



**Archaeological mitigation on land north of
Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt
Leicestershire
September to October 2018**

Report No. 19/22

Authors: Gemma Hewitt and Tracy Preece

Illustrator: Sofia Turk



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Project Manager: Anthony Maull
Site Code: X.A91.2016
NGR: SP 673 939

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PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS ID: molanort1-345784	
Project name	Archaeological mitigation on land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, September 2018 to October 2018		
Between October and November 2018 MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton carried out an archaeological excavation on land off Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire. The site revealed a landscape of sub-rectangular enclosures with a segmented boundary ditch to the south. These enclosures were in use from the late Iron Age into the Roman period with a new system established in the Saxon period.			
Project type	Archaeological excavation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment for environmental impact assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching		
Current Land use	Pasture		
Future work	None known		
Monument type/ period	Enclosures, pits and posthole (late Iron Age to Roman) Enclosures and post-built structure (Mid Saxon)		
Significant finds	Pottery, iron objects		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt		
Study area	1.3ha		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 67304 93919		
Height OD	125m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Richard Clarke		
Project design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Project Supervisor	Gemma Hewitt (MOLA)		
Director/Manager	Anthony Maull (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Heritage		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	September 2018		
End date	October 2018		
ARCHIVES		Location	Content
Physical	MOLA code: Accession Code: X.A91.2016		Pottery, animal bone, human bone, environmental
Paper			Site context records and registers
Digital			Photographs, report and dxf files
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report			
Title	Archaeological mitigation on land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, September 2018 to October 2018		
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Archaeological mitigation on land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire September to October 2018

Abstract

Between September and October 2018 MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton carried out an archaeological excavation on land off Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire. The site revealed a landscape of sub-rectangular enclosures with two parallel segmented boundary ditches to the south defining a routeway. A large rectangular enclosure was established during the late Iron Age period. During the Roman period, a series of ditched enclosures on a contrasting alignment were established that were in use until the mid to late-3rd century. Following a hiatus in activity a series of regular, rectilinear ditched enclosures on an east to west alignment were established during the Saxon period. A middle Saxon radiocarbon date was obtained from a post-built structure located within one of the enclosures which contained evidence for iron smithing.

1 INTRODUCTION

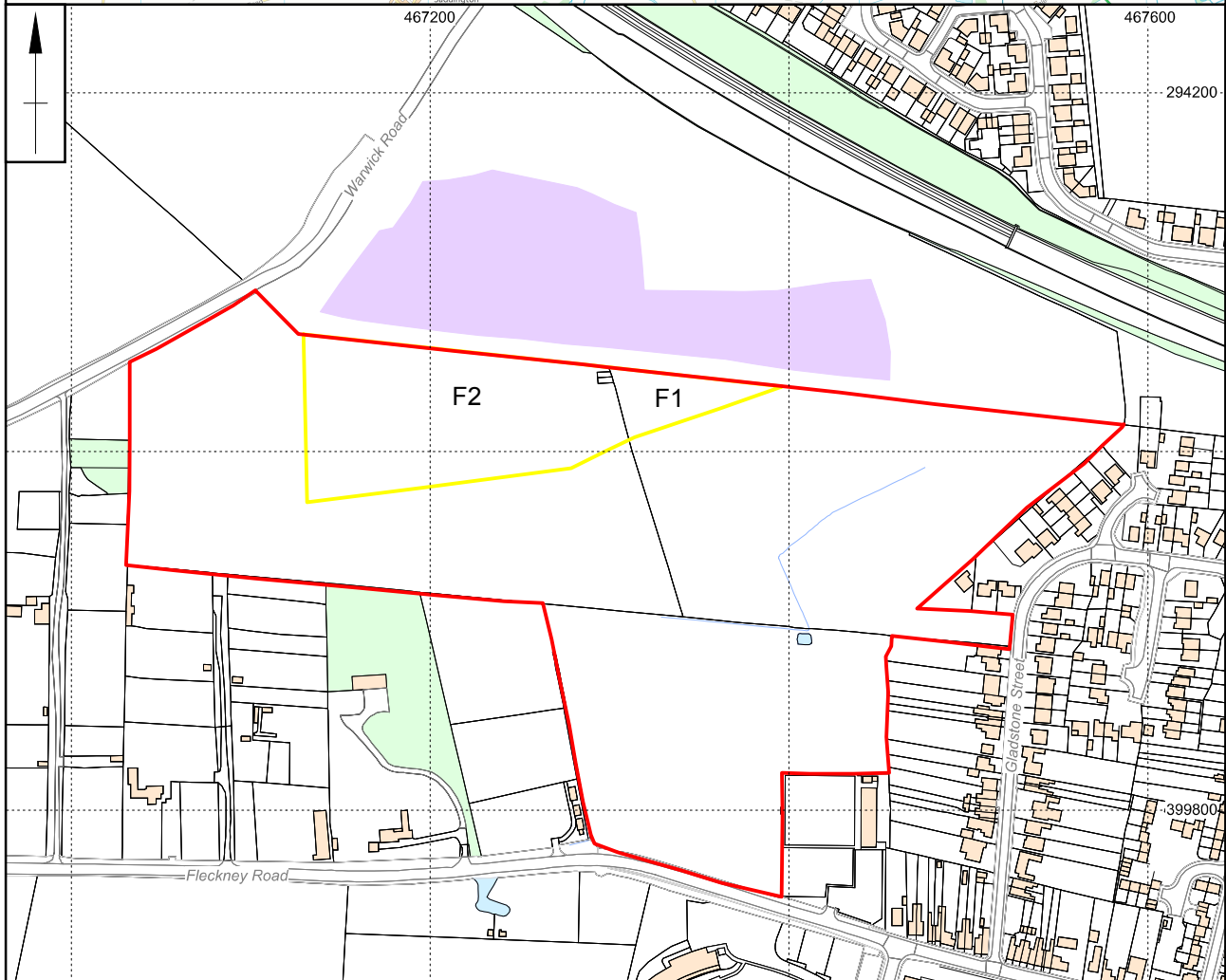
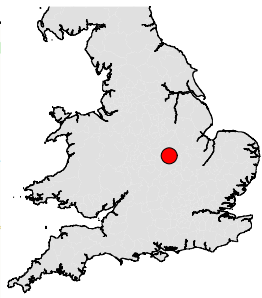
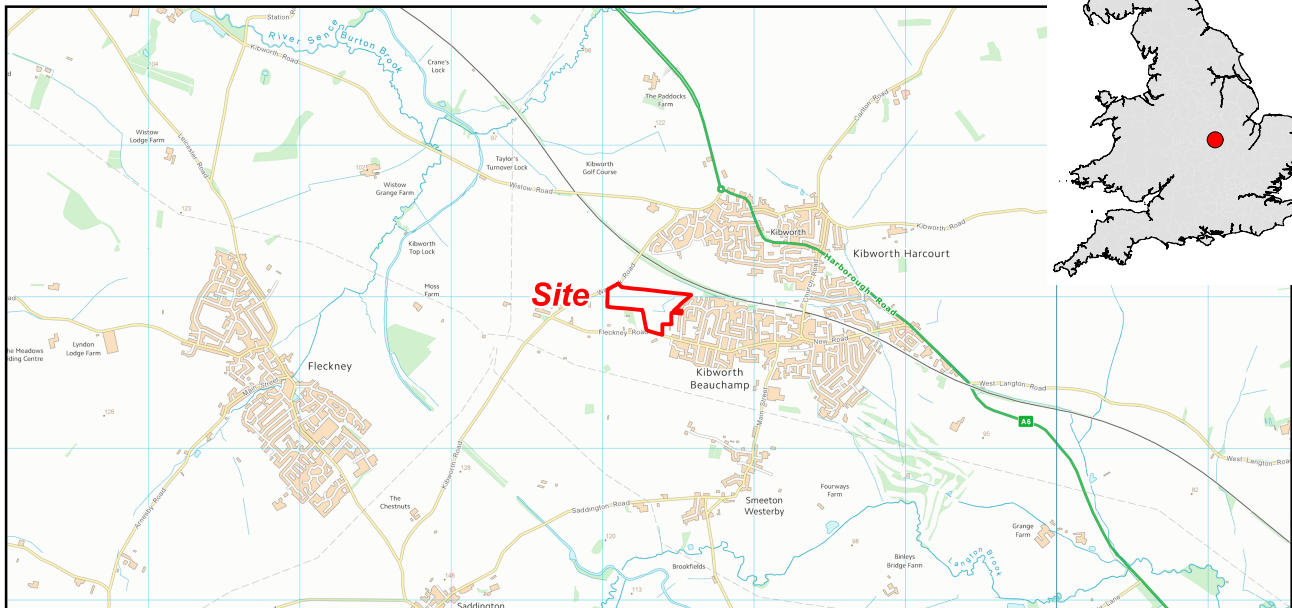
MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Heritage to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation works on land north of Fleckney Road in Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire. This took place in advance of proposed residential development (NGR SP 67304 93919, Fig 1). The archaeological works were required as a condition (51) on the outline planning consent (after appeal) and are being undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced under advice of the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council by MOLA (MOLA 2018), which outlined the scheme of works and methodology.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The proposed development area is located on the western edge of Kibworth Harcourt and comprises four oblong fields totalling 9ha. However, the mitigation focused on the two northern fields (F1 and F2), which comprised roughly 1.3ha of land (SP 67304 93919) (Fig 1). The site was bounded to the west by Warwick Road, to the east by residential areas, to the north by fields and to the south by Fleckney Road.

Field 1 (F1), at the east of the excavation area was triangular in shape measuring 65m by 30m. Field 2 (F2) was sub-rectangular, 180m by 88m and was mainly flat at an average of 125m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with a slight headland. The superficial geology of the site is classed as mid-Pleistocene Diamicton till, which overlies Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation mudstones (BGS 2018).



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Scale 1:4000

Site location and mitigation area Fig 1

2.2 Historical background

The known archaeology of the area was reviewed in a heritage assessment by CgMS Heritage (Dawson 2015) and an archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by MOLA (Crothers 2015). The following sites, find spots and monuments are drawn from these documents utilising the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER).

Prehistoric

A possible quartzite scraper was found on land to the north of Kibworth Harcourt.

Iron Age

Geophysical survey revealed a probable Iron Age site (MLE17675, ELE7262) consisting of a series of enclosures, underlying the Roman villa (MLE1767) to the north of the village. The survey also revealed a second possible sub-rectangular Iron Age enclosure immediately to the south-west (MLE17674). Geophysical survey (Walford 2015) and subsequent trial trenching (Hewitt 2015) in a triangular field located to the north-west of the site was undertaken in 2015 by MOLA. A palimpsest of enclosures and ditches was recorded suggesting occupation of a farmstead from the mid Iron Age through to the 4th century AD.

Roman

A Roman site was excavated to the north-east of the site between 1967 and 1969. A ditch and an L-shaped area of pebbles were recorded and artefacts included several hundred sherds of pottery, a brooch, coins and a quern. During excavation of a windmill mound in the 1960s, a number of large pebbles were found with a much-worn Castor ware pottery base and a late Roman belt plate with a 'mythical dragon type beast' (MLE7857). In 1837 and 1863 a possible Roman site was excavated at The Munt, Hall Close. A stone pavement was found with several Roman artefacts, including pottery, a candlestick and a penannular brooch (MLE7858). It is possible that this site is linked with the remains found at the windmill mound (MLE1768).

Saxon and medieval

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Kibworth Harcourt as Chiborne or Cliborne. Twelve carucates in Kibworth Harcourt were held by Robert de Vescy. In 1235-36 Richard de Harcourt held land in Kibworth from the Earl of Warwick. In 1270 Walter de Merton bought a large part of the parish of Kibworth Harcourt from Saer de Harcourt, who had been forced to sell the estate following his support for the Barons' Rebellion (VCH 1964). A large part of the parish has remained property of Merton College in Oxford to the present day (Crothers 2015).

The historic medieval core of Kibworth Harcourt lies to the east of the site. It is focussed on a motte known locally as The Munt (DLE291 and MLE1772) and the manor house (MLE10794) in Main Street. A medieval cross once stood opposite the manor house in the village but was taken down in 1825 (MLE1771).

During the medieval period, the site and much of the western side of Kibworth Harcourt was under plough. Ridge and furrow earthworks are known to be well preserved in areas and geophysical surveys in the field to the north (Walford 2015) have also recorded ridge and furrow.

Post-medieval

A windmill mound survives close to the north-east of the site which is marked as a barrow on an early to mid-18th-century pre-enclosure map. A trench dug across the

mound in the 1960s recorded a 13th-century storage jar, fragments of millstone, a carved bone tool and a whetstone. The parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1779 creating small rectangular and trapezoid fields, and by the close of the 18th century most of the fields had been given over to pasture (Dawson 2015).

2.3 Previous archaeological work

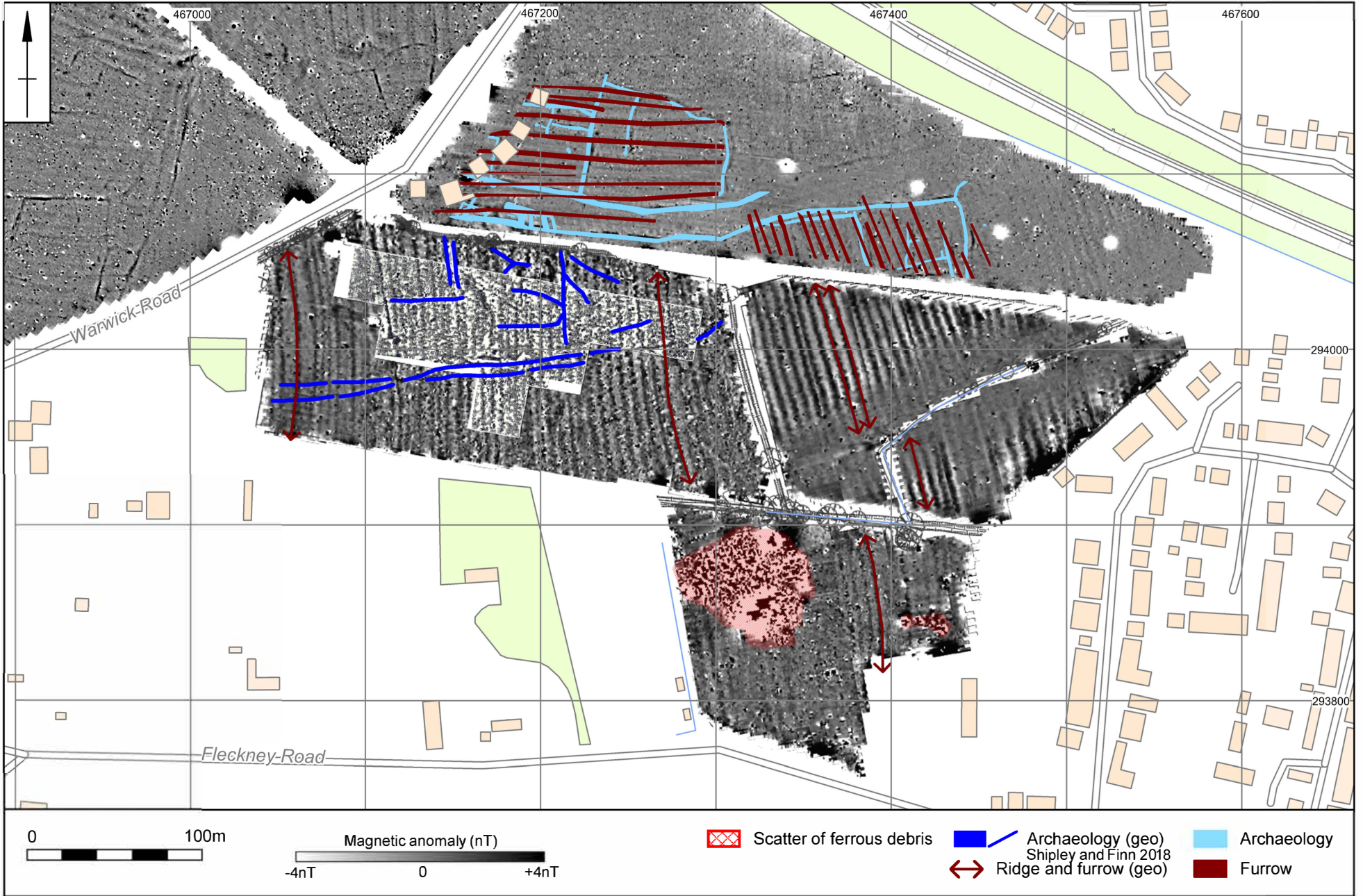
Prior to the mitigation, the archaeological potential of the site was evaluated through geophysical survey (GSB 1999; Richardson 2016). These identified linear responses suggesting a continuation of a trackway and enclosure system that have previously been recorded in the field to the north (Walford 2015), the layout of which suggested an Iron Age or Roman date (Fig 2). Subsequent archaeological trial trenching undertaken in 2016, confirmed the presence of these enclosures and trackway defined by parallel ditches (Chinnock 2016) (Fig 3). The artefact assemblages recovered were relatively limited suggesting that these features were likely to be agricultural rather than settlement related.

Kibworth Harcourt has been the subject of numerous archaeological investigations in the past decade (Fig 4). Other geophysical surveys previously undertaken on the western side of Kibworth Harcourt include fields to the south of the current site (Richardson 2016). Other areas were surveyed to the north and west with possible archaeological features being identified in these surveys and both were taken to trenching evaluation (Hewitt 2015 and Preece 2018a). To the north, trial trenching revealed the trackway and enclosures; however, these only produced a very small pottery assemblage dated to the late Iron Age to early Roman Period (Clements 2015).

The following mitigation works during 2017 identified a routeway and enclosures dating from the late Iron Age to Roman period with the trackway possibly remaining in use until as late as the Saxon period. Four Saxon burials and an iron hoard from a single pit contained a range of artefacts including a Seax, padlock and knives dated to the 10th century were also recorded (Shiple and Finn 2018). Trenching on land West of Warwick Road identified a series of rectangular enclosures and pits dating from the late Iron Age to the 4th century AD (Preece 2018a). Trenching immediately south of the site in 2018 found no archaeological remains (Reid 2018).

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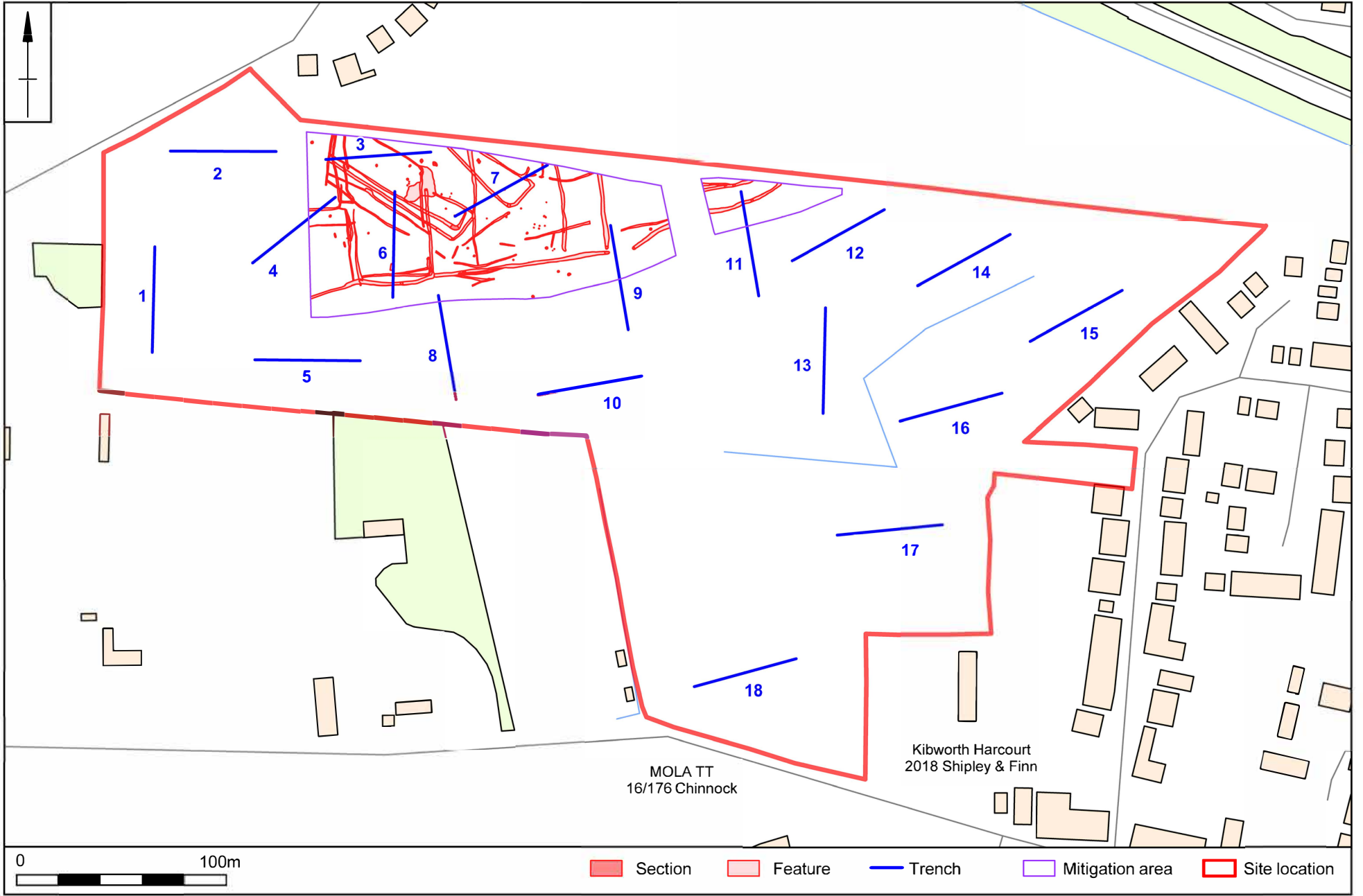
Results of geophysical survey Fig 2



Scale 1:2500

Mitigation area with previous trial trenches and site outline

Fig 3

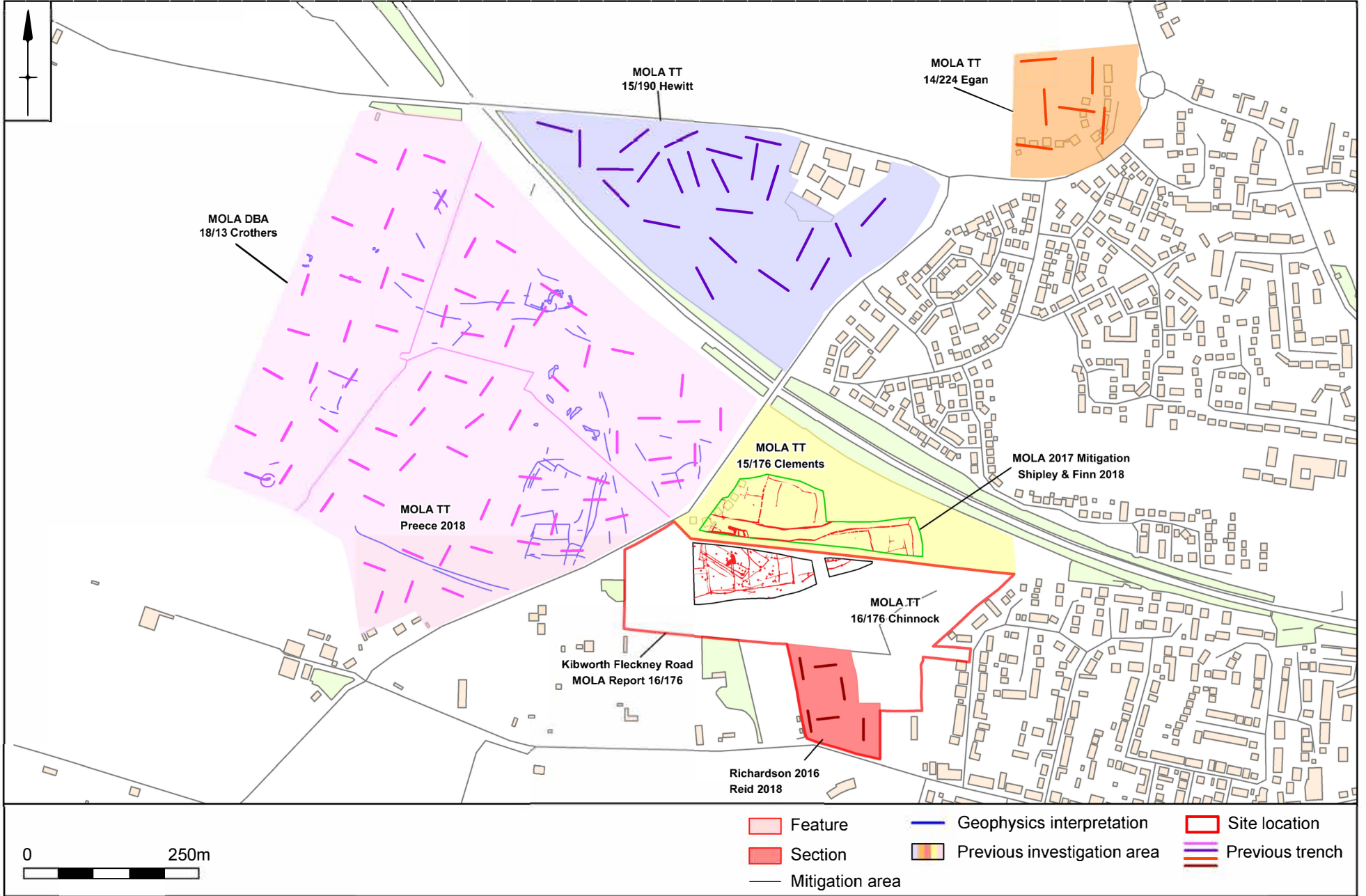


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Previous investigation areas near the site

Fig 4



- Feature
- Section
- Mitigation area
- Geophysics interpretation
- Previous investigation area
- Previous trench
- Site location

3 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project Aims

The aim of the excavation was to mitigate the loss of archaeological remains within the development site that could contribute towards our understanding of past processes and peoples through a scheme of preservation by record.

The general aims of the investigation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the excavation area;
- To examine the site's relationships to the environment, economy, land use and wider development, and;
- To examine evidence from the site for palaeo-environmental and economic development.

3.2 Research objectives

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (Knight *et al* 2012) to be used to enhance our understanding of the activity on the site.

Prior to the start of works, specific research objectives covering the Iron Age and Roman periods were taken from the *Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* were considered. They comprised:-

- Understanding the emergence of settlement;
- Understanding the development of field systems and linear boundaries and how this relates to changes in the agrarian landscape;
- Whether there is any evidence for agricultural intensification;
- Contribute to understanding the relationship between settlement patterns and agricultural changes;
- Contribute to the understanding of the rural economy and diet, and;
- Aspects of regional agricultural economy and intensification/expansion of field systems during the Roman period.

3.3 Excavation methodology

Topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological features and deposits uncovered were recorded using pro forma sheets conforming to best practice including a stratigraphic matrix of the relationships between features and deposits.

The excavation areas and archaeological features were mapped in relation to the OS grid and by measured survey equipment (GPS) with a tolerance of + or – 100mm. Plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. Each archaeological feature and deposit as well as excavated feature had a spot height recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.

Photos were taken as necessary to produce a photographic record of the site of the archaeological features with respect to their relationships with other features, the depositional sequence as well as to record site conditions and working practices. The photographs were taken using a digital camera of 12 megapixels to industry best practice (HE 2015b).

A targeted excavation methodology was agreed by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Principal Planning Archaeologist Richard Clarke and Mike Dawson of CgMs Heritage, and outlined in the approved WSI (MOLA 2018). This was to dig approximately 30 slots positioned across the area of excavation through a variety of features with relationships and key features prioritised. After a meeting with the Planning Archaeologist a further 71 slots were excavated.

MOLA Northampton is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered organisation and is regulated by its professional *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a). All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of Historic England (HE 2015a), the appropriate standards and guidance for archaeological fieldwork evaluation (CIfA 2014 a, b and c) and with current archaeological practice as defined in regional guidelines (Knight *et al* 2012) and national standards and guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA 2014a and b) and Historic England (HE 2015a). The *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* were also adhered to (LCC 1997).

Metal detecting surveying was undertaken of all stripped areas and spoil heaps throughout to ensure complete finds retrieval. The finds retrieved from site were treated in accordance with industry best practice and guidance (Watkinson and Neal 2001). All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. All finds were cleaned, weighed, counted and identified. The iron artefacts were submitted for X-radiography and stabilisation in accordance with industry best practice. Environmental samples of 40 litres were taken where appropriate to assess the survival of carbonised macrofossils and other biological remains.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 Stratigraphy

The natural geology across the site was a firm, mid orange-brown clay with moderate chalk and occasional mixed sized sub-angular stones of both Blue Lias and Charmouth mudstone formation to depths varying 0.45m (BGS 2018). This underlay subsoil formed of orange brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones, 0.15m thick. Overlying the subsoil was medium grey brown silty clay topsoil with small sub-angular stones.

4.2 Summary of the results

Archaeological remains dated to the late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods were identified (Fig 5). The main components of the activity identified during the excavation comprised a ditched enclosure established during the late Iron Age period. The Roman period saw a new series of sub-rectangular enclosures linked by two parallel flanking ditches defining a routeway. The routeway may have been a long-lived feature possibly influencing the layout of enclosures established during the Saxon period. Other associated features included pits, postholes and a post-built structure. Only a small ceramic assemblage was recovered implying that these features were not directly associated with a settlement focus. Table 1 and Fig 5 summarise the general chronological development of the site. All features were heavily truncated by medieval furrows.

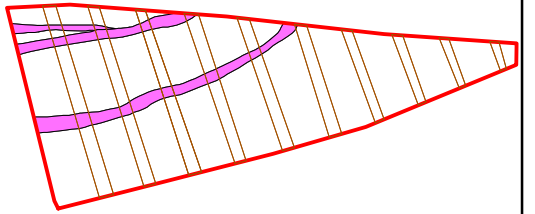
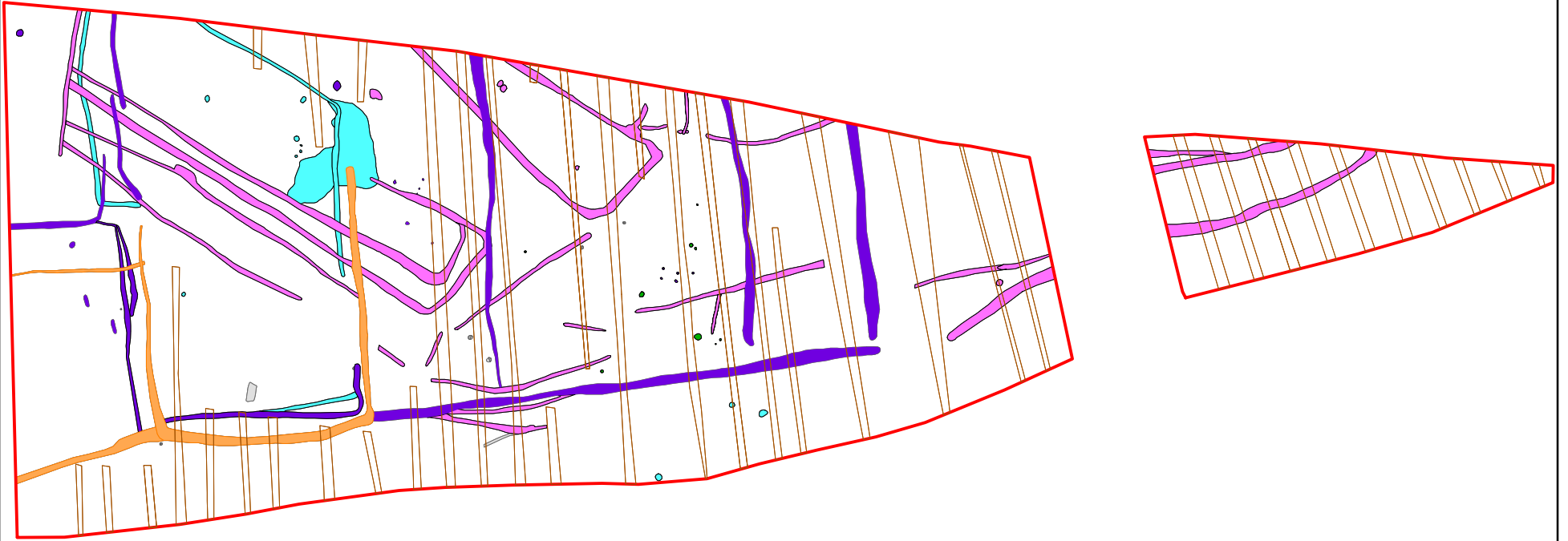
Table 1: Site chronology

Period	Description
Late Iron Age (1st century BC to early 1st century AD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large enclosure with associated pits and postholes
Mid Roman (Mid-2nd century to mid-3rd century AD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectilinear field system • Boundary ditches • Pits and postholes
Saxon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditched enclosure system • Post-built structure and pits
Medieval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ridge and furrow

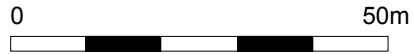
4.3 Late Iron Age enclosure

A large enclosure (E1) and a spread of material have been assigned to the late Iron Age period based mainly on the stratigraphic evidence with very limited dating evidence (Fig 6). The majority of the ditches defining the enclosure were truncated by later ditches. The small pottery assemblage of only seven late Iron Age sherds would suggest that this enclosure was not associated with settlement but probably had an agricultural function.

Scale 1:1000 (A4)

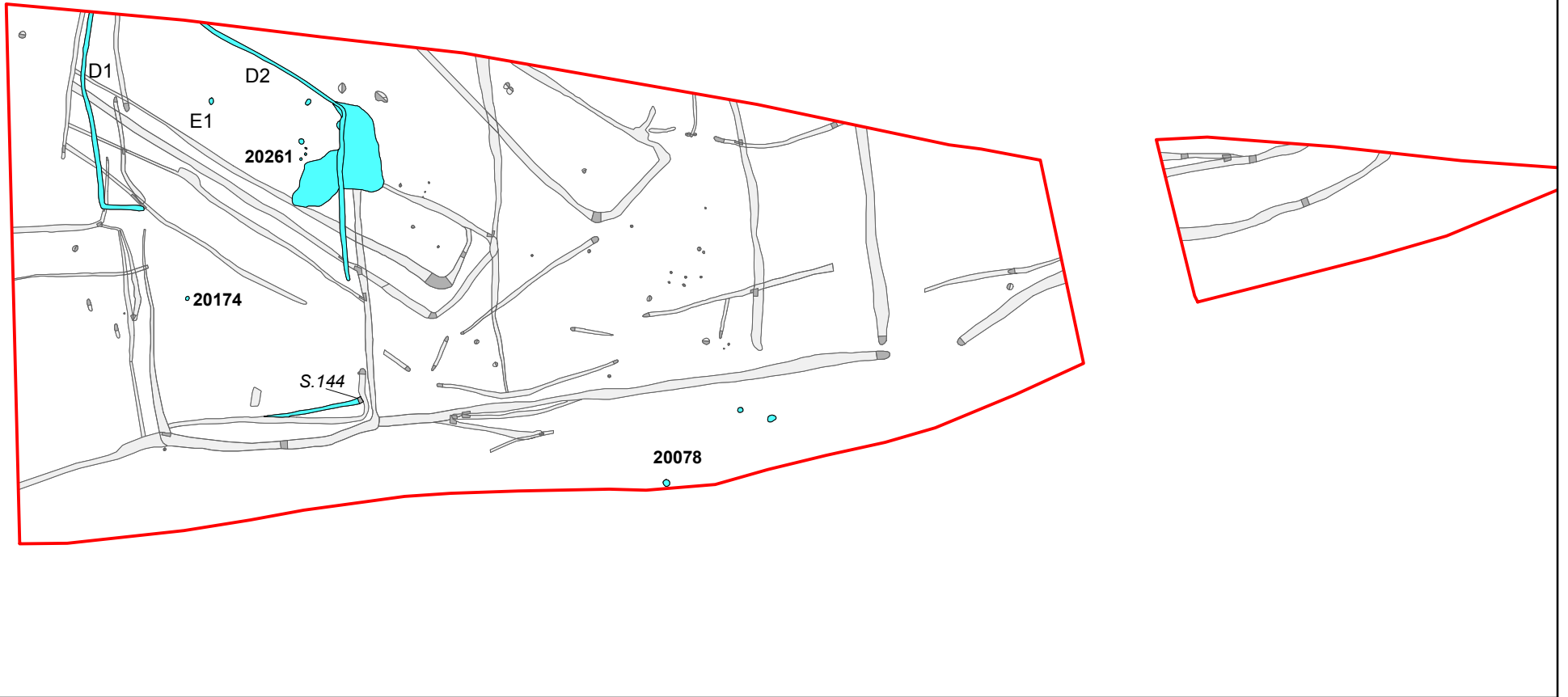


Phased site plan Fig 5

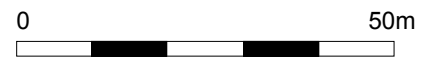


- | | | |
|----------|------------|---------------|
| Iron Age | Furrow | Site location |
| Roman | Undated | Feature |
| Saxon | Late Saxon | Section |

Scale 1:1000 (A4)



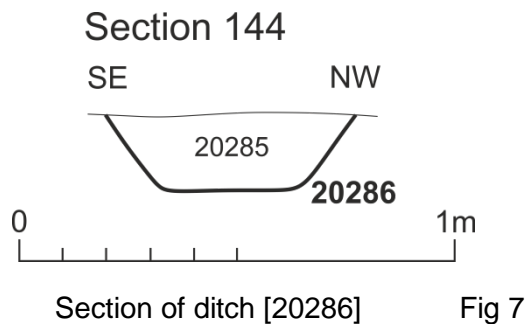
Iron Age Fig 6



- Iron Age
- Site location
- Entrance
- Feature
- Section

4.3.1 Enclosure E1

Sub-rectangular enclosure E1 was located in the west of the site (Fig 6). It was defined on its western side by ditch D1 which extended from the northern baulk for 32m before turning to the east for a further 6m before terminating. Only a partial segment of the southern enclosure survived which was visible for 15m as the majority was truncated by later ditches as was presumably any southern part of ditch D1. Ditch D2 defined sections of the east and north-eastern sides and was truncated by later ditches. Internally the enclosure was 65m long north to south and 35m wide east to west narrowing to 17m before continuing beyond the northern baulk. The enclosure ditches were similar in size and profile being between 0.60m and 0.80m wide and up to 0.20m deep with shallow concave profiles and broad flat bases (Fig 7; Section 144). They were infilled with dark brown grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. A small assemblage comprising seven sherds (56g) of late Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch D1.



Internal features

Seven pits and postholes were identified that have been assigned to this phase of activity based on their spatial location within enclosure E1 though no dateable material was recovered (Fig 6). Three postholes and three pits were located in the northern half of the enclosure with a further isolated pit 30m to the south. The three postholes were arranged along a slightly curvilinear line aligned north to south and spaced c1m apart (centre point to centre point). They were 0.35m to 0.45m in diameter and up to 0.25m deep with rounded V-shaped profiles (Fig 8).



Section of posthole [20261], looking west

Fig 8

Three pits were situated to the north of the postholes over a 15m area. They were c0.70m in diameter and much shallower than the postholes being no more than 0.10m deep with shallow concave profiles. An isolated pit [20174] to the south was of a similar diameter but survived to a depth of 0.35m with a U-shaped profile and flat base. All of the features were infilled with similar naturally derived material comprising dark brown grey silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.

4.3.2 *Other features*

A large irregular spread of material was present at the eastern edge of the enclosure (Fig 6). This layer sealed a group of pits and was truncated by the eastern enclosure ditch D2. The spread was identified over an area c10m wide north to south, 15m long east to west and was up to 0.25m deep. It comprised light grey silty clay and appeared to be the result of natural silting occurring at a low point on the site. The underlying pits which were excavated ranged from 0.80m to 1.55m in diameter and were c0.30m deep with concave profiles and flat bases. These pits were perhaps part of an early water management system which had naturally silted up during flooding, resulting in the deposition of silty material over a larger area. Another possibility is that these pits are the result of quarrying which was subsequently infilled. Both the layer and the infilling of the pits contained small quantities of Iron Age and intrusive Roman pottery which would be expected given the amount of activity of that date within the immediate area.

Three pits were located within a 17m area outside the enclosure close to the southern baulk (Fig 6). They were very similar in size and profile being between 0.70m and 1.05m in diameter and no more than 0.28m deep with concave sides and flattish bases. They were infilled with mixed mid grey brown with black mottled silty clay. Two sherds of late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill and sample 54 taken from pit [20078] produced moderate quantities of charcoal.

Scale 1:1000 (A4)

Middle Roman phase plan Fig 9



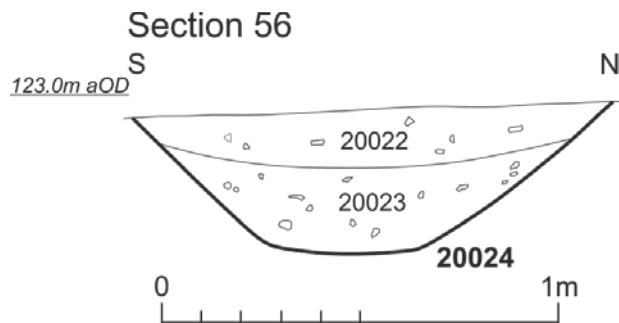
- █ Roman
- █ Site location
- e Entrance
- █ Feature
- █ Section

4.4 Roman field system and boundaries

During the Roman period, a new series of enclosures were established on a markedly different orientation to that of the Iron Age enclosure (Fig 9). This phase was not identifiable on the geophysical survey plot. Three main enclosures were identified (E2, E3 and E4) all of which continued beyond the northern baulk. To the south of the enclosures were two parallel segmented boundary ditches (B1) orientated east to west which may have defined a routeway on the southern side of the enclosure system, similar to that identified immediately to the north of the enclosures (Shipley and Finn 2018). These enclosures were established during the mid to late 2nd to early 3rd century AD and continued in use into the mid-3rd century as the majority of the pottery recovered was mid Roman in date with no evidence for the enclosure system being in use beyond the mid to late 3rd century AD.

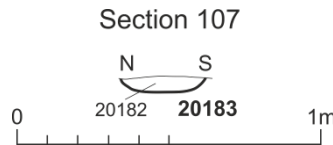
4.4.1 Boundary ditch B1

Southern boundary B1 comprised two parallel sinuous ditches aligned east to west at the southern edge of the site. These ditches defined a routeway between 6m and 8m wide (Fig 9). The northern ditch [20034] was intermittently visible for 110m extending from the eastern baulk and presumably was originally defined by a continuous ditch, however much of it was truncated by later ditches and furrows. The southern ditch [20024] was seen for 80m before terminating. It would have had an opposing ditch but only a small part of this was visible 68m to the west as the majority of the ditch was truncated by a later ditch on the same alignment. The ditches were generally between 1.20m and 1.40m wide, narrowing in sections to 0.60m and up to 0.30m deep (Figs 10 and 11). Both ditches had concave profiles with flattish bases. Remnants of ditches were identified between the boundary ditches that were very shallow being up to 0.10m deep that may be the remnants of drainage or rutting/undulations within the routeway.



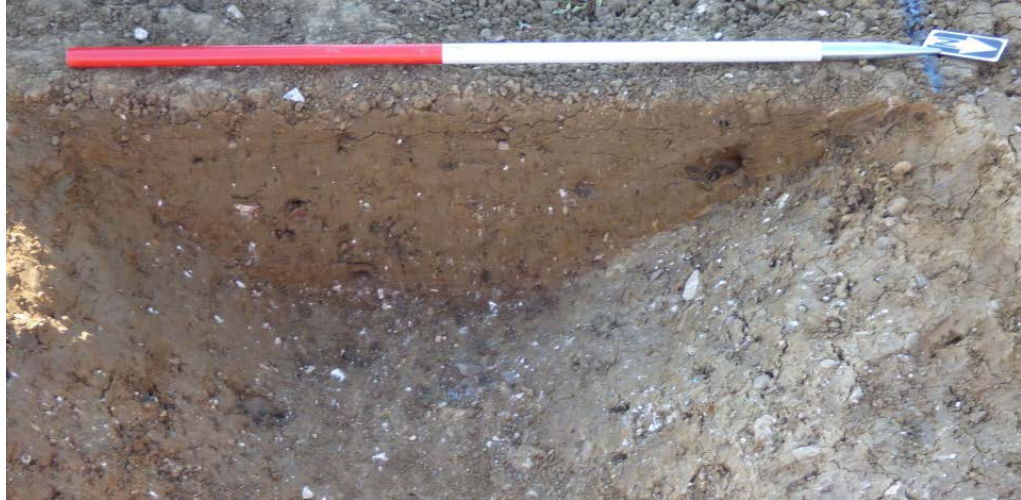
Section of southern ditch, [20024]

Fig 10



Section of possible rutting, [20183]

Fig 11



Northern ditch [20034], looking west

Fig 12

4.4.2 Enclosure E2

Enclosure E2 in the western part of the site was defined by a sequence of four ditches (D3-D6) all aligned north-west to south-east on its south-west side (Fig 9). They were spaced between 2m and 8m apart. All of the ditches abutted a north-east to south-west ditch that defined the western limit of the enclosure. The main internal area of the enclosure was 80m long and 30m wide. It was bounded to the north-east by ditch D8 which also defined the south-west side of adjacent enclosure E3. The enclosure ditches were between 0.50m and 1.0m wide and between 0.35m and 0.65m deep with U-shaped profiles. Two of the ditches (D3 and D4) turned to the north-east with ditch D4 abutting ditch D3. The ditches were slightly wider at the corners such as section [20291] which was 1.65m wide and 0.80m deep with a more V-shaped (Fig 12).

Parallel ditches D5 and D6 were presumably later additions to the south-west side of the enclosure. They were both extended from the north-west limit and were visible for 50m before terminating to the south-east. The ditches were of similar size and profile being c1.0m wide and up to 0.50m deep with U-shaped profiles. The majority of the Roman pottery assemblage was recovered from ditches defining enclosure E2 and associated internal pits implying perhaps that a domestic focus was located in the vicinity. To the south of the enclosure were a series of smaller ditches (D7) which defined a funnelled southern entranceway into the enclosure, linking it to the routeway and with the enclosures to the east.

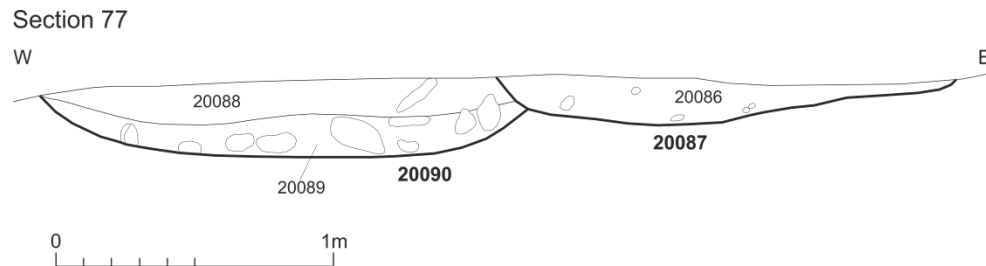


Ditch D4 [20291], looking north-east

Fig 13

Internal features

Two intercutting pits [20087/20090] were located in the northern part of the enclosure. The northernmost pit [20090] was the earliest of the pits and was 1.80m in diameter and 0.30m deep with a shallow concave profile and flat base (Fig 13). The basal infilling of the pit comprised a mid-grey brown silty clay that contained 19 Roman pottery sherds (163g). Sample 55 contained charred cereal grains of wheat and oat. Overlying this was dark grey brown silty clay upper fill from which 42 sherds (647g) of Roman pottery were recovered along with a small assemblage of animal bone. Smaller pit [20087] was located on the southern side and was 0.80m in diameter and 0.20m deep with a similar profile to the earlier pit. A single fragment of animal bone was the only ecofact recovered.



Section of intercutting pits [20087] and [20090]

Fig 14

4.4.3 Enclosure E3

Enclosure E3 was aligned north-west to south-east and located immediately to the east of enclosure E2 (Fig 9). The enclosure was 12m wide and at least 40m long as it continued beyond the northern baulk. It was defined within the excavation by a continuous ditch D8 that was c1.20m, widening to 1.70m at the corner where an excavated section showed the ditch to be 0.60m deep with a rounded V-shaped profile. It was infilled with mid brown grey silty clay that contained no artefacts.

Internal features

Two oval pits [20070] and [20072] were located 0.10m apart in the north of the enclosure and an isolated posthole [20068] was situated 17m to the south-east of these. The oval pits were c0.65m in diameter and 0.10m deep with a concave sides and flattish bases. They were infilled with dark black brown silty clay that contained charcoal and two fragments of animal bone. The posthole was 0.50m in diameter and 0.30m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig 14). It was infilled with mid grey brown silty clay that contained several large stones that may be remnants of packing material. None of the internal features contained any artefacts.



Posthole [20068], looking north

Fig 15

4.4.4 Enclosure E4

Only a small part of the southern half of enclosure E4 was observed within the excavation area measuring 50m wide east to west and 7m long north to south (Fig 9). The south-west side was defined by ditch D8 which it shared with the adjacent enclosure E3. On the south-eastern side was ditch D9 which contained a 6.5m wide southern entranceway allowing access between the enclosure and the area to the south. The entranceway was divided into two smaller openings between 2m and 3m wide with an internal divide in the centre forming two smaller paddock type enclosures. This internal ditch was 0.60m wide and no more than 0.10m deep. Two postholes were located one

on either side of the southern terminal of the internal ditch possible representing gateposts associated with the entrances into the smaller paddocks. They were c0.30m in diameter and up to 0.10m deep with U-shaped profiles. Their infilling comprised mid brown grey silty clay that contained five fragments of animal bone.



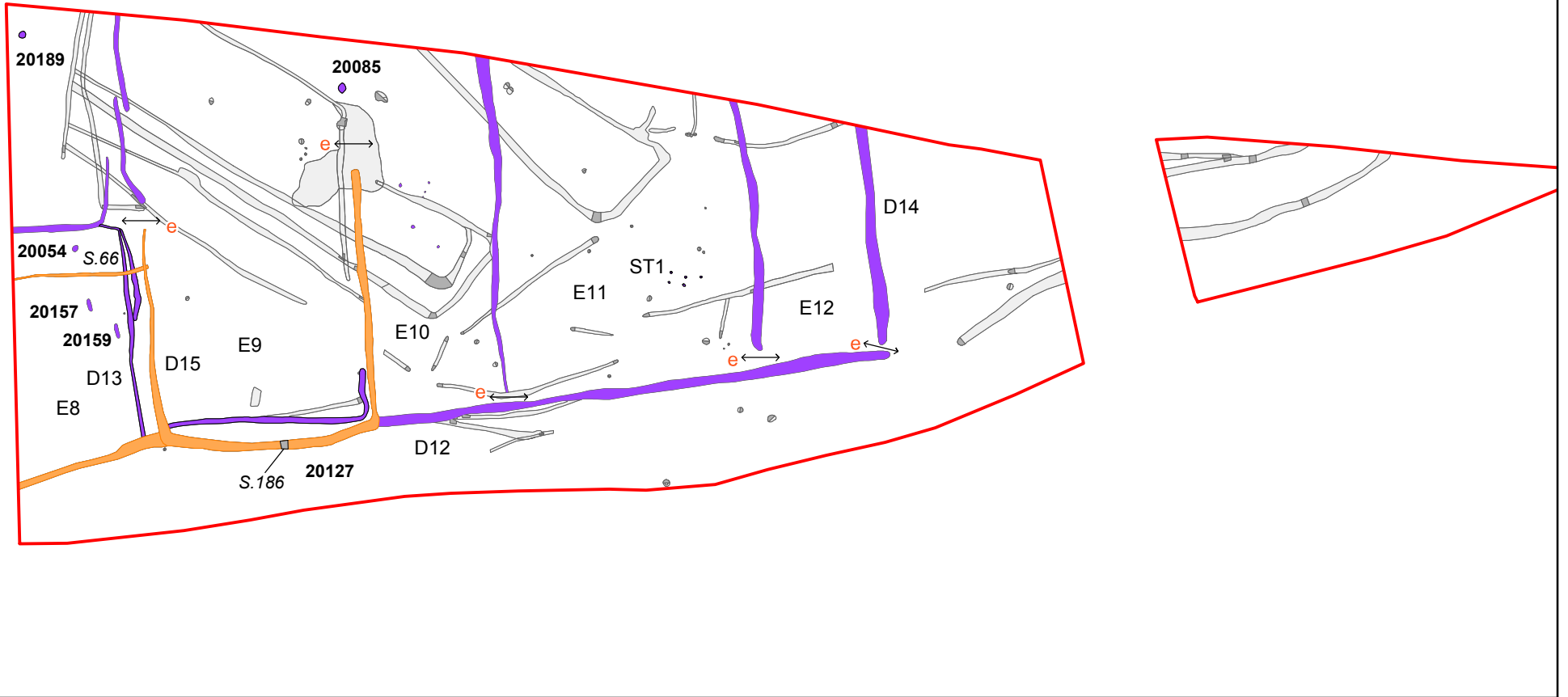
Possible gateposts on either side of ditch D9, looking north Fig 16

4.5 Saxon ditched enclosure system and metalworking structure

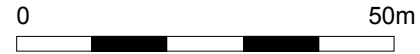
During the Saxon period, a rectilinear enclosure system was established on an east to west alignment (Fig 17). This enclosure system is assigned to the Saxon period due to its contrasting, regular east to west layout with the Roman activity and radiocarbon dates obtained from animal bone and charred seeds in two of the ditch fills returned dates of middle and late Saxon implying that the enclosure system was maintained and modified during the Saxon period. In addition, several nearby features have also been dated to the Saxon period.

Five separate enclosures (E8-E12) were identified within the excavation area extending 140m east to west and 70m north to south that were all linked by entranceways. The southern boundary of the enclosure system followed a similar alignment as the earlier routeway. All of the enclosures continued beyond the northern baulk and presumably connected to the southern routeway ditch identified in excavations to the north (Shipley and Finn 2018). The lack of internal features, layout of the entranceways and domestic waste recovered comprising a small assemblage of animal bone suggests that these enclosures were not associated with settlement but had an agricultural function.

Scale 1:1000 (A4)



Saxon phase plan Fig 17



- Saxon
- Late Saxon
- Site location
- Feature
- Entrance
- Section

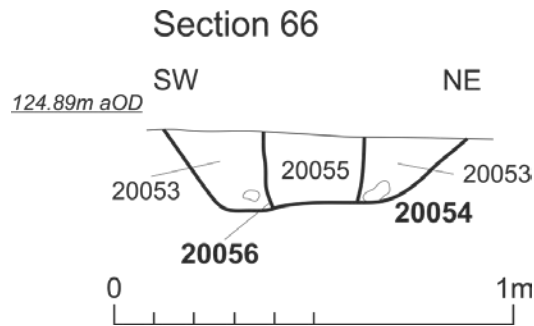
Within one of the enclosures (E11) in the eastern part of the site was a post-built structure (ST1) which has been dated to the middle Saxon period by radiocarbon dating. It was defined by five postholes of which four contained quantities of hammerscale suggesting that this structure was associated with iron smithing. Located 60m to the north-west of the post-built structure, two pits [20085] and [20189] were found to contain Saxon artefacts (Fig 17).

4.5.1 Enclosure E8

Rectangular enclosure E8 was the westernmost enclosure to be identified. Measuring 40m long north to south, it was at least 30m wide east to west being only partially visible within the excavation area as it continued beyond the western baulk with a minimum internal area of 700 square meters. The northern side was defined by an east to west aligned ditch which turned to the north to create an entranceway allowing access to the north and into the adjacent eastern enclosure. An eastern side was defined by ditch D13, which abutted the northern limit and there was evidence for the northern part having been re-cut. All of the enclosures utilised ditch D12 as their southern limits. The ditches defining enclosure E8 were generally between 0.50m and 1.0m wide and up to 0.30m deep with U-shaped profiles. They were infilled with dark brown grey silty clay from which the majority of the animal bone assemblage from this phase was recovered. A radiocarbon date obtained from animal bone within the fill of enclosure ditch D13 returned a middle Saxon date (762 - 887 cal AD, 1220 +/- 30 BP, Beta 522095, 74.6% probability).

Internal features

In the northern part of the enclosure was an isolated posthole [20054]. It was 0.80m in diameter and 0.20m deep and contained a post pipe [20056] that was 0.25m in diameter and 0.20m deep (Fig 16). The infilling comprised mid grey brown silty clay that contained remnants of stone packing.



Located 8m to the south were two elongated pits and another posthole. Elongated pits [20157] and [20159] were 2.0m long, 0.50m wide and up to 0.25m deep with concave sides and flat bases. Their dark grey brown silty clay infilling contained four fragments of animal bone. Just 2m to the east of these was a posthole, 0.24m in diameter and 0.07m deep with a steep U-shaped profile and a concave base.

4.5.2 Enclosure E9

Rectangular enclosure E9 was 35m wide and at least 70m long with a minimum internal area of at least 2,200 square meters as the northern limit was not located within the excavation area. It shared a western entrance with enclosure E8 and the eastern side terminated to the north leaving an opening allowing access into adjacent enclosure E10. An original southern limit to the enclosure appears to be represented by ditch D15 and that ditch D12 was later extended to create a later version of this enclosure. One segment of this ditch [20127] contained a dump of burnt clay covering an 8m length of ditch. The fill was dumped when cold as there was no evidence of scorching to the natural within the ditch (Fig 17). A sample taken from charred seeds within the fill of this ditch has returned a radiocarbon date to the late Saxon period (950 - 1032 cal AD, 1040 +/- 30 BP, Beta 522094, 90.3% probability) implying that this enclosure was a later alteration to the enclosure system. The enclosure ditches were between 0.70m and 1.20m wide and 0.12m to 0.34m deep with fairly uniform U-shaped profiles.



Ditch [20127], looking east

Fig 19

4.5.3 Enclosure E10

Rectangular enclosure E10 was centrally located within the enclosure system (Fig 17). It was one of the narrower enclosures along with the easternmost enclosure E12. It was 20m wide and at least 60m long (minimum 1,200 square meters) as it continued beyond the northern baulk. A 1.50m wide south-east entranceway allowed access into enclosure E11 with which it shared its eastern limit. The eastern ditch was 1.60m wide narrowing to 0.60m before terminating to the south and it was infilled with naturally derived material that contained no artefacts.

Internal features

Six postholes within a 10m area are assigned to this enclosure based on their spatial location as no datable evidence was recovered. Three of the postholes were in a line 2.7m long apart and may have formed part of a fence line while another was offset 3.5m

to the north-west. Two further postholes were located 5m to the south. The postholes ranged from 0.20m to 0.40m in diameter and 0.04m to 0.26m deep. They were infilled with naturally derived material that contained no artefacts.

4.5.4 Enclosure E11

Located between enclosures E10 and E12 was rectangular enclosure E11 that was 42m wide east to west and at least 60m long north to south with a minimum internal area of 2,000 square meters (Fig 17). It shared its western limit with enclosure E10 and the eastern side with enclosure E12 which had a 3m wide south-east entrance allowing access into enclosure E12. Several pits and postholes were located within the internal area of the enclosure as well as post-built structure ST1 (see Section 4.5.6).

4.5.5 Enclosure E12

Enclosure E12 was the easternmost enclosure and was 18m wide and at least 40m long (700 square meters). It shared its western limit with enclosure E11 and the eastern limit was defined by ditch D14 which was c1.70m wide and narrowed to 1.20m at the southern terminal. A 1.20m wide southern corner entranceway allowed access outside the system to the south-east. The southern terminal was excavated and found to be 0.15m deep with a concave profile and flat base and its sole mid brown grey silty clay fill contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. No internal features were identified.

4.5.6 Post-built structure

Post-built structure ST1 (Figs 17 and 20) was defined by five postholes. Four of the postholes were spaced 2.50m apart (centre point to centre point) on the east to west axis and 1.30m apart north to south and appeared to define a square structure with an internal diameter of 8.0m. The fifth posthole was offset 2.50m to the east. The postholes were c0.20m in diameter and up to 0.10m deep with the exception of [20019] which was 0.40m in diameter and 0.27m deep. They all had steep-sided profiles and concave bases and were infilled with mid brown grey silty clay.

Four of the postholes contained quantities of hammerscale and slag. This material would suggest that this structure may have been associated with iron smithing. Fragments of animal bone were also recovered from the largest posthole [20019] along with large quantities of charcoal. A sample taken from charcoal within the fill of this posthole has returned a radiocarbon date to the middle Saxon period (606 - 680 cal AD, 1380 +/- 30 BP, Beta 518950, 95.4% probability).



Close-up plan of post-built structure ST1

Fig 20

4.5.7 Pits

Two pits [20085] and [20189] were located 50m apart close to the northern bank (Fig 17). They were between 1.0m and 1.50m in diameter and up to 0.25m deep with shallow concave profiles and flattish bases. Both were infilled with dark grey brown silty clay from which Saxon finds comprising iron rod fragments resembling single heckle or woolcomb teeth were recovered along with fourteen fragments of animal bone.

4.6 Medieval cultivation

The mitigation area contained distinct areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation systems, observable in the geophysical survey (Fig 2). The furrows in both areas were aligned north by south and were seen to continue into the field to the north (Shiple and Finn 2018). The ridge and furrow within Field 1 can still be seen extant as surface earthworks.

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The pottery by Adam Sutton

The pottery assemblage comprised 399 sherds weighing 4.515kg and equating to 4.47 rim-EVEs. Pottery was recovered from 28 contexts and encompassed material from the late Iron Age, Roman and late/post-medieval periods. The material was generally in good condition, with most surfaces remaining intact and edges lacking abrasion in many cases. However, breakage rates were moderately high, with an average sherd weight of just over 11.3g.

Prehistoric

Prehistoric material was limited to nine sherds weighing 85g. These were all in the same coarse, hand-built, grog-tempered fabric with prominent rounded iron oxide pellets. One rim sherd in this fabric was recovered, the vessel being a shouldered or slack-shouldered type with thickened upright rim. Two of the sherds were recovered from the layer but seven of the nine sherds comprised the whole group from fill (20145) of ditch D1. A middle-to-late Iron Age date is likely for this fabric, on the basis of fabric parallels with other of the Kibworth sites, as well as with sites in south Northamptonshire such as Pineham Barns Site 1 (Sutton 2018a).

Table 2: Quantification of pottery fabrics

Fabric	Ct.	%	Wt.(g)	%	EVE	%
BB1	38	9.5%	368	8.2%	0.48	10.7%
C12	4	1.0%	12	0.3%	-	0.0%
C13	8	2.0%	41	0.9%	-	0.0%
C3	4	1.0%	7	0.2%	-	0.0%
CG1	43	10.8%	452	10.0%	0.51	11.4%
CW	1	0.3%	5	0.1%	-	0.0%
GT	3	0.75%	75	1.66%	0.14	3.13%
GT IA	9	2.3%	85	1.9%	0	0.0%
GW1	10	2.5%	85	1.9%	0.08	1.8%
GW3-9	223	55.9%	2337	51.8%	2.88	64.4%
GW4	11	2.8%	268	5.9%	0	0.0%
MO4	3	0.8%	60	1.3%	0.12	2.7%
MO6	6	1.5%	338	7.5%	0.13	2.9%
OW2	10	2.5%	22	0.5%	-	0.0%
OW3	3	0.8%	46	1.0%	-	0.0%
SW4	12	3.0%	85	1.9%	-	0.0%
TS ?EG	1	0.3%	22	0.5%	-	0.0%
TS EG	3	0.8%	51	1.1%	0.03	0.7%
TS Lz	7	1.8%	156	3.5%	0.1	2.2%
Total	399	-	4515	-	4.47	-

Late Iron Age

Pottery of possible 'transitional' Late Iron Age/pre-Flavian (c50BC-AD70) dates was recovered in the form of material in fabrics GT and SW4. Coarse sandy ware SW4 comprised the whole assemblage from fill (20141), ditch [20142]. Although a transitional date is possible for this fabric it is not certain in this case, as very similar coarse sandy wares are known to have been made throughout the Roman period. Of fabric GT, one sherd is of a lid-seated jar in a sandy, buff grog-tempered fabric. This is more likely to date to the late 1st or 2nd centuries AD. The final two sherds of GT, the only sherds from pit [20078], fill (20077) are more characteristically late Iron Age in fabric and appear to be part of a coarsely-made conical lid.

Roman

The vast majority of the pottery recovered could be dated to the mid Roman period, 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Quantified by count, 9.5% of the sherds in the assemblage were of Dorset BB1 (fabric BB1: Table 2). This fabric is unlikely to have reached this area prior to AD120. Similarly, 2.9% by count and 5.9% were of Lower Nene Valley greyware, which was not produced prior to the mid-2nd century. Similar dates can be attributed to the other finds of Lower Nene Valley wares: the colour-coated (fabric C3) and white (fabric MO6) wares, while sherds of central (Lezoux) and eastern Gaulish samian are also unlikely to pre-date AD120. Several sherds push the dates for many contexts into the later 2nd or 3rd centuries and these include a sherd of BB1 cookpot with acute lattice decoration from (dating cAD220+: Tyers 1996, 185), a sherd of Mancetter mortarium (fabric MO4) in the later fabric with argillaceous grits and several sherds of imported *moselkeramik* beaker sherds (fabric C12) from the Roman enclosure ditches. The latter are particularly important, as while these derive from a maximum of only two vessels, representation of imported finewares other than Samian in a rural assemblage of this size is significant. Overall, it seems likely that the majority of the assemblage dates to the mid-3rd century AD. The exception to this may be sherds of an Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (fabric C13) stamped bowl from layer (20302), as while such vessels were in circulation from cAD240 onwards; they were not common until the 4th century (Young 1977, 132). However it is notable that the small part of a stamp that has been identified on these sherds seems to be of a circular type which did not outlast the end of the 3rd century (*ibid.*). There is therefore little evidence that the assemblage contains any groups of pottery that need be later than the end of the third century in date. The single post-Roman sherd found is a small piece of late or post-medieval Cistercian ware, intrusive in the fill (20292) of ditch D2.

The assemblage compares well with the others excavated from recent nearby Kibworth sites. Similar Iron Age and Roman material was recovered from the evaluation works on the land west of Warwick Road sites (Perrin 2015; Sutton 2018b), while a predominantly later Iron Age assemblage (with a small amount of early-mid Roman material) was recovered from the 2018 Warwick Road mitigation (Sutton 2018c). Being the most chronologically focused of the assemblages excavated to date, however, the Fleckney Road assemblage is the first assemblage of sufficient size to begin thinking about what pottery may tell us about the character of occupation in this area. The assemblage is mostly greywares and is overwhelmingly dominated by jars at 77.2% by EVE (Table 3). Samian is present at 2.8% by count and 5.1% by weight: respectable amounts for a rural site. The presence of imported black-slipped wares is also of significance and represents a kind of long-distance connectivity that many minor sites do not seem to have shared. Regional imports are also common, with those from the Nene Valley and Dorset being the most prominent. Overall, the assemblage seems to fit with an impression of low-

status rural occupation, although with indications that the inhabitants or nearby occupants were not unfamiliar with certain elements of imported material culture or food preparation/dining practices.

Table 3: Quantification of form categories

Form	EVE	%
Beaker	+	-
Bowl	0.03	0.7%
Cup	0.1	2.2%
Dish	0.5	11.2%
Jar	3.45	77.2%
Jar/Bowl	0.07	1.6%
Mortarium	0.25	5.6%
Lid	0.07	1.6%
Total	4.47	-

5.2 Small finds by Tora Hylton

Four iron small finds were recovered; the objects are fragmentary and are therefore tentatively identified as nails and woolcomb teeth. The latter are Saxon in date and suggest the preparation of fibres prior to the spinning of thread for the manufacture of textiles. Two possible nails <SF 55> and <SF 57> were recovered from ditch D5 [20117] and pit [20090]; both have hand forged, square-sectioned shanks with barely discernible heads. Two circular-sectioned rod fragments <SF53> and <SF56> were recovered from pit [20085] and pit [20189]. Although incomplete the rod fragments resemble single heckle or woolcomb teeth. A woolcomb tooth is a tapered ferrous metal rod with a pointed terminal, they were supported in rows on a piece of iron sheet, binding a wooden block, called a heckle (Goodall 1984, fig 119, 20-1). Heckles were used for carding wool and bast fibres (flax/hemp), by removing unwanted material and aligning the fibres for spinning into thread. They measure up to 75mm length and they have circular cross-sections that measure c5mm in diameter. <SF 56> is parallel-sided then tapers towards a pointed terminal and the other <SF53> is partially covered in corrosion deposits.

5.3 Metalworking debris by Andy Chapman

A small quantity of ferrous slag, with a total weight of 475g, was recovered from five deposits. One of these deposits and a further four related deposits from the postholes defining the post-built structure also produced small quantities of hammerscale. It is most likely that this material derives from use of an iron smithing hearth, operating close to the location of the four postholes containing hammerscale.

Table 4: Quantification of ferrous slag and hammerscale

Context	Cut	Feature	Weight (g)	No	Comments	Hammer scale
20014	20015	Posthole	-	-	-	yes
20016	20017	Posthole	-	-	-	yes

20018	20019	Posthole	220	1	Furnace slag	yes
20020	20021	Posthole	-	-	-	yes
20116	20117	Ditch	25	1	fluid slag	yes
20128	20129	Ditch	5	1	undiagnostic slag	-
20292	20293	Ditch	15	1	undiagnostic glassy slag	-
20295	20296	Pit	210	1	Furnace slag	-
Total	-	-	475	5	-	-

Ferrous slag

Five contexts produced small quantities of ferrous slag. The small fragments from three contexts are undiagnostic; one is a fluid slag likely derived within a smelting furnace or smithing hearth. The complete, but broken, piece from fill (20018) of posthole [20019] is 90mm wide by 70mm deep and 30mm thick, and the width retains a curved surface with attached light grey fired clay where it was attached to the wall of a furnace or smithing hearth. It had probably accumulated just below a blowing hole. A large irregular fragment from fill (20295) of pit [20296] is also furnace/smoothing hearth slag and the fill of this feature also contained charcoal.

Hammerscale

Small quantities of hammerscale, c10-30 pieces per deposit, derived from iron smithing, were recovered from four postholes, [20015], [20017], [20019] and [20021] and from ditch [20117]. The hammerscale comprises flat platelets, typically 1-2mm long but occasionally a little larger, c3-4mm. A few pieces are more rounded, but there are no spherical droplets. The soil samples from postholes [20015], [20017], [20019] and [20021] all also produced charcoal.

5.4 Fired clay by Mary Ellen Crothers

A total of nine fragments, weighing 82.4g were recovered from Saxon ditch [20127] and Roman pit [20090]. Ditch [20127] contained seven fragments of relatively well-fired but abraded homogenous clay in two fabrics. The first fabric comprises five fragments of mid brown-red sandy clay with frequent small stones, occasional large stones and frequent shell inclusions. Many of the fragments are too abraded to assess with confidence. Where visible, the laminations in the clay are flat. One fragment has surfaces on two opposite sides, with the appearance of having been finger-pinched together. The second fabric comprises two fragments of pale orange-brown clay with frequent coarse sand and occasional small and large stones. One surface on each fragment is finger-pressed flat and has a smooth upward bend. The surface on the opposite side is uneven and may represent being constructed upon an earth floor. It is possible that these fragments formed part of a small hearth, although no burning is present.

Two small fragments of two different fabrics were recovered from pit [20090]. The first is well-fired homogenous clay with grey burnt patches. There are no diagnostic elements and no surfaces. The fragment has partly wavy laminations which suggest the clay had been pressed or pushed into shape by hand. The clay is possible bulk forge or oven material. The second fabric is low-fired homogenous clay with no surfaces and no diagnostic features. As such, the fabric alone may suggest this is daub.

6 THE FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

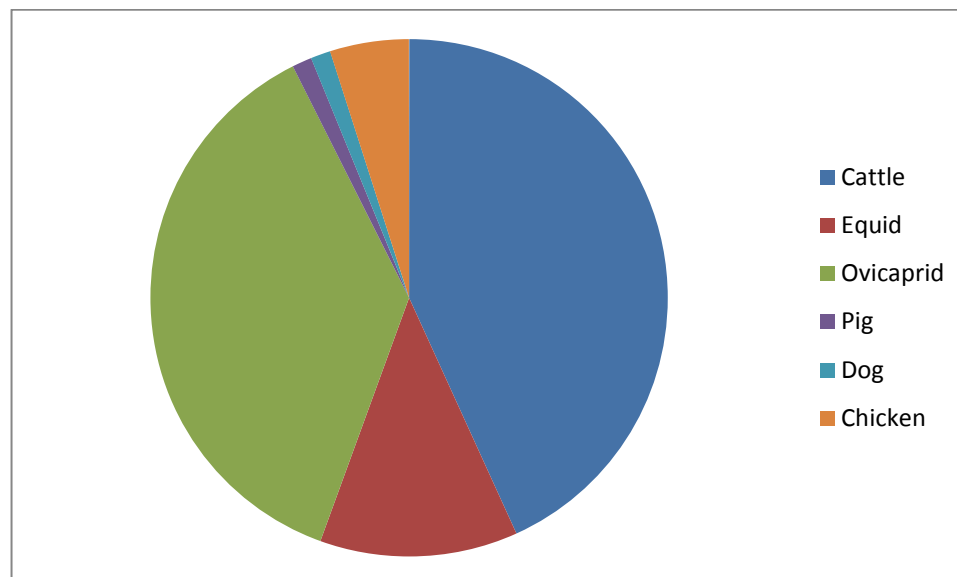
6.1 The animal bone by Sander Aerts

A total of 690 animal bone fragments were collected during excavation and of these, 81 fragments were identified (12% of the assemblage) (Table 5). Where identified, the remains were recorded using the NISP method (number of identified specimens per taxon). Bones that could not be identified were attributed to a size category where possible; large mammal (cattle sized), medium mammal (sheep sized) and small mammal (cat sized and smaller). Sheep and goat (ovicaprids) are recorded as one category due to the similarities in skeletal morphology. Large and medium mammal remains smaller than one centimetre were not quantified.

Results

The animal bone is moderately well preserved; a large number of heavily fragmented remains derive from environmental samples. The high degree of large mammal fragments is likely an indication of processed cattle remains. It was not possible to differentiate between the preservation in feature types, although gnawing marks indicate that the remains may have been exposed for a longer period of time. Gnawing was observed on remains of cattle (n=3), pig (n=1) and unidentifiable mammal fragment (n=1).

All identified remains belong to common domestic taxa, of which cattle (43%), ovicaprids (37%), and equids (12%), were most commonly found (Fig 19). A small amount of remains could be identified as pig, dog and chicken. There is a distinct lack of commensals present, although a small number of fragmented remains from sample <52>, (20018), posthole [20019] probably relate to voles or insectivores, and may be intrusive.



Number of identified specimens per taxon per context Fig 21

Table 5: Quantification of animal bone fragments

Context/ Cut	Feature	Phase	Cattle	Equid	Ovicaprid	Pig	Dog	LM	MM	SM	UM	Chicken	Bird
20004/ 20005	Ditch	ROM	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
20008/ 20009	Posthole	ROM	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
20018/ 20019	Posthole	SAX	-	-	4	-	-	9	4 (2)	0 (7)	10 (78)	1 (2)	1
20023/ 20024	Ditch	ROM	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-
20025/ 20026	Ditch	ROM	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
20032/ 20034	Ditch	ROM	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
20041/ 20042	Ditch	ROM	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
20045/ 20047	Ditch	SAX	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	4	1	-
20059/ 20061	Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20062/ 20063	Posthole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20064/ 20065	Posthole	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20069/ 20070	Pit	ROM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
20071/ 20072	Pit	ROM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
20073/ 20074	Ditch	SAX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
20083/ 20085	Pit	SAX	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	2	-	-
20086/ 20087	Pit	ROM	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20088/ 20090	Pit	ROM	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20089/ 20090	Pit	ROM	1	-	4 (1)	-	-	5 (4)	-	-	1	-	-
20092/ 20093	Pit	IA	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20098/ 20099	Ditch	SAX	-	-	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
20104/ 20105	Ditch	SAX	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-
20116/ 20117	Ditch	ROM	1	-	0 (1)	-	-	0 (1)	-	-	0 (3)	-	-
20118/ 20119	Ditch	SAX	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
20126/ 20127	Ditch	SAX	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
20128/ 20130	Ditch	SAX	1	1	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
20129/ 20130	Ditch	SAX	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
20131/ 20132	Ditch	SAX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
20133/ 20134	Ditch	SAX	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-

KIBWORTH, FLECKNEY ROAD

20141/ 20142	Ditch	ROM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
20143/ 20144	Ditch	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
20147/ 20148	Ditch	IA	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
20149/ 20151	Ditch	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20158/ 20159	Ditch	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
20164/ 20165	Ditch	SAX	1	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	1	-	-
20170/ 20171	Ditch	IA	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
20188/ 20189	Ditch	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-
20190/ 20191	Pit	-	7	1	1	-	-	98	3	-	-	-	-
20192/ 20193	Ditch	ROM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
20222/ 20224	Ditch	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
20242/ 20243	Pit	-	-	1	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-
20244/ 20245	Ditch	SAX	3	-	3	-	-	11	-	-	9	-	-
20248/ 20249	Ditch	IA	1 (2)	-	1 (2)	-	-	3	-	-	0 (47)	-	-
20250/ x	Layer	IA	2	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-
20251/ 20252	Pit	IA	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
20253/ 20254	Gully	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20285/ 20286	Ditch	IA	-	6	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
20287/ 20288	Ditch	ROM	-	-	-	-	-	0 (6)	-	-	0 (43)	-	-
20292/ 20293	Ditch	IA	-	1	1	-	-	1	6	-	1	-	-
20295/ 20296	Pit	I	-	-	0 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20297/ x	Layer	-	9	-	3	-	-	38	9	-	24	-	-
20302/ x	Layer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-

Only a few cut marks were observed from unidentifiable large and medium mammal remains (n=3), on ribs and a long bone fragment. These relate to the removal of meat from the bones. No chop marks were found on any of the remains.

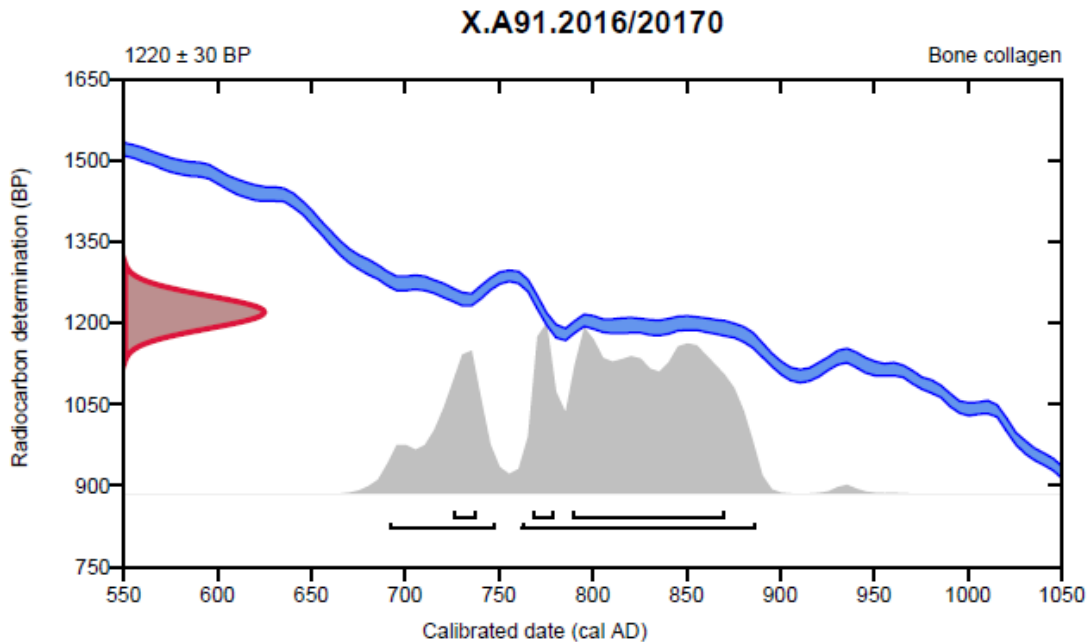
The vast majority of the faunal assemblage comprises of domestic refuse. All identified taxa are common economic species, exploited for primary and/or secondary products. Butchering marks on a number of the remains support this. The species range is similar to those from the excavations at Kibworth Harcourt, both at Fleckney Road and Warwick Road (Hewitt 2015, Chinnock 2016, Shipley and Finn 2018, and Preece 2018). However, the assemblage is too small to draw conclusions regarding diet and the local economy.

6.2 Radiocarbon dating analysis – animal bone

A sample from ditch D13 [20171] was radiocarbon dated to assist with the dating and phasing for the site (Table 6 and Fig 22). The sample was dated to the middle Saxon period (762-887 cal AD, 1188 +/- 30 BP, Beta 522095, 74.6% probability).

Table 6: Radiocarbon dating samples

Cut/fill/type	Laboratory sample ID	Conventional Radiocarbon Age BP	Cal AD (confidence rating)
20171/20170/ditch	Beta-522095	1220 +/- 30 BP	762 - 887 (74.6%) 692 - 748 (20.8%)



Graph showing radiocarbon dating for sample from ditch D13

Fig 22

6.3 The plant macrofossils by Sander Aerts

A total of 24 soil samples, comprising 330 litres were selected for environmental analysis. The remains were analysed to establish the presence of crop varieties, to what extent the samples contain intrusive materials and use other taxa to reconstruct the natural environment. They were processed at MOLA Northampton and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. All remains were analysed using a low powered binocular microscope with a maximum magnification of x 40. Identifications were aided by the MOLA Northampton reference collection for cereal crops and Bekker *et al* (2006).

Results

The environmental samples produced an assemblage of charred plant remains, modern rootlets and modern arthropod remains. The modern, intrusive material has not been quantified or identified. The vast majority of the carbonised plant assemblage, or more specifically those relating to cereal crops, derive from pit and ditch fills (Table 7). Ditch fill (20126) from ditch D12 and fills (20192) and (20248) from boundary ditch B1 are rich in charred cereal grains. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) is dominant, but a substantial amount of barley grains (*Hordeum* sp.) has also been observed. A small assemblage of oats (*Avena* sp.) was present, including the fill (20018) of posthole [20019]. One rye grain (*Secale cereale*) was identified from the fill (20126) of ditch D12. The cereal crops all appear to be free-threshing. Only one fragment of chaff was observed from posthole fill (20016) from post-built structure ST1, which was otherwise sterile. There is a chance that this fragment is residual.

All pit and ditch fills contained charcoal to some extent. Posthole fills (20014) and (20018) from the post-built structure ST1 also contained a more substantial amount of charcoal. The samples produced only a small amount of other plant remains. Two sedge seeds (*Carex* sp.) were identified from enclosure ditches [20224] and [20249]. Sedges are a wetland species that is often found in marsh-like conditions. Sedge has previously been identified from the evaluation at Fleckney Road (Chinnock 2016).

Wheat and barley are most commonly encountered, although oats and a single rye grain were also identified. These taxa were all previously observed from during excavations at Fleckney Road (Chinnock 2016), as well as land off Warwick Road (Preece 2018a). The latter shows a very similar trend, where wheat and barley dominate, with a low number of oat and rye grains. Due to the fact that the Fleckney Road mitigation has not produced any waterlogged samples and the amount of carbonised seeds is very low, it is not possible to assess the paleoenvironment and compare these to the data from the evaluation stage.

Table 7 Quantification of the carbonised plant remains

	Sample	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
	Context	20014	20016	20018	20020	20077	20089	20126	20116	20192	20222	20248	20287	20295
	Cut	20015	20017	20019	20021	20078	20090	20127	20117	20193	20224	20249	20288	20296
	Feature	Posthole	Posthole	Posthole	Posthole	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit
	Date	SAX	SAX	SAX	SAX	IA	ROM	SAX	ROM	ROM	-	-	ROM	IA
	Volume	10L	10L	20L	10L	40L	40L	40L	10L	40L	30L	20L	40L	20L
Taxa	Common name													
Crops														
<i>Avena</i> sp. Grain	Oat	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	xx	-	-
<i>Triticum</i> sp. Grain	Wheat	-	-	-	x	-	xx	xxxx	-	xxx	-	xxxx	-	-
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. Grain	Barley	-	-	-	-	-	-	xxx	-	xcf	-	xx	-	-
<i>Secale cereale</i> Grain	Rye	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cereal grain indet.	-	-	-	x	-	-	xx	xxx	x	xx	x	xxxx	-	x
Chaff	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other														
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-
Fabaceae	Legume family	-	-	-	-	-	-	xcf	-	-	-	xcf	-	-
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw family	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seed indet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charcoal <2 mm	-	xxx	-	xxxx	-	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xx	xxx	xx	xxxx	xx	xxxx
Charcoal 2-5 mm	-	xx	-	xxxx	-	xxxx	-	xxx	xx	x	-	xx	-	xx
Charcoal 5> mm	-	xxx	-	xxx	-	xxxx	-	xxx	xx	-	-	-	-	xxx
Black cokey material	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-

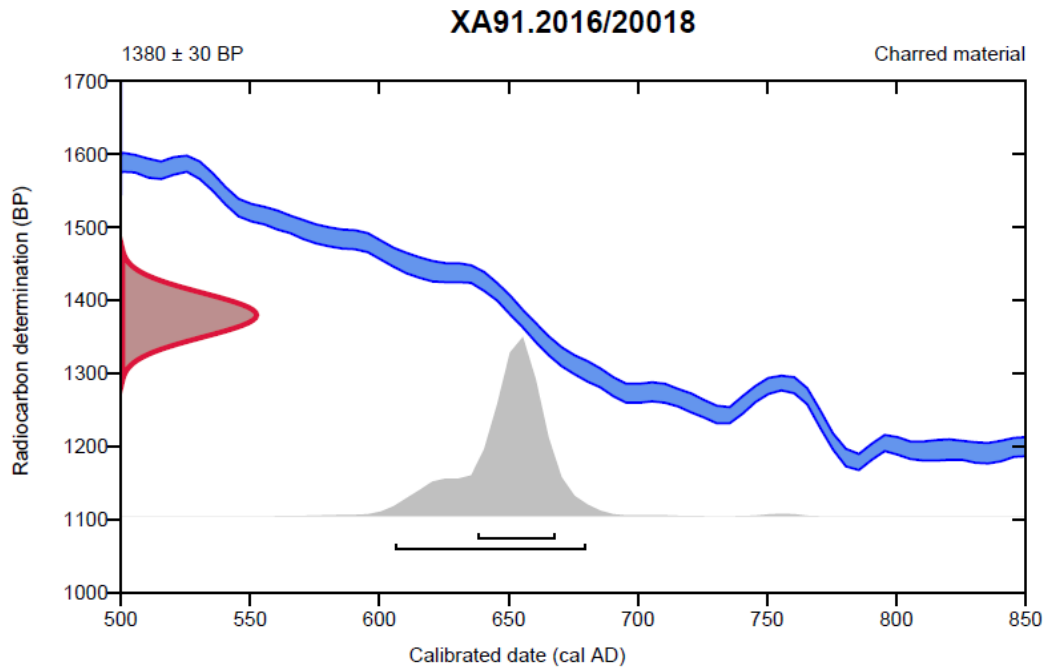
Key: x=1-3, xx=4-20, xxx=21-50, xxxx=51+

6.4 Radiocarbon dating analysis – charred material

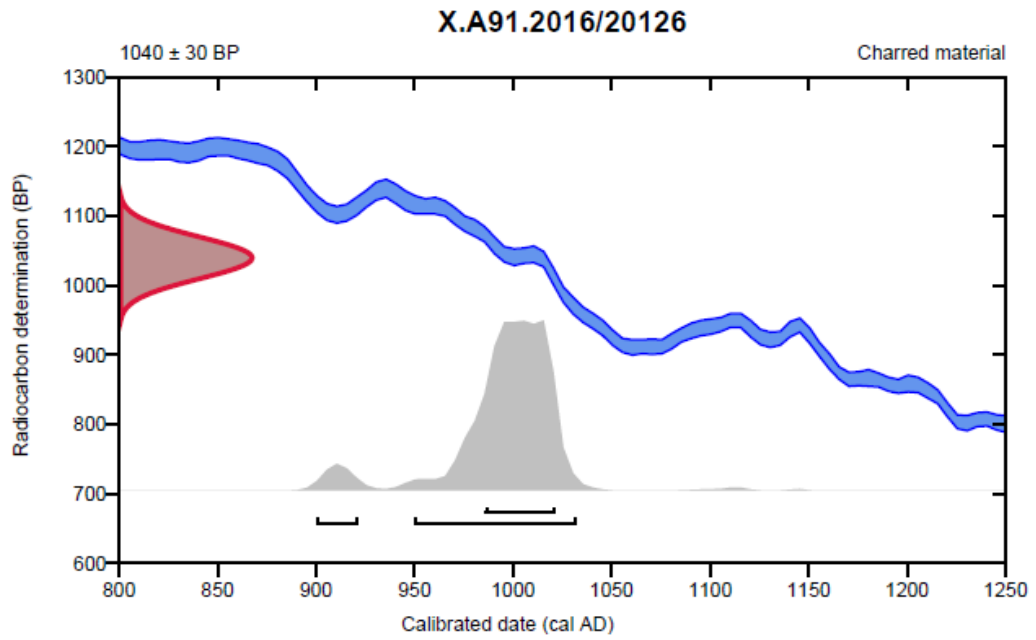
Two of the samples from ditch D12 [20127] and structure ST1 [20019] were radiocarbon dated to assist with the dating and phasing for the site (Table 8 and Figs 23 and 24). The sample from [20019] was dated to the middle Saxon period (606 - 680 cal AD, 1380 +/- 30 BP, Beta 518950, 95.4% probability) while the sample [20127] from ditch D12 was dated to the late Saxon (950-1032 cal AD, 1040 +/- 30 BP, Beta 522094, 90.3% probability).

Table 8: Radiocarbon dating samples

Cut/fill/type	Laboratory sample ID	Conventional Radiocarbon Age BP	Cal AD (confidence rating)
20019/20018/posthole	Beta-518950	1380 +/- 30 BP	606-680 (95.4%)
20127/20126/ditch	Beta-522094	1040 +/- 30 BP	950-1032 (90.3%) 900-921 (5.1%)



Graph showing radiocarbon dating for sample from posthole (ST1) Fig 23



Graph showing radiocarbon dating for sample from ditch D12

Fig 24

7 DISCUSSION

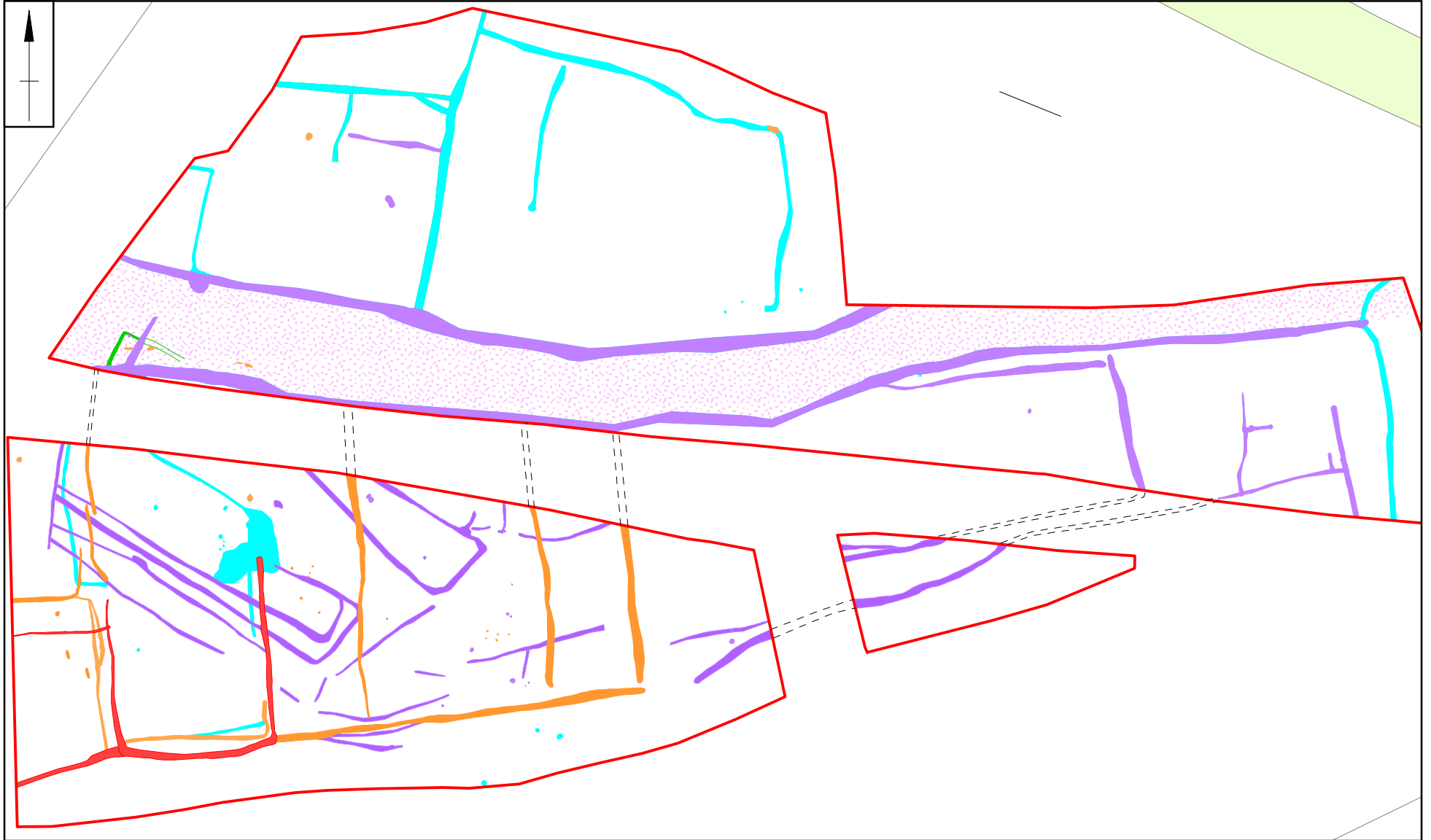
7.1 Late Iron Age

The late Iron Age activity comprised a single large ditched enclosure, enclosing an area of around 0.2ha. The low quantities of contemporary pottery and internal features would suggest that this enclosure was associated with agricultural activities. Iron Age enclosures were observed in an excavation immediately to the north (Shiple and Finn 2018) and it is likely that these enclosures are part of the same system (Fig 25). They were linked by an east to west aligned routeway defined by two parallel sinuous ditches which originated during the middle to late Iron Age period and were recut in the Roman period.

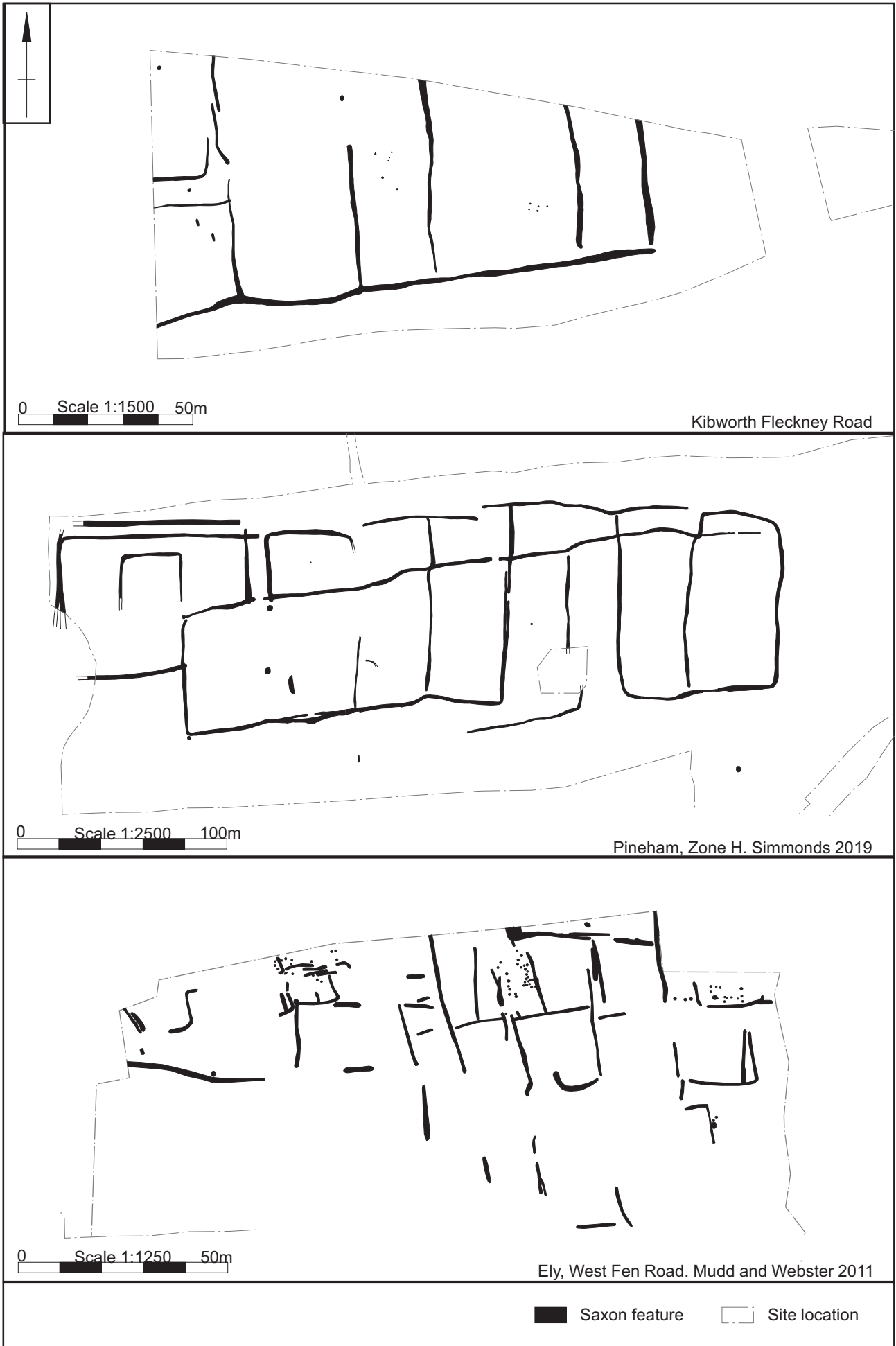
7.2 Roman

During the Roman period, a new pattern of ditched enclosures was established albeit on a different alignment to the Iron Age activity. They were presumably constructed between the two double-ditched routeways. The southern routeway defined the southern extent of the enclosure system and linked the enclosures, while the northern one was observed during investigations to the north (Shiple and Finn 2018). This arrangement is a recognised layout for this area and is seen on numerous similar sites within the county (Smith *et al* 2016, 181-183, fig 5.40). In Cambridgeshire, excavations at Love's Farm, St Neots observed routeways defined by parallel flanking ditches that were used to link settlements to nearby field systems and, in extension, to nearby roads (Hinman and Zant 2018). It is likely that the routeways at Kibworth continued to the west allowing access across the wider landscape. The lack of domestic features and material recovered would imply that these enclosures at Kibworth are part of outlying agricultural activity. The majority of the pottery was recovered from ditches associated with enclosure E2 in the western part of the enclosure system which may be an indication of a possible domestic focus in the vicinity. The assemblage was predominately mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD in date. There is no evidence that the site was utilised beyond the mid to late 3rd century AD. A similar pattern was seen with the enclosures to the north where the majority of the Roman pottery was mid to late 2nd century AD in date (Shiple and Finn 2018).

Usually on settlements of this type there is often continuous development from the late Iron Age into the early Roman period with the later developments being influenced by the alignments of earlier activity. Where continuous activity is seen with Iron Age settlements being replaced or developed in the early Roman period there is usually direct continuation or utilisation of earlier ditches on the same orientation such as at Monksmoor Farm, Daventry (Preece 2017) and Pineham, Upton (Preece 2018). At Great Barford, Bedfordshire, three Roman settlements directly developed from late Iron Age settlements and were occupied during the 1st and 2nd centuries but occupation only continued into the 3rd and 4th centuries on one of these sites (Timby *et al* 2007). However, it would seem that at Kibworth there was a hiatus in activity at the end of the late Iron Age/early Roman period with the Roman activity being established later. This may be a reflection of a settlement shift, with activity being temporarily focused elsewhere. The late Iron Age enclosures appear to have had no influence on the layout and orientation of the Roman enclosures which were established on contrasting alignments to the earlier activity. They were all situated on the southern side of the northern routeway and the reason for the change in alignment is unclear.



- Projected feature
- Pre-middle Iron Age
- Iron Age
- Roman
- Saxon
- Late Saxon
- Site location
- Roman trackway



Comparative figure of Saxon enclosures Fig 26

7.3 Saxon

The Saxon period saw the establishment of a new rectilinear enclosure system comprising five enclosures linked by entranceways. They were regularly planned on an east to west alignment and may have been influenced by the routeways with presumably the northern limit of these enclosures being defined by the routeway to the north (Shiple and Finn 2018). The enclosures had visible internal areas of between 700 and 2,200 square meters. Again, the lack of domestic artefacts and associated features would imply that these were also outlying agricultural enclosures suggesting longevity of utilising this area as an agricultural landscape.

At Pineham Zone H, Northamptonshire, a set of conjoined enclosures or plots was constructed between the 5th and 9th centuries (Simmonds 2019). They comprised an east to west aligned linear field system encompassing an area of at least 3.51ha that was defined and re-defined over time with up to ten regular, similarly sized sub-rectangular fields/enclosures (Fig 26). They were linked by entranceways and presumably had a strong pastoral element, allowing ease of access between the enclosures and outlying river meadows to the north. At Ely, Cambridgeshire a middle Saxon settlement comprising a series of ditched enclosures or plots was investigated (Mudd and Webster 2011). Similar to those at Kibworth and Pineham, they were also aligned north to south and east to west in a rectangular pattern implying a planned layout. It is suggested that the position of these Saxon enclosures were influenced by and respected earlier landscapes, perhaps reflecting continuity or visibility of earlier features such as the routeways at Kibworth, a boundary ditch at Pineham and Roman ditches at Ely. This can be seen particularly to the west of the site, where the proposed Saxon ditches are aligned so closely with the Iron Age phase boundaries that it suggests these features may still have been extant as earthworks during the Saxon period. The longevity of landscape features has already been attested by the northern trackway which seems to have been in use from the Iron Age to Saxon periods (Shiple and Finn 2018).

Other Saxon activity on the Kibworth site was identified by a radiocarbon date obtained from charcoal within one of the postholes defining the post-built structure ST1. The postholes defining this structure also produced small quantities of hammerscale and it is most likely that this material derives from iron smithing. The post-built structure may have defined a shelter around a smithing hearth or were perhaps a stand for a smithing hearth. An early to middle Saxon settlement at Harrold, Bedfordshire contained a cluster of features including a post-built structure from which metalworking debris including hammerscale and ferrous smithing slag was recovered indicating a focus of smithing and/or smelting taking place (Shepherd *et al* 2012). The same site also had evidence for textile production; with iron heckle teeth found similar to those found in two pits on this site. At Yarnton, the remains of a smithy were located close to the entrances of three enclosures (Hey 2004). Hammerscale and other metal working debris were found and a series of postholes were sited nearby that were interpreted as forming part of the wall of the smithy. The Kibworth Harcourt excavation to the north identified Saxon activity comprising four inhumation burials radiocarbon dated to the 7th-8th century and a late Saxon pit cut into a corner of an Iron Age enclosure (Shiple and Finn 2018). The pit contained eleven iron items including a pattern-welded Seax and barrel padlock which were dated to the 10th century. Radiocarbon dates taken from two ditches during that excavation also produced comparable middle Saxon dates to the dates produced for ST1 on the present site. In addition, a further radiocarbon date was obtained from the southern Saxon ditch D12 which gave a 10th century date. Given the similarity of

alignment with the present Saxon features, it may be considered that enclosure E6 from the Shipley and Finn (2018) site may also be Saxon, neatly completing the enclosure layout to the north-east.

7.4 Conclusion

The archaeological remains investigated at Kibworth appear to represent an agricultural landscape comprising enclosures that were modified and maintained over a period of time. There appears to have been a break in activity from the mid to late 3rd century AD until the middle Saxon period. The low artefactual remains and the lack of internal domestic features within the enclosures suggest that this activity was situated some distance from any main settlement focus. Although it is not clear where the settlement for this farmland was situated it is possible that the features uncovered during trial trenching to the West of Warwick Road maybe one such focus (Preece 2018a). Those investigations revealed a number of rectangular enclosures and associated possible structural features such as ring ditches dating from the late Iron Age to 4th century AD which could be part of an extended settlement linked to the outlying agricultural landscape by the routeways.

The presence of the Saxon field system and the identification of the post-built structure that appears to be associated with small scale smithing have revealed previously unidentified Saxon remains. A later Saxon date obtained for the southern ditch would imply that this system was modified during the Saxon period and it is likely that the Saxon activity observed on this site and that to the north are linked and that there remains an undiscovered settlement focus in the vicinity. Relevant research agendas relating to the Saxon period should be included for any further work that may be carried out in the area. This and future evidence could help to characterise the extent of Saxon activity particularly to the west where further Saxon remains may be identified as well as a possible focus for Iron Age and/or Roman settlements.

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