). In particular, if they can provide evidence on the nature of the occupation of the site and help in understanding the economic relations with other contemporary sites in Rocester.
- The presence of ritual offerings such as those identified at the nearby Roman site of Orton's Pasture, Rocester (Monckton 2000).

Methods

Samples of twenty litres were collected from various features under the supervision of the first author and according to the guidelines outlined in the *On Site Guide to Environmental Sampling and Processing*, BUFAU. Only sub-samples of ten litres, however, were processed for the purposes of this assessment. The samples were floated by MH, by using bucket flotation. The light fraction (flot) of the soil was recovered using a 500 µm sieve, the heavy fraction (residue) was recovered on a 1mm mesh. The residue was sorted by eye, while the flots were scanned under a low-power stereomicroscope. The results are listed in Table 5 but the identifications have to be considered only tentatively, as no reference collection was used at this stage.

Results

The preservation of charred plant remains is poor overall and they tend to be found almost exclusively in kilns or pits associated with kilns (Table 5). The charred seeds recovered from those contexts contained a limited range of species, including spelt/bread wheat (*Triticum spelta/aestivum*), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), oats (*Avena* sp.) and a few weed seeds such as mayweeds (*Anthemis cotula* L.), vetch/vetchling/tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) and cleaver (*Galium aparine* L.). The plant remains recovered from one of the kilns (F1041/ 8429 and 8434) contained only charred oat grains, still enclosed in their glumes. The presence of glumes on oats makes possible to identify it at species level. This will represent an important result given the general difficulties in the identification of oat species and the little archaeological evidence of its cultivation.

Discussion and recommendation

The plant remains recovered from the assessed samples derived almost exclusively from features interpreted as kilns or oven, suggesting that they might be related to activities carried out in the kilns itself (drying or malting, use of fuel etc). The plant assemblages from the various contexts show a certain homogeneity, with the exception of that associated with F1041 (Table 5). It is not clear whether this is due to a diverse use of the kiln structures or to a change of crop dried in the kilns during different periods of the site occupation.

The wheat grains found in various samples belong either to spelt or bread wheat (*Triticum spelta/aestivum*). However, in most cases they seem to resemble more closely those of bread wheat. This seems to be confirmed also by the relative scarcity

of spelt chaff. If this is the case, it suggests that bread wheat might have been already an important crop at Rocester during the early Roman period and that it had replaced spelt. These data is particularly important if these deposits date to the early Roman period. The presence of a deposit of pure oat grains is an unequivocal evidence that oats were cultivated as a separate crop. In this respect, it will be particularly important to establish whether the deposit is Roman or medieval and it is suggested that the sample is submitted for ^{14}C dating, in case the pottery evidence proves to be inconclusive.

The plant remains observed in the assessed samples have the potential not only to shed light on the use of the kilns, but also to answer questions about the early cultivation of bread wheat and that of other minor cereals (e.g. oats) in the region. It is therefore recommended that the remaining ten litres of the samples highlighted in Table 5 are fully processed and analysed. The identification of oats to species level deserves particular attention. It is also recommended that some of the large pieces of charcoal found in the deposits from the kilns be analysed, as they represent fuel used for the drying or malting of cereals, a function generally associated with spelt chaff. Finally it is suggested that the following sixteen new samples are processed and included in the final analysis: 3 (F834/8048), 4 (F829/8054), 15 (F871/8117), 35 (F909.01/8198), 39 (F922/8213), 51 (F948/8254), 54 (F955/8272), 69 (F948/8300), 70 (F948/8361), 71 or 72 or 73 (respectively F959.01/8362, 8360, 8365), 77 (F1025/8393), 87 (F1074/8475), 92 (F1084/8471), 94 (F1005/890), 96 (F1123/8576) and 97 (F1126/8587). The samples have been selected amongst those collected from other kilns or features that have the potential for containing charred plant remains.

Sample N.	Feature/Context	Vol. processed	Phase	Context type	TAXA	Charcoal	NOTES	Further analysis
16	F872/8118	10	Rom	Ditch				NO
19	F875.02/8122	10	Rom	Enclosure ditch	Bread wheat/ spelt (<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i>) (2) pulses (2)		Some small fragments of coal	NO
37	F909.1/8202	10	Rom	Circular pit				NO
40	F909.03/8227	10	2/3	Circular pit			Charcoal very minute as if produced by charring of leafy material	NO
46	F943/8248	10	2/3	Well	Few cereal grains			NO
55	8278	10	2/3	Layer	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (3), barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (1)	Some large pieces	Some small fragments of coal	NO
56	F977/8307	10	2/3	Pit	Spelt/bread wheat (<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i>), Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>), cereals, <i>Chenopodium album</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.)	Some charcoal		YES

57	F955/ 8314	5	2/3	Hearth	Oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) (2), <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> (1)		Tiny sample	NO
58	F955/ 8272	10	2/3	Hearth	Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (2) 1 with slightly germinated embryo, oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) (3)		Small sample	NO
59	8173	10	2/3	Clay layer	Spelt/bread wheat (<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i>) (2), Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (3), oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) (2)		Small sample	NO
60	F1098/ 8312	10	2/3	Pit near kiln	Cereals (3), <i>Anthemis cotula</i> (2), oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) (4)		Small sample	NO
61	F981/ 8320	10	2/3	Stoke hole	Wheat (<i>Triticum</i> sp.) (4), Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (2), cereals (1)		Small sample	NO
64	F959/ 8337	10	2/3	Kiln	Bread wheat/ spelt (<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i>) (x), Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (x), oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) (x), <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Rubus</i> sp.; spelt glume bases			YES
67	F1005/ 8263	10	4	Kiln	Bread wheat (<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i>) (xx), Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (2), oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) (3), <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus/ Galium aparine</i>			YES
74	F959.01/ 8360	10	2/3	Upper fill of kiln	Hulled barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (xx), oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , spelt glume basis			YES
80	F1041/ 8429	5	2/3	Fill of kiln	Deposit of charred oats still with glumes	Large fragments		YES
81	F1041/ 8434	5	2/3	Fill of kiln	Same as above	Large fragments		YES
83	F1050/ 8440	10	2/3	Pit	Bread wheat (<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i>) (8), barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (4), oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) (xx), <i>Anthemis cotula</i> (x)	Large fragments		YES
88	F1074/ 8476	2.5	2/3	Hearth	Bread wheat (<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i>) (7), barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) (3), oats (<i>Avena</i> sp.) (4), Rye (<i>Secale cereale</i>) (1), <i>Rumex</i> sp. (1)			YES
98	F1133/ 8606	5	2/3	Keyhole kiln	? <i>Vicia faba</i>			YES

Table 5. List of samples assessed for charred plant remains

Assessment Overview

Taken in conjunction with the earlier finds of prehistoric material from the area of Northfield Avenue the assemblage of prehistoric worked flints from the campaign of excavations under consideration here is of considerable importance on both a local and regional level. Though the earlier find was of a prehistoric pottery vessel, no prehistoric pottery of a similar date was found during the recent excavation. However, full sorting of the Romano-British pottery assemblage may reveal some hitherto unidentified prehistoric material amongst this pottery. Certainly, there is one possible sherd of later prehistoric pottery from the excavation, a possibly Late Iron Age sherd from pit F871, which, if confirmed as such during post-excavation analysis, could provide a date for the first features encountered on the site, that is pit F871 itself and a series of linear features that may have formed part of a field system or be related to an enclosure lying outside the area of excavation. There is though still the possibility that all these features are early Romano-British, rather than prehistoric, in date.

The excavation has, most significantly, provided important evidence about the chronology, layout, and nature of activity to the north of the first and second century fort complex at Rocester, in what must presumably be termed part of the *vicus*, that complements and enhances the results of the work carried on a smaller scale in the 1960s (Bell 1986) and the late 1990s at the Mill Street *vicus* site to the west of the forts (Mould 1996; Ferris and Bevan Forthcoming), at Orton's Pasture to the south of the forts (Ferris, Bevan and Cuttler 2001) and to the east of the forts in Mill Field (unpublished).

Taken together, the work of BUFAU at the Mill Street site, Orton's Pasture and the Northfield Avenue site that forms the subject of this present assessment tells us a great deal about the chronological development, layout and spatial zoning in the Rocester *vicus*. There are evidently apparent, even at assessment stage, quite specific characteristics to the archaeology of the excavated area at Northfield Avenue. Firstly, the excavated area encompasses parts of three or four enclosures, the largest and most complex of which, seemingly in the form of a 'ladder enclosure', encloses an industrial working area of some kind, with one major kiln and numbers of smaller kilns/ovens and hearths, perhaps relating to both industrial production and crop processing. The absence of pottery wasters and the virtual absence of metalworking residues supports this present interpretation, even though the absence of ceramicised clay in and around these features might rather argue against high-temperature activities taking place here. This working area forms part of a complex sequence of activity excavated in plan over a relatively large area here that can perhaps be better understood and interpreted than had these sequences only been seen in small trenches. As well as the enclosures the archaeology of the excavated area was dominated by the digging of pits, perhaps both rubbish pits and wells, though finds from many of these features were relatively small in number.

It has now emerged therefore that there is a distinct zoning of activities in the areas surrounding the forts, as well as within some of these zones themselves. In the Mill Street *vicus* area there was considerable evidence for metalworking, in the form of ironsmithing; in Mill Field, while work here was on a very small-scale, principally involving trial trenching, the features here were interpreted as being stock enclosures; and at Orton's Pasture there was a zone of enclosures, one of which was associated with a religious building or shrine. While final interpretation of activities carried out at the Northfield Avenue site must await the results of full post-excavation analysis,

there is nevertheless represented here some form of industrial activity. Firm dating of this activity and the question of the contemporaneity of the four enclosures must await detailed analysis of the pottery, particularly the samian ware and mortaria.

Studies of patterning within and between the finds assemblages during the recommended further study should allow information to be obtained about functional differences within the *vicus* and about any changes over time. Perhaps more importantly, it should be possible to usefully compare the quantified finds and environmental data from the industrial zones of the *vicus* with the larger assemblages from within the fort (that is from the New Cemetery excavation) and from the somewhat enigmatic military/religious site at Orton's Pasture. The broad contemporaneity between certain phases at these three Rocester sites makes this potential aspect of the proposed study of particular academic importance. Finally, it should also be possible to contextualise the Rocester *vicus* within this overall monument type on a national level, with reference to the studies carried out by Sommer (1984) and Smith (1987).

The post-fort Roman activity on the Northfield Avenue site was apparently less intensive in nature, much smaller in extent and probably also in duration. Ditches of this period may be related to a droveway, but it is difficult at present to interpret the features associated with this phase and to understand how they relate to features and structures of a similar third and fourth century date encountered at other sites around the village.

Medieval activity on the site was largely represented by ditches and pits, in all probability associated with agricultural activity. Pottery associated with these medieval features suggests that they date to the thirteenth to fifteenth century, although further examination of this pottery will be required to confirm and nuance this dating and to help provide a social and economic context for this activity. In the same way, some analysis of the post-medieval ceramics, alongside study of the features and structures of this date excavated, could help shed light on the development of this area on the fringes of the village.

Along with the evidence provided by the extensive features, structures and archaeological deposits excavated on the site, the recovery of finds and environmental material during the Northfield Avenue *vicus* excavation has provided the type of information which should allow social and economic data to be added to the picture. In particular, a large and well-preserved Romano-British pottery assemblage from the site has the potential through its further study to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the functions of individual areas in Roman Rocester and functional differences between. Information on aspects of prehistoric and medieval Rocester has also emerged from the project. The individual specialist assessments above indicate the academic potential of the further, fuller study of each category of material, though in a few cases little or no further work has been recommended.

Alongside Wall, Rocester is now one of the most-studied Romano-British sites in the county, something that will be further enhanced by the publication of the results of work on the present site described in this report.

Post-Excavation Programme

Post-Excavation

Following this post-excavation assessment all specialist reports will be commissioned, and the full post-excavation programme, leading to a publication in a proposed third Rocester BAR (British Archaeological Report), will be implemented.

Report

The results of the fieldwork will be prepared as an academic report, with a short note in West Midlands Archaeology and the appropriate national period journals. The illustrated report will contain the following:

- (a) Description of the archaeological background.
- (b) Aims and methodology.
- (c) A narrative description of the results and discussion of the evidence, set in their local and regional context, supported by appropriate plans and sections.
- (d) Presentation of the finds and environmental evidence.
- (e) Synthetic discussion of the site in its local and regional archaeological context, identifying the relevant research issues.

Archive

The site archive will conform to the guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects and the specific requirements of the County depository in the Potteries Museum, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

The following post-excavation programme will be carried out between July 2002-May 2003, with a view to submitting a report to Archaeopress for publication as a BAR monograph. The report will be provisionally titled 'Excavation and Recording at the Romano-British Site at Northfield Avenue, Rocester, Staffordshire' by B.Burrows, I.M.Ferris, R.Leary and L.Bevan, with contributions by M.Ciaraldi, B.Dickinson, R.Gale, A.Hammon, K.Hartley, R.Ixer, E.Macey, D.Mackreth, S.Ratkai, R.Tomlin, R.White, D.Williams, and S.Willis, and illustrations by B.Ryder and N.Dodds.

Contributors:

BUFAU Staff

- I.Ferris-Site narrative, summary and conclusions.General Editor and Project Manager.
- L.Bevan-Small finds and Roman coarse pottery. Project Finds Manager.
- B. Burrows-Site matrix, narrative, discussion and archive.
- M.Ciaraldi-Charred and mineralised plant remains.
- E.Macey-Tile and brick
- N.Dodds-Illustrator.
- B.Ryder-Illustrator.
- R.White-Coins.
- K.Muldoon-Archive.

External Specialists

R.Leary-Roman coarse pottery.
K.Hartley-Mortaria and mortaria stamps.
D.Mackreth-Brooches.
R.Tomlin-Graffiti.
R.Ixer-Geological identification.
D.Williams-Amphora and amphora stamps.
S.Willis-Samian.
B.Dickinson-Samian stamps.
S.Ratkai-Medieval and post-medieval pottery.
A.Hammon-Animal bones.
R.Gale-Charcoal identification.

Breakdown of Individual Tasks

PX Finds Management (L.B.)	1 day
PX Management (I.F.)	1 day
Stratigraphic Report: (B.B.)	9 days

Samian-Time Required

Further research and the compilation of a report: (S.W.)	5 days
Illustration of selected sherds: (B.R.)	3 days
Identification of stamps: (B.D.)	0.5 day

Amphorae-Time Required

Further research and compilation of a report: (L.B.)	0.5 day
Further research on form pieces and some fabrics: (D.W.)	1 day
Illustration of c. 6 sherds: (B.R.)	1 day

Mortaria-Time Required

Recording (K.H.)	1 day
Further research and compilation of a report: (K.H.)	2 days
Report on stamped mortaria :(K.H.)	1 day
Illustration of selected profiles and stamps: (B.R.)	2 days

Coarse Pottery-Time Required for Further Work

Relating fabric series to previous Rocester series: (L.B.)	1 day
Cataloguing of relevant groups: (L.B.)	8 days
Quantification: (L.B.)	6 days
Further research: (L.B. and R.L.)	4 days (L.B)
Report writing: (L.B.and R.L.)	5 days (L.B)
Selection for illustration: (L.B.)	0.5 day
Liaising with illustrator: (L.B.)	0.5 day
Illustration and mounting of c. 200+ pieces: (B.R.)	10 days

Medieval pottery

Extract form sherds and record: (S.R.)	0.5 day
Write fabric descriptions	0.5 day
Write report	1.0 day

Check illustrations	0.25 day
Number of illustrations 10-20 (B.R.)	days
Total days	2.25 days
Post-medieval pottery.	
Attribution to ware and vessel form	0.5 day
Write report	0.75 day
Total days	1.25 days
Other Finds-Time Required for Further Work	
Tile and Brick	
Compilation of catalogue, further research and a summary report (E.M.)	3 days
Worked Bone	
Compilation of catalogue, further research and a full report: (L.B.)	0.25 day
Illustration: (B.R.)	0.5 day
Roman Glass	
Compilation of catalogue, further research and full report (L.B.)	4 days
Selective illustration: (B.R.)	2 days
Selected Metalwork	
Compilation of catalogue, further research and full report: (L.B.)	3 days
Selective illustration: (B.R.)	2.5 days
Coins and Brooch (R.W.)	1 day
Stone	
Further analysis, compilation of catalogue and report: (L.B.)	1.5 days
Geological identification and report (R.I.)	1 day
Selective illustration (B.R.)	1 day
Animal Bones	
Identification and recording (A.H.)	2 days
Data correlation and analysis (A.H.)	1 day
Report production and analysis (A.H.)	1 day
TOTAL	4 days
Plant Remains	
Processing of 9 samples already assessed (M.C.)	1.5 days
Processing of 16 new samples (M.C.)	3 days
Sorting and identification of 25 samples (M.C.)	7 days
Writing up of report (M.C.)	3.5 days
SEM for oats identification	(1 hour)
TOTAL	15 days

Stratigraphic text	
Preparation of Drawing Roughs (B.B.)	1 day
Preparation of illustrations (site plans) (N. D.)	9 days
Preparation of first draft of introduction and results (B B.)	5 days
MONITORING POINT (1) ****	
Second draft of results text (B.B)	2 days
<hr/>	
Editing/correction to specialist reports (I.F.)	1 day
Integration of specialist data and preparation of first Draft of discussion (B.B. and I.F.)	3 days
Editing of first draft discussion (I..F.)	1 day
Revision (B B.)	2 days
Corrections to illustrations (B.R.)	1 day
MONITORING POINT (2) ****	
Completion of first draft (edited by BUFAU)	
Submission of text for external refereeing (I.F.)	0.25 day
Preparation of excavation and research archives (K.M.)	0.5 day
Final corrections to text/illustrations (I.F.)	1 day.
Final edit and submission of text to OXBOW (I. F.)	0.25 day
Corrections to text/proofs (I. F.)	0.5 day
Archiving	
Archiving and deposition at Potteries Museum (K.M.)	0.5 day
Contents	
Introduction (B.B. and I.F.)-500 words, 2 figures, 1 photo.	
The Archaeological Background (I.F.)-750 words.	
The Stratigraphic Sequence (B.B.)-6500 words, 10 figures, 16 photos.	
Finds: Romano-British Coarse Pottery (L.B. with R.L.)-5000 words, 3 figures, 4 tables, 2 photos.	
Samian (S.W.)-2500 words, 1 figure, 3 tables.	
Mortaria (K.H. and L.B.)-2000 words, 1 figure, 1 table.	
Amphorae (D.W. and L.B.)-500 words, 1 figure, 1 table.	
Small Finds (L.B.+ D.M. on brooches+ R.W. on coins)-2000 words, 2 figures, 2 photos.	
Tile and brick (E.M.)-750 words, 1 table.	
Environmental Evidence: Charred Plant Remains (M.C.)-1500 words, 2 tables.	
Animal Bones (A. H.)-1500 words, 5 tables.	
Synthesis and Discussion (I.F.)-5000 words, 1 figure, 1 table.	
Bibliography-2500 words.	
Total- 31,000 words, 20 figures, 18 tables, 21 photos.	

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Acknowledgements

The project was sponsored by Michael Goodall Quality Homes. Michael Goodall and Andrew Kay of Michael Goodall Quality Homes are thanked for

their interest and help during all stages of the work, as is Daryl Garton of Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit who acted as a consultant to the developer during the initial phases of the project. We are grateful to Chris Wardle, County Heritage Data Manager, Staffordshire County Council, for advice and guidance on-site. The evaluation and excavation were managed by Dr Iain Ferris of BUFAU and directed by Bob Burrows (Senior Supervisor), with the assistance of Andy Rudge, Chris Hewitson, Richard Lee, Steve Graham, Steve Williams, Roy Krakowicz, Bob Bracken, Suzanne Blake, Maurice Hopper, Kate Bain, Phil Mann, Sally Radford, Helen Martin, Ellie Ramsey, Lisette Piper, Melissa Conway, Catharine Orchard and Erica Macey. Richard Cuttler, Sarah Watt and Chris Hewitson are thanked for their work on the digital mapping of the site. The Project Finds Manager was Lynne Bevan and the Environmental Supervisor was Dr Marina Ciaraldi. Erica Macey processed the finds, while Maurice Hopper undertook the processing of environmental samples. Quantification of many of the finds assemblages was carried out by Vicki Hudson. Ruth Leary provided expert specialist advice during an inspection of a sample of the Romano-British pottery assemblage. Dr Iain Ferris monitored the project on behalf of BUFAU and edited this report.

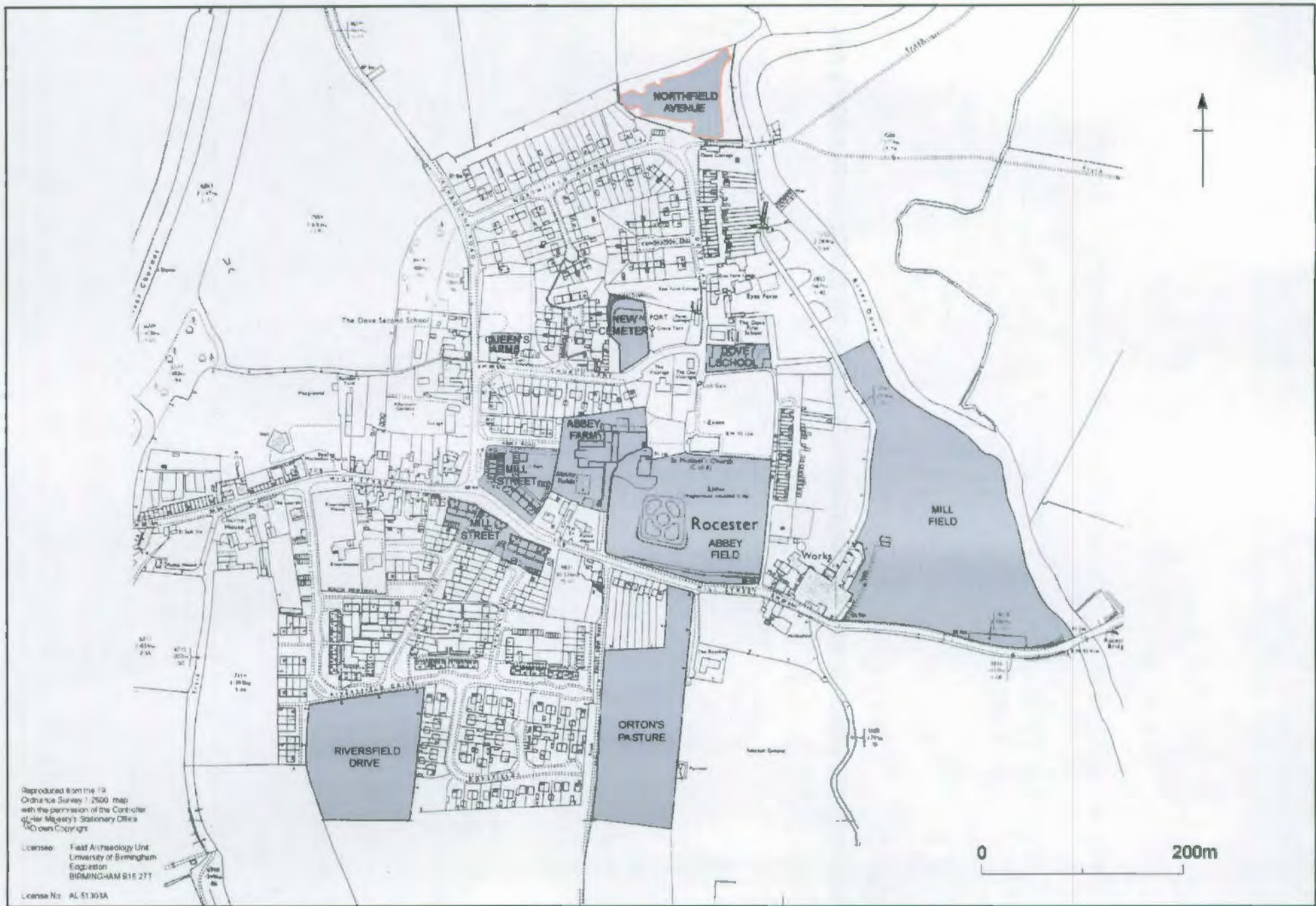


Fig. 1



0 20m

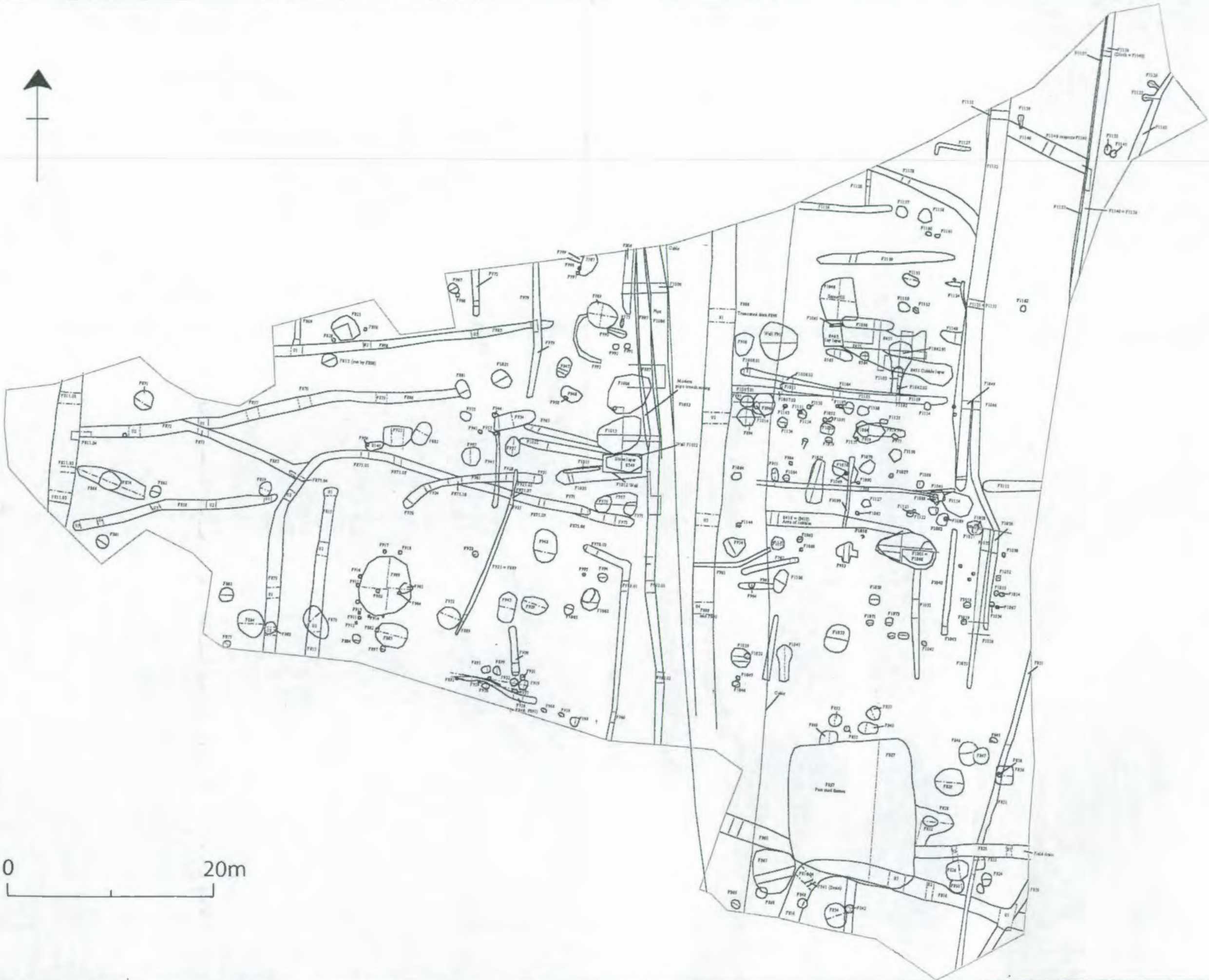


Fig 2



Fig. 3



Plates 1 and 2 Overall site shots showing extent of main excavated area





Plate 3 Working shot, the malting kiln is clearly visible in the centre



Plate 4 Detail shot, within the industrial area of the enclosure



Plate 5 Kiln (F959) working shot illustrating the chamber in the foreground with the flue extending to the east



Plate 6 Kiln (F959) nearing completion of excavation

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