Three Bronze Age burial sites in Northamptonshire

by

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with contributions by
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SUMMARY

Sites at Irchester quarry, Brackmills Link Road, Northampton and Marsh Lane, Irthlingborough, investigated as part of separate developer funded projects, have produced evidence of Bronze Age burial in the form of ring ditches of former round barrows of early Bronze Age date. In addition, long term respect for these sites has been demonstrated by the presence of satellite cremation burials of middle Bronze Age date. The site at Irchester produced a small assemblage of Beaker pottery and radiocarbon dates have been obtained for the other two sites.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of developer funded investigations carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology evidence is often recovered that is of interest but without being of sufficient importance to warrant publication in its own right. This material will only normally be available in the site archives and as developer reports held in the Sites and Monuments Record, the so-called grey literature. To make some of this evidence more widely available, this report draws together three instances of such minor sites at Irchester quarry, Brackmills Link Road, Northampton and Marsh Lane, Irthlingborough (Fig 1). Together they add to the relatively small body of evidence from the county for early Bronze Age round barrows and middle Bronze Age cremation burial.

BACKGROUND

The excavations reported here were carried out between 1994 and 2002 by staff of Northamptonshire Archaeology. The work at Irchester quarry was directed by Ian Meadows and supervised by Chris Jones. For the Brackmills Link Road, the evaluation was supervised by Rob Atkins and the excavation by Charlotte Stevens, with Andy Chapman as project manager. At Marsh Lane the work was directed by Steve Parry and supervised by Michael Webster. The geophysical surveys at Marsh Lane and Brackmills were carried out by Peter Masters.

At Irchester quarry a watching brief and a limited pre-emptive excavation was carried out between May 1995 and May 1996 on behalf of ARC Central in advance of gravel extraction (Meadows 1996). The site lay on the floodplain of the river Nene, and the work recovered a continuation of a Romano-British ditched field system related to Irchester Roman town, which lies to the south-east of the quarry. Towards the western end of the quarry a previously unknown Bronze Age round barrow was discovered and excavated (NGR SP 9085 6697, Fig 1). It produced a small assemblage of Beaker pottery, but a Neolithic radiocarbon date appeared to be far too early to relate to the construction of the mound.

The Brackmills Link Road, lies to the south-east of Northampton, running from the B526 Newport Pagnell Road at Wootton to the Brackmills Business Park (NGR SP 7723 5737; Fig 2). A pre-planning evaluation in 2000 comprising trial trenching and geophysical survey located a ring ditch previously identified by aerial photography (Atkins 1999). Its Bronze Age date was confirmed by radiocarbon dating (Chapman 1999). An open area excavation carried out on behalf of the County Council Highways immediately prior to road construction in 2002 indicated that the barrow lay beyond the road corridor, but a satellite cremation burial provided a further radiocarbon date (Stevens and Chapman 2002). The site lies on the summit of the Hunsbury

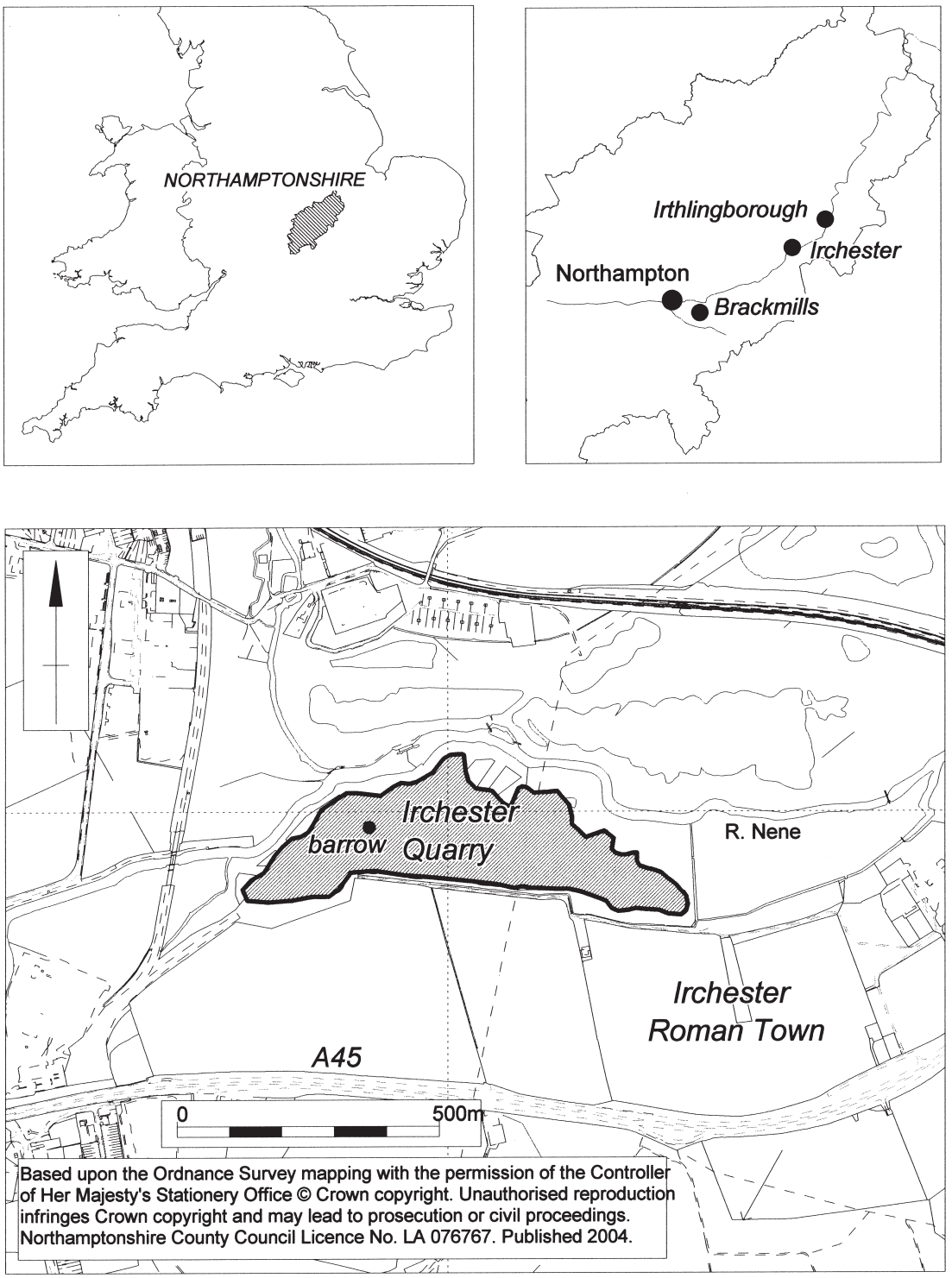


Fig 1 The Sites and the location of Irchester Quarry

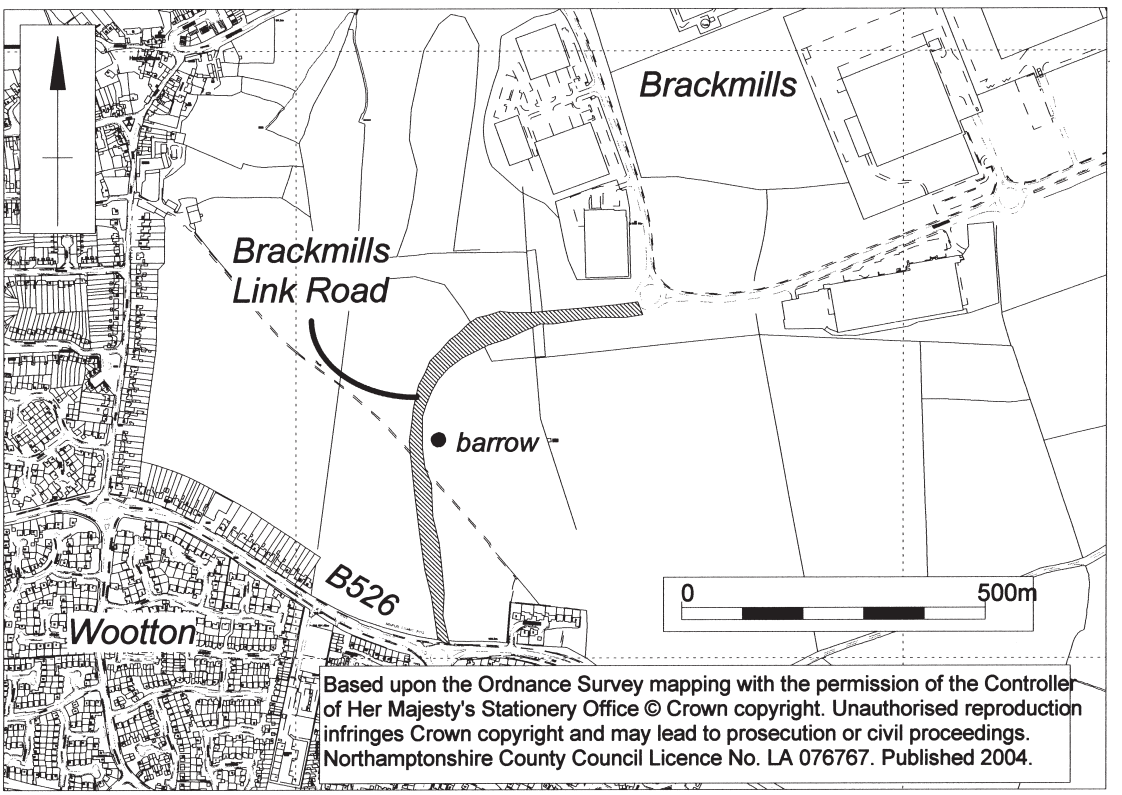


Fig 2 Location of the Brackmills barrow

ridge at 104.75m above OD, with extensive views in all directions.

At Marsh Lane, Irthlingborough a programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out in 1994-95 on land to the north and south of Marsh Lane in response to an application by R Griggs Group Ltd to develop the area (NGR SP 958 712, Fig 3). It now comprises car parking, an all weather football pitch and an indoor sports centre forming part of the Rushden and Diamonds football club. The archaeological evaluation comprised desk-based assessment, fieldwalking, magnetometer survey, the excavation of 42 test pits and nine trial trenches and a watching brief during groundworks for the subsequent development (Parry 1994, 1995a and 1995b, Masters 1995). As the proposed development did not require deep excavation in the area of the ring ditches these were excluded from investigation and are preserved beneath the all weather football pitch. An area to the south was subject to a further watching brief in 1999-2000 during development of an indoor sports centre (Webster 2001). The present report provides an abstract of the significant evidence drawn from the respective developer reports.

THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

IRCHESTER QUARRY

The general removal of overburden from the site was undertaken by sub-contractors working on behalf of ARC. They removed the shallow topsoil using a D8 box scraper and cleared the underlying alluvial clay, which was 0.5 to 1.0 metres thick, using a 360° excavator, to expose the workable ballast. This stripping was not done under archaeological control and most features were only recognised in working faces or where their base extended into the ballast, because of this a frequent watch was maintained throughout machining.

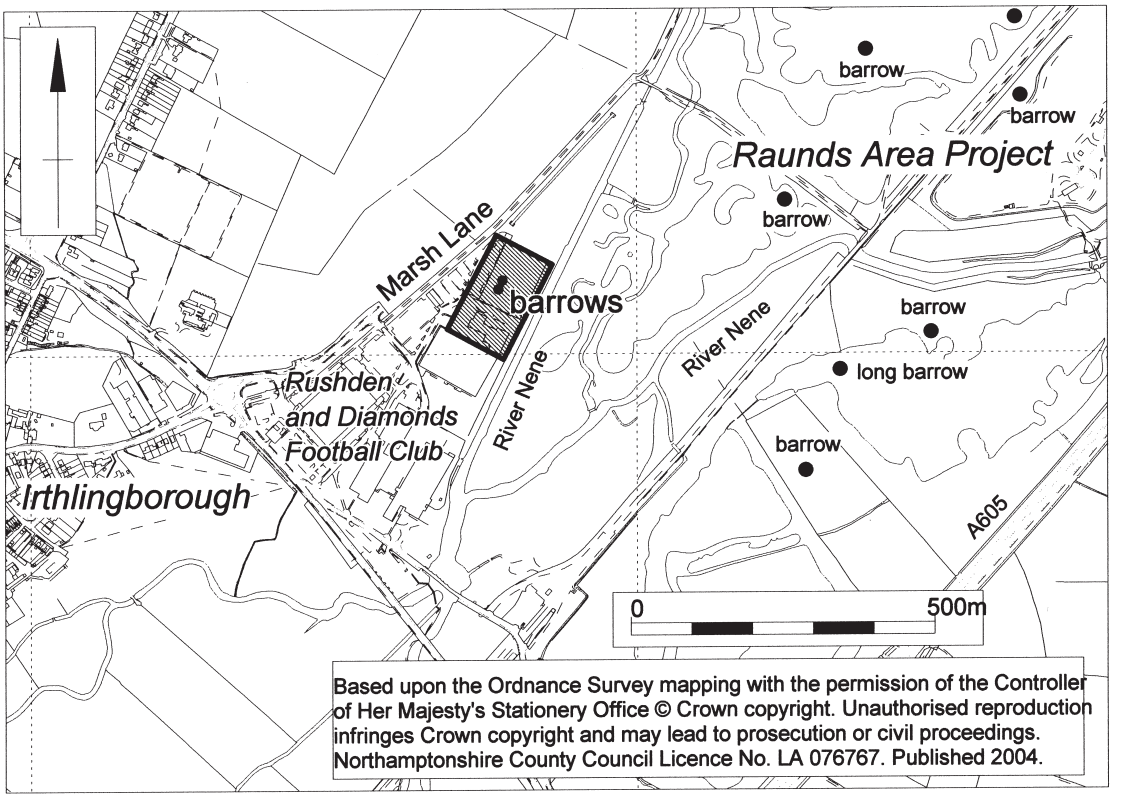


Fig 3 Location of the barrows at Marsh Lane, Irthlingborough

In the south-eastern part of the quarry, in the field closest to the walled area of the Roman town, a complex of ditches were present (Fig 4; 2-4, 6, 7, 47 and 48). They defined a continuation of land parcels flanking the northern side of a trackway, identified by geophysical survey and lying west of the walled area of the Roman Town (Dix et al 1994).

During machining deep organic rich fills of former watercourses were observed at the northern limits of the site adjacent to the present river. Some of these channels were not sealed by alluvial clay and therefore relate to recent riverine activity. Channels of late glacial/early post-glacial date, were recorded running approximately west to east across the central area of the quarry. They were of sinuous plan with the widest about 10m across. It is not clear whether these zones represent contemporary or sequential channels, so it remains uncertain whether the flood plain was crossed by a single shallow channel or divided into a series of islands by multiple channels.

On one of these islands there was a ring ditch. It had been overlain by a railway embankment, and was only identified after the contractors had largely removed it. The remains probably formed a continuous ditched circuit, c.15m in diameter (Fig 5). In places, however, the ditch had been totally removed leaving only a stain in the underlying gravel caused by local iron mineralisation. Following its discovery an additional 200m of trial trenches were excavated in this area, but no further archaeological features were found.

A complete section of the ditch was recorded in one location, and this revealed a sequence of three cuts (Fig 5, Section 1). The earliest was 0.60m deep and was filled with a leached, brownish yellow sandy clay containing pebbles (44). The upper part contained more clay and showed signs of gleying. A recut along the inner edge had a similar profile and was up to 0.50m deep with a heavily leached sandy clay fill containing occasional pebbles (45). The filled ditch was sealed by a soil horizon (46) that may have formed on the berm

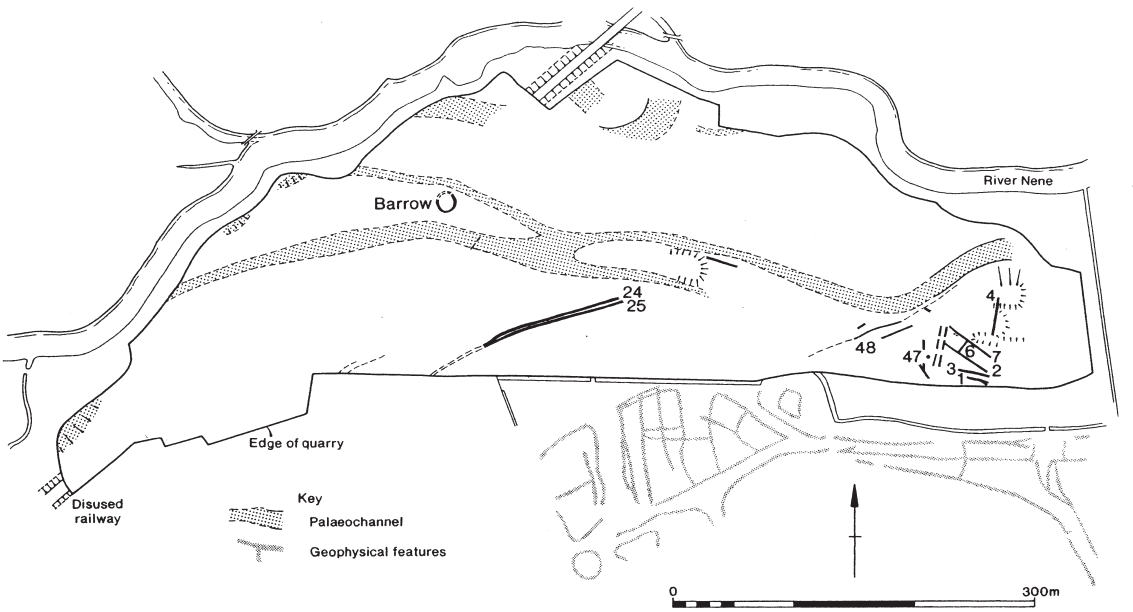


Fig 4 Archaeological features within the immediate vicinity of the Irchester Quarry barrow

beyond a central mound, suggesting that there was a lengthy period of disuse. In the final phase, a wide ditch, 0.40m deep, with a rounded profile (43) was cut into the fills of both earlier ditches. Its gravely clay fill contained Beaker pottery, burnt stone "pot boilers", 7g of cremated bone fragments and fourteen struck flints. The flints were mostly flakes or flake fragments but one side scraper and a thumbnail scraper were also present. An increased concentration of pebbles along the inner edge of the ditch may represent a slumped tail from a central mound. This material also sealed soil horizon (46) indicating that there was a probably enlargement of the central mound across the former berm.

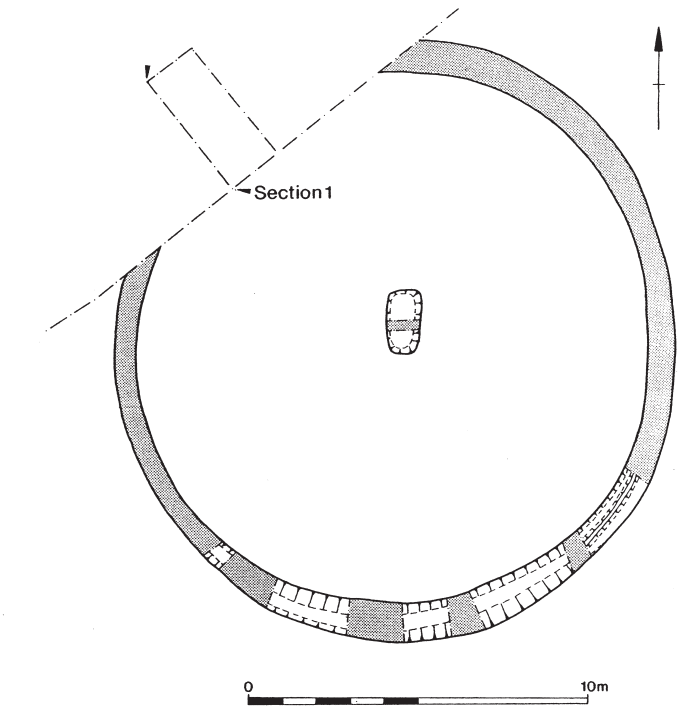
The area that lay within the ring ditch was stripped to the clean ballast thereby truncating internal features. A sub-rectangular pit at the centre of the area was aligned north-south, and measured 1.90m by 0.90m by 0.15m deep. It may have been either a tree pit or a grave, but excavation of the stony sandy clay fill failed to produce any indication of bone, charcoal or other evidence of human activity.

The volume of upcast material generated by the original excavation of the ring ditch would have been about $40m^3$, which would have formed a tumulus about 1.0m high with a berm of about 2.0m between the mound and the original ditch.

The stylistically late Beaker pottery forms from the ditch would date to around 2000BC or slightly later (Fig 9). However, it may well derive from activity on and around the existing mound rather than dating its construction, especially as the pottery was only present in the fill of the final phase of ditch. Oak and ash charcoal from this final ditch fill was submitted for radiocarbon dating. The date obtained was 3300-2580 cal BC (95% confidence, Beta 102248), but as this Neolithic date is in conflict with the Beaker pottery from the same fill it must be assumed that the charcoal was derived from some pre-mound activity.

BRACKMILLS LINK ROAD, NORTHAMPTON

A ring ditch previously recorded by aerial photography was located by geophysical survey in 2000. The round barrow lies to the south of Northampton on the summit of the Hunsbury ridge with distant horizons in virtually all directions (Fig 2). The views are particularly extensive to the south, while to the north and north-east the site looks out across the Nene valley and to the other end of the Hunsbury ridge at Great Houghton. To the east and west, along the line of the summit ridge, the views are still



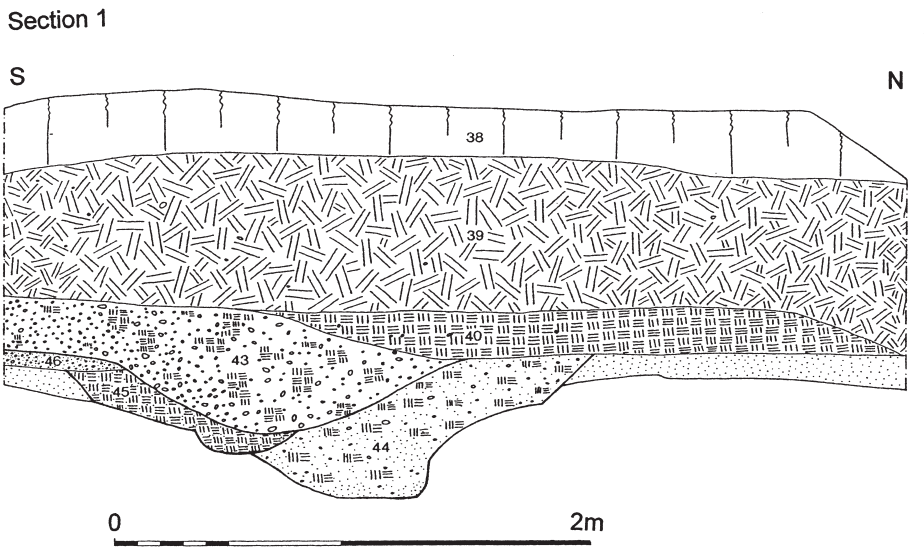


Fig 5 Plan and section of the Irchester Quarry barrow

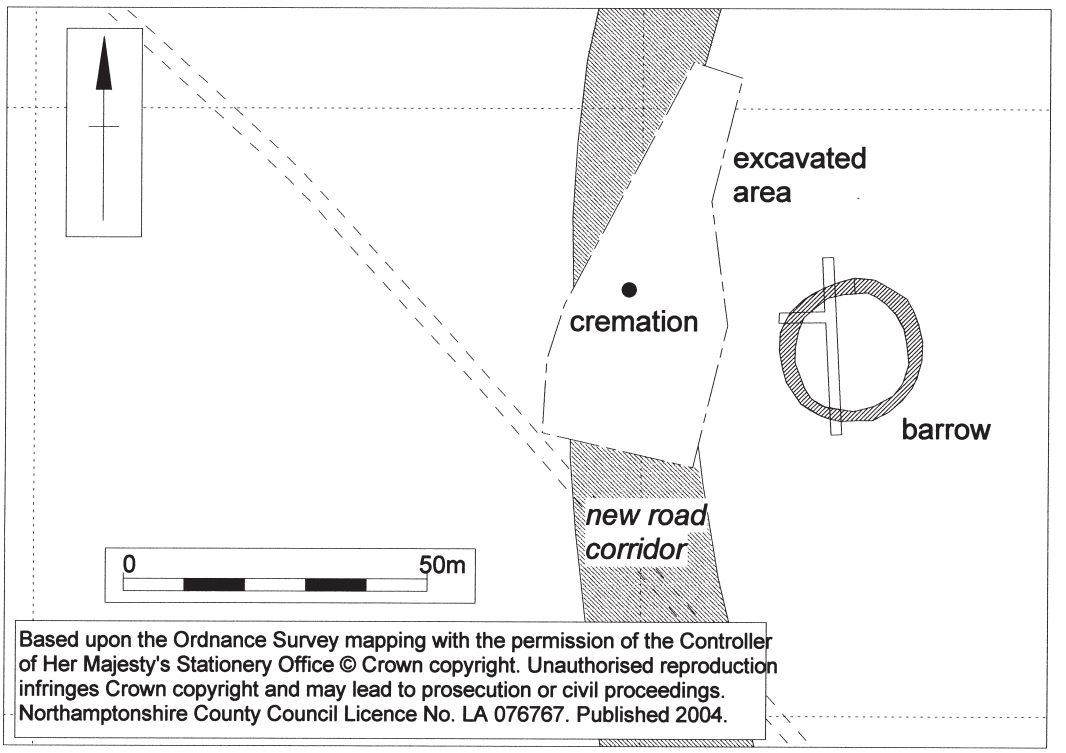


Fig 6 Ring ditch and cremation at Brackmills

distant, as the ridge is fairly level, but slightly less extensive than the views off the ridge. The new road crosses an area of varied geology comprising Lower and Upper Estuarine Series, Great Oolite Limestone and Northampton Sand (British Geological Survey). As observed during the watching brief, the gentle slopes on the southern half of the road are on limestone, the summit is capped with shattered ironstone in an orange sand matrix, while tenacious clay was exposed on the steep slope to the north-east.

The ring ditch was circular with an internal diameter of 20m. In 2000, a trench was cut across the ring ditch off-centre (Figs 6 and 7), and the ditch was partially sectioned in two places. It was V-shaped and up to 2.5m wide. Only the upper and secondary fills were excavated, to a depth of 0.8m deep, but the ditch must originally have been *c* 1.2m deep. The secondary fill was brown sand with sparse small pieces of ironstone, while the upper fill was similar but contained more frequent ironstone pieces.

A mass of oak charcoal, weighing 164g, perhaps from a single timber was recovered from the interface of the secondary and final fills. This has given a radiocarbon date of 1685-1525 cal BC (68% confidence, 3330+/-60BP, Beta-132789), placing the silting of the ditch in the later part of the early Bronze Age.

There were two shallow pits within the ring ditch, but both appeared to be no more than shallow hollows in the natural with fills similar to the overlying subsoil. A linear feature truncated by the ring ditch did not produce any finds, and appeared to be of geological origin.

The area excavated in 2002 measured *c* 65m north to south and from 10-35m east to west. It was located to take in the ring ditch itself along with a 20m allowance to the north and south to examine the wider environs of the barrow (Fig 6). The area was stripped of topsoil and subsoil under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Following stripping and a site survey, it was shown that as

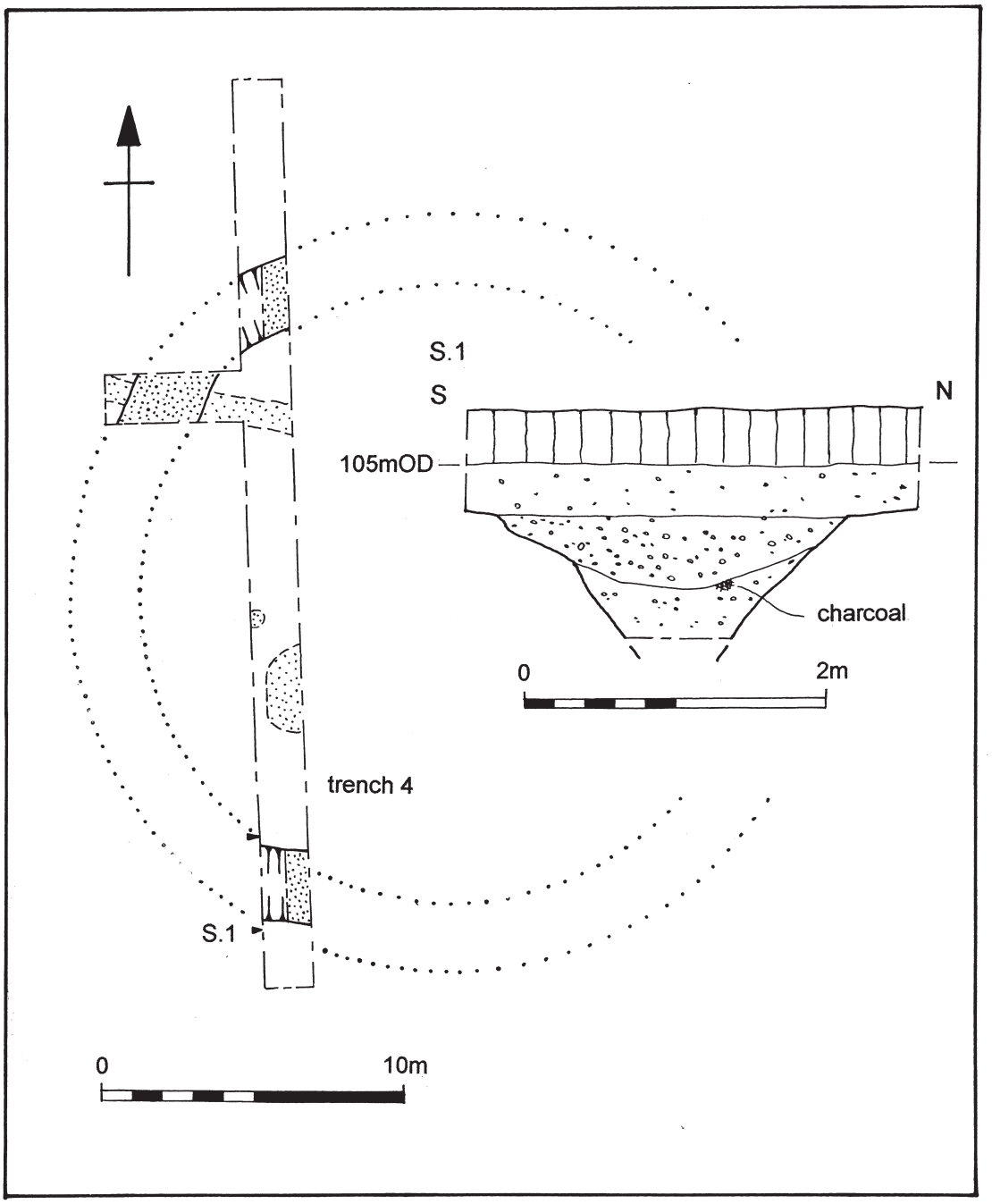


Fig 7 Plan and section of the Brackmills barrow

the road corridor lay central to the broader zone investigated in the original evaluation, the barrow lay completely outside the stripped area.

The stripped area contained a number of curvilinear features similar to that found in the evaluation. The majority of these were shallow, generally less than 0.15m deep, with shallow edges and fairly flat bases, and clean fills devoid of finds. They all appeared to be geological in origin, probably 'ice wedges' and solution holes. They confirm that the linear feature seen in the evaluation of 1999 and the network of such features appearing on the aerial photographs, are at least largely of geological origin (Wessex Archaeology 1996).

The single archaeological feature was a shallow pit containing a small cremation deposit. The pit was circular, 0.50m diameter by 0.11m deep, with shallow relatively uneven sides rounding imperceptibly into a slightly concave base. The ironstone at the base of the cut was slightly discoloured, either as a result of mineral staining or because the pyre debris was still hot when it was deposited. The fill was dark brownish grey fine sandy silt containing small pieces of oak charcoal, and occasional small pieces of burnt bone scattered throughout the fill. The pit had evidently been truncated and the presence of the larger pieces of bone at the exposed surface suggests that the bulk of cremated bone may have been lost to ploughing. It also indicates that the pit had initially been filled with a layer of pyre debris, containing little bone, while the main bone deposits had been placed above this. A total of 44g of charcoal and 20g of burnt bone was recovered through wet sieving of the fill.

The cremation lay at a distance of *c* 27m from the barrow ditch, but would still appear to be a satellite burial, even if an extreme outlying example. It perhaps illustrates that the zone around a barrow that needs to be examined for the presence of related ritual activity should extend at least 30m from the barrow itself. The radiocarbon dating of charcoal to 1270-1020 cal BC (68% confidence, 2940+/-70BP, Beta-175255) indicates that the cremation was inserted in the middle Bronze Age, some 500 years after the construction of the original round barrow.

A watching brief was maintained through the initial stages of groundworks in preparation for road construction. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by bulldozer, and regular visits were made during this process to examine the stripped surfaces. The watching brief was continued into the initial stages of reducing the ground levels, and as a final check the exposed natural in the sides of the cuttings along the entire length of the road was examined, but no further cut features were located.

MARSH LANE, IRTHLINGBOROUGH

The site lay on former farmland adjacent to the River Nene. Marsh Lane follows the base of the valley side and divided arable land to the north from pasture on the floodplain to the south (Fig 3). The test pits and trenches were situated on the margin of the floodplain gravels at around 34.70m OD. The earlier features located were all cut into the gravel and overlain by a layer of alluvium varying from 0.15-0.47m thick.

Prior to evaluation, the only archaeological site recorded by the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record was a possible barrow at NGR SP 958 712 identified by Mr David Hall in 1972 (SMR No 1765/0/3) and described as a low circular mound of pink gravel surrounded by a dark annulus (Hall and Hutchings 1972, 14 note 7). It seems likely that this equates with one of the two ring ditches located by geophysical survey, but it had been ploughed flat in the intervening years.

A detailed magnetometer survey of the area was undertaken. It located two ring ditches and a larger oval enclosure. The ring ditches lay only 7-8m apart and were only 10-12m in diameter (Fig 8). A trial trench 45m to the east of the ring ditches (trench 45) contained features sealed beneath alluvium, and these included a small circular pit, 0.50m in diameter. Its fill contained a deposit of cremated bone in charcoal rich soil, which formed an unurned cremation deposit mixed with pyre debris. The cremated bone has not been available for study and the weight recovered is unknown, but it is presumed to have been human.

A total of 21g of charcoal, not identified to wood species, was recovered and this was submitted for radiocarbon dating. The date of 1440-1130 cal BC (68% confidence, 3070+/-130 BP, Beta-84658) places the cremation in the middle Bronze Age. As the probable round barrows would be expected to date to the early Bronze Age, and no later than around 1500 BC, this cremation is rather late to be considered as a satellite burial to the round barrows, and it also lay some 45m from the nearest ring ditch. It therefore seems more likely that the excavated cremation was either an isolated burial or part of a flat

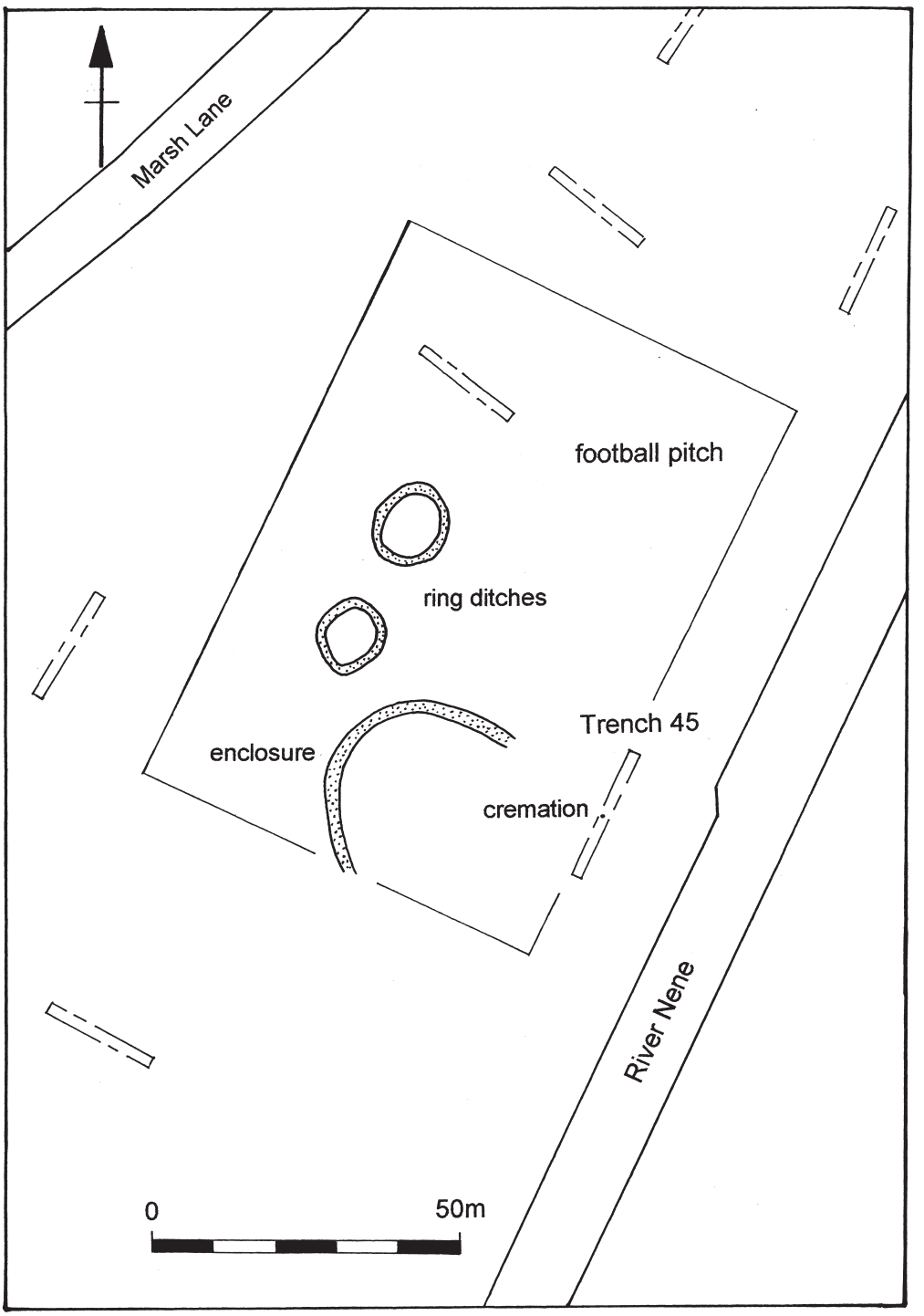


Fig 8 Ring ditch at Marsh lane, Irthlingborough

cemetery of middle Bronze Age date sited on open ground perhaps within an existing and recognised funerary landscape. A further possibility is that the ring ditches are actually Iron Age roundhouse ditches perhaps associated with the small enclosure, and perhaps leaving the cremation as part of an isolated middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery.

The extent of the local prehistoric landscape on the eastern bank of the river Nene has been vividly illustrated by the excavation of numerous monuments of Neolithic and Bronze Age date as part of the Raunds Area Project (Fig 3; Healy and Harding forthcoming). The Marsh Lane site lies on the fringe of this major, long-lived monument complex.

The oval enclosure to the south-east of the ring ditches measured at least 32m northeast-southwest and, if the ditch located in trench 45 to the east was part of the same enclosure, it would extend at least 50m northwest-southeast. The ditch in trench 45 was 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep. A shallow gully 1.20m to the south, ran parallel to the ditch and was 0.40m wide by 0.18m deep. It produced a single sherd of pottery that was tentatively identified as of Iron Age date, perhaps strengthening the possibility that the ring ditches may be of Iron Age date.

THE FINDS

THE BEAKER POTTERY
by Dr Alex Gibson

The Beaker pottery from the Irchester barrow comprises a total of about five vessels all represented by small residual sherds (Fig 9). None of the vessels are reconstructible but the motifs and the motif combinations appear to represent stylistically late vessels of Lanting and van der Waals's (1972) step 4 or later. Clarke (1970) lists 16 Beakers from Northamptonshire, nine of which are stylistically late though this may mean little in terms of absolute chronologies (Kinnes *et al.* 1991). There was a small Beaker presence at Grendon (Gibson and McCormick 1985) and at Peterborough, the majority of the Wyman Abbot collection represents stylistically late vessels (Gibson, in Pryor 1980). Both the primary burials at Irthlingborough (Halpin 1987) and West Cotton (Windell 1989) are from stylistically late vessels. A Beaker grave group from Warmington also contained a stylistically late, necked vessel (Gibson 1996a).

ILLUSTRATED POTTERY (FIG 9)

1 Rim sherd in a hard well-fired fabric with smooth surfaces and averaging 6mm thick. The outer surfaces

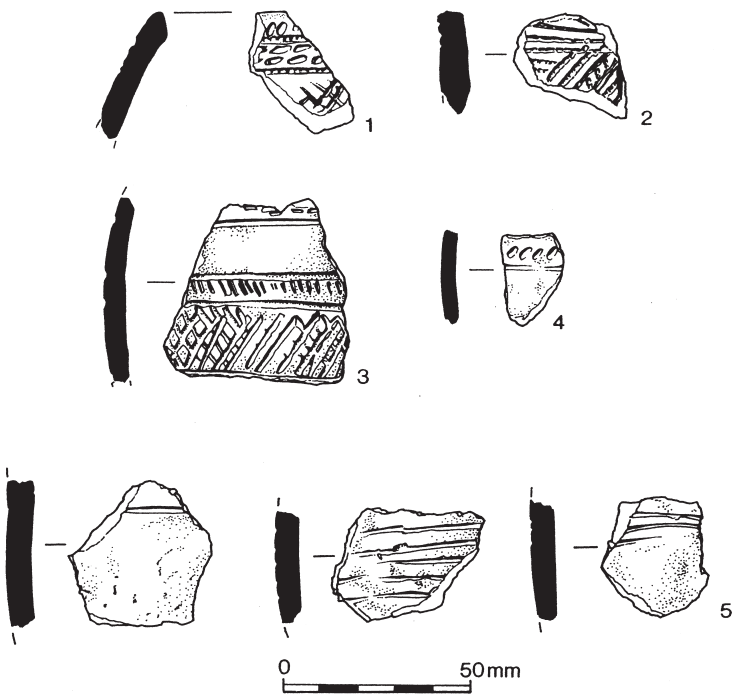


Fig 9 Beaker pottery from the Irchester Quarry barrow

are rich brown and the core black. The fabric contains finely crushed grog. The rim has an internal bevel 5mm wide and appears to be slightly inverted suggesting a barrel-shaped neck. The decoration is finely executed with a mixture of oval impressions, toothed comb impressions and incisions. Externally, a zone of small, oblique oval impressions fringe a zone of ermine motif (Clarke 1970 motif No.6) bordered above and below by single combed lines. The comb used has had square teeth. Below this is the start of a zone of incised crosshatching. Probably from a stylistically late necked Beaker.

2 Sherd of Beaker in a hard well-fired fabric with a reddish-brown outer surface, grey-brown inner surface and with the surface coloration meeting midway through the fabric. The sherd contains finely crushed quartz inclusions and averages 7mm thick. The decoration comprises well-defined toothed comb impressions made with a comb with evenly sized rectangular teeth. The orientation of the sherd is difficult to determine, but the motif appears to be a zone of filled chevrons with a narrow zone of ladder motif above. Probably from a stylistically late necked Beaker.

3 Four conjoining sherds in a well-fired fine fabric, with grey-brown surfaces and a black core. The fabric averages 5mm thick and appears to have contained finely crushed grog. The decoration comprises, at the top, remains of a zone of incised ermine motif, an undecorated band 13mm deep then a narrow zone of small oblique lenticular impressions bordered above and below by a single lightly incised line. This zone of ladder motif varies between 6mm and 8mm wide. Below this is a zone of carefully executed incised crosshatching. The decoration and curvature of the sherd suggests that it comes from the belly of a necked vessel. The surviving portion has had a diameter in the region of 140mm.

4 Single fine thin-walled (4mm) sherd probably from a Beaker. The sherd has rich brown surfaces with a black core and contains fine sand inclusions. The sherd is decorated with a single horizontal row of small oblique lenticular impressions bordered by a single lightly incised line.

5 Four sherds in a hard well-fired fabric with light brown surfaces and a grey core. It averages 5-6mm thick and contains calcined flint inclusions up to 5mm across. The decoration comprises multiple horizontal incised lines interspersed with undecorated zones. Up to five lines are visible on the most decorated sherd. One sherd is from the base of the vessel.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

CHARCOAL FROM IRCHESTER
by Dr Mark Robinson

Several soil samples from the ring ditch at Irchester were floated onto a 0.5mm mesh to recover charred plant remains. A sample from context (43), which contained numerous small fragments of charcoal, was the only one to give useful results; 100 fragments were picked out and the identifications listed. They show that a diverse range of woods was being burnt, particularly from thorny species. They would be typical of woodland edge or an area where scrub was regenerating against a background of some grazing pressure.

Species	Common name	Frequency
Corylus avellana L.	hazel	2
Fraxinus excelsior L.	ash	4
Pomoideae indet.	hawthorn, apple etc	48
Prunus sp.	sloe etc	9
Quercus sp.	oak	25
Rhamnus catharticus L.	purging buckthorn	12
Total number of fragments		100

CHARCOAL FROM BRACKMILLS LINK ROAD, NORTHAMPTON
by Rowena Gale

Samples were prepared for examination using standard methods (Gale and Cutler 2000). Fragments were fractured to expose fresh transverse surfaces and sorted into groups based on the anatomical features observed using a x20 hand lens. Representative fragments were fractured to expose the tangential and radial planes, supported in washed sand, and examined using a Hikon Labophot microscope at magnifications of up to x400. The anatomical structure was matched to prepared reference slides.

THE BARROW DITCH

The sample contained a large volume of charcoal (164g), most of which was very fragmented and composed of thin slivers. Only the larger components were examined. When possible, the maturity (i.e. heartwood/sapwood) of the wood was assessed. The charcoal was too comminuted to record the age of roundwood or to estimate stem diameters.

The results were as follows:

> 56 fragments oak (*Quercus* sp.), sapwood, some fast grown, probably from fairly wide stem/pole/cordwood;
> 20 fragments oak (*Quercus* sp.), heartwood and undetermined maturity

THE SATELLITE CREMATION

The charcoal was reasonably firm and well preserved. Fragments measuring >2mm in radial cross-section were examined.

The results were as follows:

> 27 fragments oak (*Quercus* sp.), sapwood
> 8 fragments oak (*Quercus* sp.), maturity undetermined but probably sapwood

THE RADIOCARBON DATES

Radiocarbon dates have been obtained for the Brackmills and Marsh Lane sites.

Site Sample No and Laboratory	Context Details	Sample details	Conventional Radiocarbon Date BP	Calibrated date Cal BC 68% confidence 95% confidence
Brackmills Link Road Beta-132789	Barrow ditch Mass of carbonised wood	charcoal *Quercus* sp. (oak) sapwood and heartwood	3330 +/-60	1620 1685-1525 1745-1485
Brackmills Link Road Beta- 175255	Satellite cremation deposit in pit	Charcoal *Quercus* sp. (oak) sapwood	2940 +/-70	1130 1270-1020 1380-930
Marsh Lane Beta-84658	Pit containing cremation deposit	Wood charcoal (unidentified)	3070 +/-130	1440-1130 1615-930

Laboratory: Beta Analytic Inc, Miami, Florida, USA
Calibration: INTCAL98

DISCUSSION

While the evidence obtained at all three sites described in this report is fragmentary, it does serve to illustrate a number of significant points raised by other work in the county.

At Irchester quarry the 19th century railway embankment had concealed the barrow, but even if it had lain beyond the embankment it is still unlikely to have been recognised prior to soil stripping as it was also concealed beneath a substantial layer of alluvial clay. It therefore provides a further example of the preservation of prehistoric monuments along the margins of the floodplain of the River Nene. This was first made apparent in the early stages of extensive gravel extraction in the Nene valley in the 1960s and 1970s with the investigation of standing mounds at Earls Barton (Jackson 1984) and crop mark barrows at Aldwincle (Jackson 1976). More recently, it has also been seen most vividly in the Raunds Area Project (Windell 1989, Healy and Harding forthcoming). Here there were a number of known upstanding barrows, but the number and the range of monument types dramatically increased as new sites emerged from beneath the alluvium and also from beneath the earthworks of the deserted medieval village of West Cotton.

At Brackmills, Northampton the confirmation that a ring ditch first identified on an aerial photograph was a round barrow of early Bronze Age date, has provided an addition to the relatively some group of Northamptonshire barrows on a hilltop location. A small barrow group shown to be of Neolithic origin at Tansor (Chapman 1996-97) was similarly sited to provide extensive views across the surrounding landscape, as is familiar from the classic barrow groups of Wessex and Dorset. The counties single upstanding barrow group at Three Hills Barrows, Woodford (NGR SP 961 760) also looks out across the Nene valley.

However, most of the barrows, and other early monuments excavated in the past 30 years, have lain along the gravel terraces of the Nene valley. They have been excavated in advance of gravel extraction and this single activity, with its resultant destruction of so much of the Nene valley landscape, has inevitably biased the collection of data to a particular landscape zone. Opportunities to examine the heavily ploughed higher ground have been far less common, and given this disparity of opportunity, the true balance of the respective levels of exploitation of the valley bottom and upland landscapes remains uncertain.

In addition, the recovery of a satellite cremation burial at a distance of 27m from the barrow itself illustrates both the extent of the surrounding area over which related burial deposits may occur, effectively increasing the diameter of the barrow to some 80m, and also how such features can survive, albeit in a truncated form, on a field which has been subject to long-term intensive arable agriculture. The middle Bronze Age date for this satellite cremation also shows how respect for the barrows, and a retention or reuse of such funerary areas spanning some 500 years.

At Irthlingborough the evidence is even more fragmentary, but the single cremation has also been radiocarbon dated to the middle Bronze Age. The cremation burials from both Brackmills

and Irthlingborough are therefore additions to the small number of middle Bronze Age burials known from Northamptonshire. Only three middle Bronze Age cremation cemeteries have been identified in the county at Briar Hill, Northampton, Chapel Brampton and Kelmarsh (Chapman 1999a) and it is unfortunate that only the Briar Hill cemetery has been fully published (Bamford 1985).

Finally, these sites also illustrate the wide extent of Bronze Age activity beyond the more extensive and better preserved sites that have been subject to more detailed investigations. Whilst showing us just how much of an extensive prehistoric landscape has been lost, largely to the depredations of arable agriculture, they also illustrate just how much still survives, even in a denuded and imperfect form, and awaits discovery in future work.

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