

Iron Age and Roman Settlement to the north-west of Crick

by

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with contributions by

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Summary

Excavations prior to housing development to the north-west of Crick located probable middle to late Bronze Age activity with the discovery of a possible burnt mound. These are uncommon features in Northamptonshire and this one, with an associated stake- or post-built structure, brings the total to three from recent work in the area. An Iron Age settlement enclosure, built over earlier Iron Age boundary ditches, contained the remains of ring gullies (roundhouses) and ancillary buildings or structures represented by ditches and postholes. The inside of the enclosure was reorganised in the Roman period, with a ditch bisecting the interior and truncating earlier features. A relatively small amount of pottery and animal bone was recovered, but the environmental evidence was good and points to a mixed pastoral/agricultural economy. Pottery shows that the main period of use was early Roman, with no indication of activity beyond c.AD 200. The enclosure ditch gradually silted up, its banks slumped inwards and a later trackway cut through its south-eastern side. A small amount of Anglo-Saxon pottery in later features, including what may have been a quarry pit, shows that there was later activity.

Introduction

During winter 2012–13, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation on land to the north-west of Crick, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 5848 7281; Fig 1). The site had previously been the subject of a geophysical survey and an archaeological evaluation. The geophysical survey, undertaken in June 2010, recorded a number of anomalies indicative of potential Iron Age or Romano-British settlement (Railton 2011). These included a possible ditched enclosure on the higher ground in the eastern half of the site, which became the focus of the subsequent excavation. Ridge and furrow of medieval or later date was also recorded. Subsequent trial trenching in January 2012 confirmed the presence of the enclosure indicated by geophysical survey and tentatively suggested a Roman period of occupation (Railton 2012).

The work was commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) on behalf of Gallagher

Estates, in order to meet the archaeological condition on planning consent required by Northampton County Council's Archaeological Advisor in relation to residential development. The excavation was undertaken to further investigate the archaeological features recorded by the earlier interventions.

Acknowledgements

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Location, topography and geology

The development site enclosed an area of approximately 6.7ha and comprised four pasture fields to the south of Main Road, Crick. It lay approximately 500m to the north-west of the centre of Crick village, and some 1.6km to the east of junction 18 of the M1 motorway (Fig 1). The excavation area lay on high ground, around the 128m OD contour and above a west-facing slope that falls to 118m OD at Main Road. The site included areas of made ground from an abandoned road across the northern side of the site. The solid geology within the site comprised siltstone and mudstone of the Dyrham formation. Overlying superficial deposits across the site consist of Diamicton (of the Oadby Member) formed during glacial conditions up to 2 million years ago (BGS 2014).

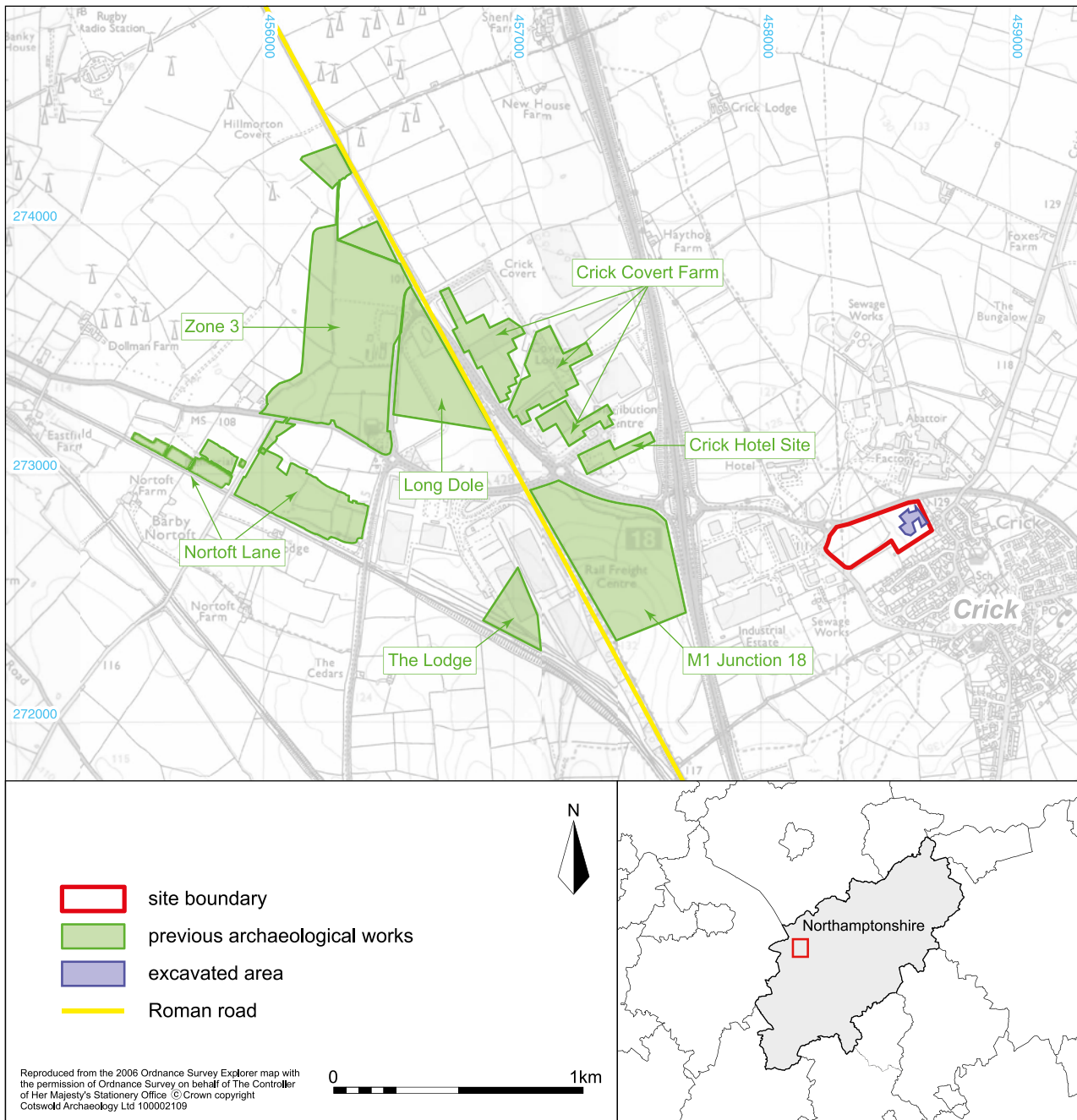


Fig 1: Site location

The topsoil over the site comprised 0.25m to 0.35m of light brown to yellowish brown sandy clay loam, demonstrating a sub-angular blocky to granular structure. Subsoil layers were shallow (less than 500mm thick) or absent in the eastern side of the site, but were up to 1.1m thick in the western part. The deeper subsoils generally comprised mottled orange/grey sandy clay loams over Boulder Clays.

Previous archaeological work

Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity suggestive of ritual and monumental features was found during

excavations on the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT) East site at Crick Covert Farm, 1.5km to the north-west of the present excavation (Hughes and Woodward 2015, 18–24). The site at Crick Covert Farm also revealed extensive remains of Iron Age occupation, also seen at the DIRFT Crick Hotel site (Ellis and King 2015), at The Lodge to the south (Chapman 2015a) and at Long Dole, DIRFT Central (Chapman 2015b) (Fig 1). The remains included groups of roundhouses and associated structures, pits and enclosure ditches representative of open settlement dating to the middle and late Iron Age at Long Dole, and settlement with both open and enclosed elements dated to the early, middle and late Iron Age date at all three sites. Remains of a ring gully, associated pits,

ditches and a later enclosure were found at DIRFT Nortoft Lane site (Hart and Mudd 2015).

The line of Roman Watling Street passes through the middle of the DIRFT complex, and evidence for Roman settlement and agricultural activity has been recorded across the DIRFT interventions and on land adjacent to the M1 motorway south-west of junction 18 (JSAC 1996; 1997). Excavations at The Lodge also produced a single sunken-floored building and a nearby pit of early/middle Anglo-Saxon date (Chapman 2015a, 156). Crick is mentioned in the Domesday Book and the Historic Environment Record identifies a number of medieval sites in the vicinity of the current excavation site.

Methodology

The excavation area totalled just short of 0.6ha, covering the area where the trial trenching had confirmed the presence of the ditched enclosure. Non-archaeologically significant soils were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket operating under constant archaeological supervision. This was followed by hand cleaning of areas of interest. Examination of features concentrated on recovering the plan and any structural sequences. Particular emphasis was placed upon retrieving a stratigraphic sequence and obtaining details for phasing the site. For linear features, ditches/gullies, paths/tracks, 10% of deposits were excavated for features greater than 5m in length, and 20% for those shorter than 5m. Excavation targeted intersections of features to record stratigraphic relationships. Pits and postholes with a diameter up to 1.5m were 50% sampled as a minimum. Pits with a diameter greater than 1.5m were 25% sampled as a minimum. Stakeholes were 100% excavated.

Summary of site chronology

The excavation results were subject to stratigraphic analysis and the recorded features were put into the following periods (Fig 2):

- Middle to late Bronze Age (pre-700 BC)
- Early middle Iron Age (500–200 BC)
- Later middle to late Iron Age (200–50 BC)
- Roman (AD 43–200)
- Post-Roman

The following periods were also observed but are not referred to within this report, which concentrates on the Iron Age and Roman settlement:

- Later medieval to modern
- Undated

Middle to late Bronze Age (pre-700 BC)

Prehistoric activity was represented by a series of burnt spreads, up to 0.20m thick, including a layer of heat-fractured stones (1276), seven postholes or stakeholes (ranging in diameter from 0.22m to 0.40m) and a burnt

layer (1245) that covered all these in the south-west of the site (Fig 2). A piece of worked flint was recovered from a layer of silt under the burnt spread, although it may not be *in situ*. The burnt spread layers sealed all seven postholes, six of which appeared to form a regular arrangement and may represent a temporary structure such as a windbreak or frame, a feature that has been found in association with a burnt mound but is not typical (EH 2011).

An early date is suggested, as the burnt spread layer was cut by an Iron Age ditch. The origin and purpose of the burnt spreads were unclear. While the spreads did not have the typical attributes of burnt mounds, such as the kidney shape, trough, adjacent watercourse or hearth (EH 2011), the associated environmental assemblage from burnt spread 1245 does suggest burnt mound activity, as seen at other sites in the area such as DIRFT II (Nortoft Lane) and Rugby Gateway (Cobain, this report). Burnt mounds are typically Middle or Late Bronze Age in date (EH 2011).

In addition to the burnt spreads, three pits formed a small group lying under and adjacent to Iron Age ditch 1517, outside the south-corner of the ditched enclosure. Although probably prehistoric in date, no dateable material was recovered from any of the pit fills.

Early Middle Iron Age (500–200 BC)

Early ditches

A series of ditches ranging in depth from 0.20m to 0.50m and mostly aligned north-west to south-east and generally containing homogeneous fills with no finds, are considered to be the earliest period of activity as they pre-dated the main ditch enclosure. The ditches may have been agricultural features, such as boundaries or drainage ditches. A sherd of pottery dating from the late middle Iron Age was recovered from the fill of ditch 1517, a fill that appeared to have formed gradually through erosion of the surrounding soils, suggesting the ditches were not maintained and infilled naturally.

Central pits

Three large pits (1557, 1554, and 1581) were located towards the middle of the excavated area. The fills of pit 1557 contained quantities of animal bone and pottery closely datable to the early Iron Age, with middle Iron Age pottery in the top fill. The vertical sides with a slight turn inwards at the top of each pit suggested initial use for storage, with a secondary use as refuse pits indicated by the presence of animal bone. Pit 1563 was into the upper fills of storage pit 1557 (Fig 3, Section CC; Fig 4). It contained early Iron Age pottery in fills 1562 and 1564. This pit is also interpreted as a storage pit. Plant remains from the fills of pit 1563 were indicative of discarded crop-processing waste, again suggesting reuse as a refuse pit. An association with the pre-enclosure activity is most likely.



Fig 2: Plan of Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman features

Late middle to late Iron Age (200-50BC)

The enclosure

A square enclosure defined by a substantial ditch (1364/1284/1299) enclosed an area of approximately 0.3ha, measuring c.54m by 58m. The primary enclosure ditch was visible in section only on the eastern side (ditch 1364), as three subsequent recuts had removed it in plan (Fig 3, Section AA). The ditch was up to 4.5m

wide and 1.8m deep in places, with a 5m-wide entrance in the western corner. It also cut the earlier Iron Age ditch 1362, presumed to be a drainage ditch, on the eastern side. On this and the western side, the enclosure ditch was seen to respect the alignment of the earlier ditches. The enclosure ditches produced Iron Age pottery that could only be broadly dated and, from the northern ditch 1284, intrusive pottery broadly dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The preceding geophysical survey had indicated possible entrances on other sides of the

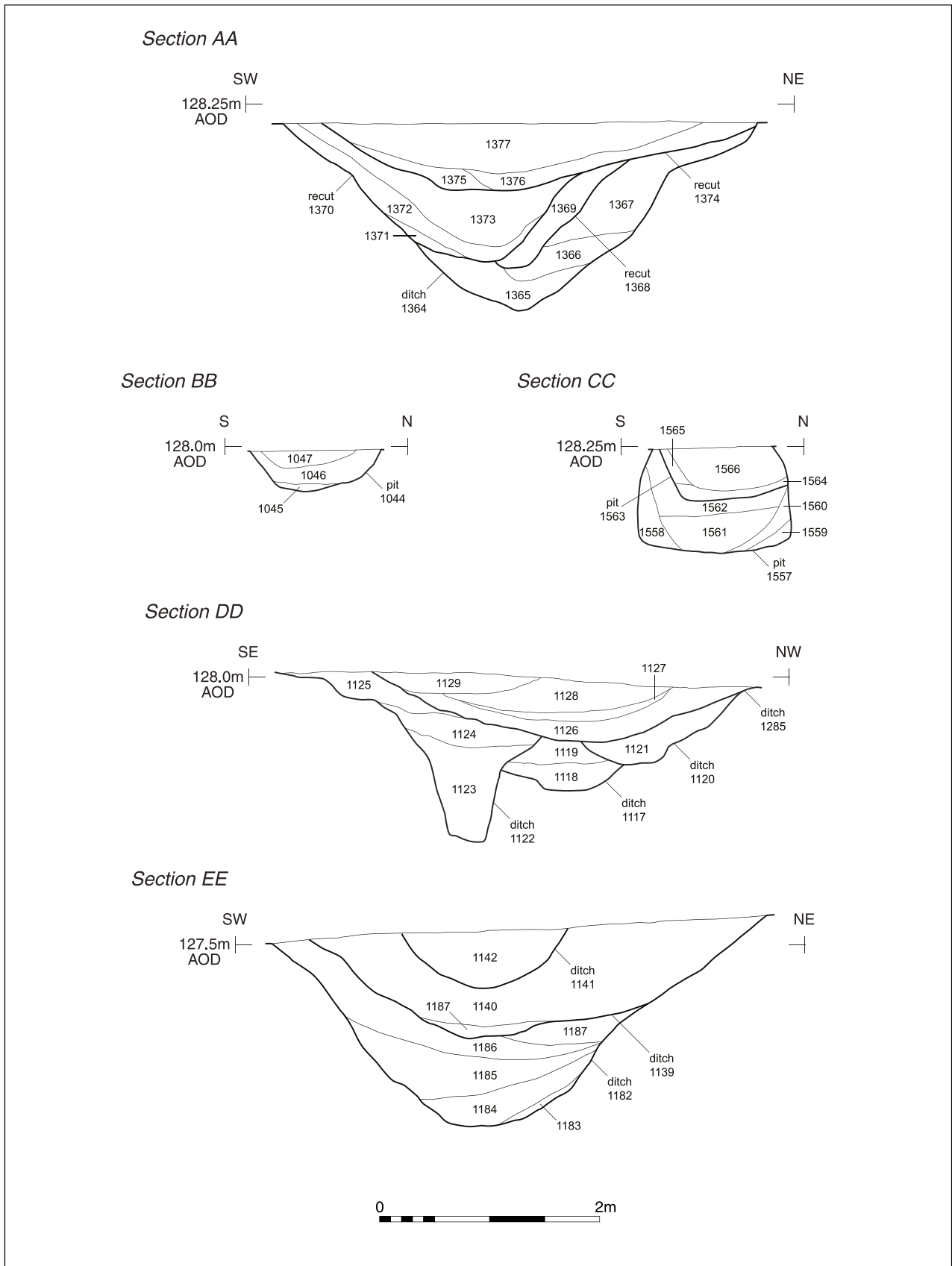


Fig 3: Sections of Iron Age and Roman ditches and pits



Fig 4: Section of pit 1557, looking west (Scale 1m)

enclosure; however these were not evident in the area of excavation.

A recut of the eastern enclosure ditch (1368) had a narrower profile, but followed the same circuit as the primary ditch. This was seen in section on the eastern side as 1370 and was also just visible in plan (Fig 3; Fig section AA).

Ring gully 1

Ring gully 1 was one of five ring-ditched or semi-circular features within the interior of the enclosure. All were probably the remains of roundhouses (being either foundation slots or enclosing ring gullies) or associated structures. Ring gully 1 survived as a semi-circle, 8m in diameter, in the northern part of the enclosure. A possible entrance faced south-east. Two pits (1055 and 1058) and a gully (1061) lay inside the ring gully, with the fills of pit 1055 and the gully containing broadly-dated Iron Age pottery. Pottery of middle Iron Age date was recovered from the ditch (1527) to the east of the entranceway.

Semi-circular gully 2

To the north-east of Ring gully 1 was a smaller semi-circular gully (2), approximately 6m in diameter, that may have been a ring gully but extended beyond the limit of excavation. No artefactual material was recovered from its fill. It cut a wide, deep feature (1529), which appeared to be an earlier ditch terminus.

Ring gully 3

Ring gully 3, in the southern part of the enclosure, had an entrance 2.5m wide facing north-east, and was the best preserved of the structural remains within the enclosure. Within the 8m-diameter interior were storage pits 1044 (Fig 3, Section BB), 1048 and 1096, and postholes 1042, 1051 and 1063. The fill of the pits contained middle Iron Age pottery and a soil sample from pit 1044 provided evidence of crop processing. The pits were arranged

around the internal perimeter of the ring gully, and were set approximately 2m apart.

Semi-circular gully 4

Five metres to the north-east of ring gully 3 was semi-circular gully 4, measuring 9m in diameter, with an open side facing north. Semicircular gully 4 had two postholes inside and one more posthole lying close on its south-west side.

Semi-circular gully 5

An undated semi-circular gully (5) was recorded to the north of gully 4, and may have served as an ancillary structure to gully 4. The eastern gully terminus had been truncated by an east/west gully (1569). A second gully (1567) lay adjacent, and both may represent a remodeling of the open side of the semi-circular gully, possibly reflecting a change of use.

Internal trackway

A ditch (1117) was located along the internal edge of the northern enclosure ditch (Fig 3; Section DD). Apart from respecting the alignment of the enclosure ditch, the relationship was unclear. Ditch 1117 was at least 18m in length and set 4m south of (and parallel to) the northern enclosure ditch. The western terminus of the ditch may have been 3m to 5m east of the enclosure entrance, but it was not recorded during the evaluation (Railton 2012, Fig 4).

The ditch may have flanked the southern side of a 4m-wide trackway along the northern side of the enclosure starting at the enclosure entrance. It is unclear what the relationship of ditch 1117 was with ditches 1531 and 1542 that appeared on the other side of the unexcavated area, but they may well have been associated terminals. Pits 1594 and 1590 were cut into the terminals of ditches 1542 and 1531 respectively.

A second ditch (1287), which survived for 10m in length, may have formed part of another internal trackway, or served as some other internal division.

Roman (AD 43–200)

A third, smaller recut (1026/1141/1304/1374) of the enclosure ditch was Roman in date, seen on the northern and western sides as being narrower and more shallow than earlier recuts. This was accompanied by activity outside the entrance of the enclosure, which appeared to modify access through the entrance. Inside the enclosure, ditch 1066 divided the interior.

The Roman enclosure

The third recut of the enclosure ditch was less substantial than its predecessors, indicating that the ditch had been largely filled by this time, reaching a stable horizon, and

suggesting that there may have been a period of abandonment. This is further suggested by the deviation of the recut ditch from the earlier Iron Age ditch near to the southern corner.

A spindle-whorl fashioned from a sherd of greyware pottery was retrieved from recut 1304 of the south-western corner of the enclosure ditch, close to where it was truncated by ditch 1314. The fill (1305) appeared to have formed through gradual silting, with the spindle-whorl included with a small quantity of other 1st to 2nd century AD pottery. On the northern side, a slot through the recut ditch 1026 recovered four sherds of pottery broadly dated to the Iron Age. However, its similarity in form to the final recut on the east and south-east sides of the enclosure, and relationship to the other cuts, does suggest a Roman date. Environmental soil samples from the ditch contained oat, barley, spelt wheat and other cereal grains and chaff, suggesting crop processing was being carried out at the settlement, although it too may have been redeposited from earlier occupation.

Across the external entrance to the enclosure was ditch 1416, orientated north-west to south-east. This appeared to direct and control access to and through the enclosure entrance. The ditch was recut at least once (1418), closely respecting the original ditch. The final fill 1421 of the recut ditch contained pottery broadly dating to early Roman period.

Within the enclosure, ditch 1066 was around 35m long, and was aligned north-west/south-east with a right-angled turn to the north-east at its northern end, 1085, which continued for at least a further 8m. At its southern end, ditch 1066 cut through ditch 1254 (part of a possible rectangular structure) and late middle Iron Age ring gully 3, before terminating 5m short of the enclosure ditch. A large quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from ditch 1066/1085 (notably fill 1293, adjacent to the right-angle of the ditch) including a sherd of mortarium of the Mancetter/Hartshill potter Gratinus (c.AD 125–55) (Fig 5). Pottery analysis suggests the assemblage dates from before AD 150. Ditch 1066 subdivided the enclosure into eastern and western areas, comprising an eastern area that was 40m east-west by 45m north-south, and a smaller western area that narrowed towards the south, perhaps for channelling livestock through the entrance to the eastern side.

Further alterations occurred to the interior of the enclosure, as ditch 1066 silted up, indicating the east-west division of the internal space may have ended. An internal ditch 1122 (Fig 3, Section DD) adjacent to the enclosure entrance and aligned parallel to the northern circuit, appeared to reinstate trackway ditch 1117. Narrow, at just over 1m wide and 1.5m in depth with a flat bottomed profile, it appeared substantial and may have formed the trench for a palisade. No pottery was recovered from any of its three fills, although the largest quantity of animal bone from the site was recovered from its lower fill 1123.

There were also developments outside the enclosure. Linear ditch 1007, to the west, was parallel to the western side of the enclosure. This was interpreted as bounding a possible broad track or droveway leading from the south-east towards the north-west corner entrance. No finds were recovered and a date is inferred from its relation-

ship to earlier and later features. To the east, five short ditches lay perpendicular to and cut through early middle Iron Age ditch 1403. All had V-shaped profiles and several fills, suggesting they filled slowly over time. No finds were recovered and all are tentatively put into the Roman period, although these ditches could equally be post-Roman in date.

The possible rectangular structure

The remains of a possible rectangular structure lay within the enclosure to either side of semi-circular gully 4. To the north was L-shaped ditch 1552; to the south was L-shaped ditch 1254. Together, these appeared to represent the north-eastern and south-western ends of a rectangular structure, approximately 7.5m by 3.75m, oriented north-west/south-west. The relationship between the L-shaped ditches and the ring gully was unclear and no finds were recovered, but rectangular structure 1254 was cut through by internal Roman ditch 1066.

Post-Roman

No activity was uncovered to indicate later remodelling or use of the enclosure, and no Roman pottery post-dating AD 200 was recovered, suggesting that the enclosure had been abandoned by this time. The enclosure ditches were infilled and sometime later a trackway was established cutting through and across the infilled southern enclosure ditch.

The trackway

Linear ditch 1194/1314 cut through the fill of the southern enclosure ditch but appeared to follow its alignment. It was approximately 2m wide and 1m deep and extended beyond the site boundaries to the south-west (as ditch 1314, from which Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered) and north-east. Any surviving earthworks associated with the southern circuit of the enclosure had been much reduced by this stage, with the ditches silting up over time. Ditch 1032 was of similar dimensions and parallel to ditch 1194, 10m to the south-east of the Roman enclosure. Together, the two ditches flanked a 17m-wide trackway aligned north-east/south-west. Fills from these ditches contained residual Romano-British pottery, and from 1314, a medieval horseshoe in its top fill, suggesting the trackway was of Anglo-Saxon date, but was still filling in during the medieval period. The trackway was bisected at right-angles by ditch 1387, from which pottery dating to the Anglo-Saxon period was recovered, although the ditch could equally be of medieval or later date.

Other evidence for Anglo-Saxon use of the site comprised a single large pit 1509, at the north-west of the site, containing early to mid-Anglo-Saxon pottery in its lower fills. This feature extended beyond the limit of excavation and was interpreted as a quarry pit. Within the site its dimensions measured 15m by 5m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.47m but not bottomed. The pit, from which early to mid-Anglo-Saxon pottery was retrieved, cut the backfill of the late middle Iron Age enclosure ditch 1284,

and a few more sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were retrieved from unstratified surface deposits and from the top fill of the Roman enclosure.

The finds

Worked flint

by Jacky Sommerville

A total of 10 worked flint items was hand-recovered from six separate contexts and as unstratified finds. Most were residual finds in deposits containing material of Roman date. Silt layer 1267, beneath the Bronze Age burnt spread, produced a flint knife made from an iron-stained flake with cherty inclusions. The knife featured shallow, semi-invasive retouch along the distal dorsal edge. It is not of a diagnostic type; however, it featured moderate edge damage and rolling, so it is unlikely to have been *in situ*.

Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery

by E R McSloy

Iron Age pottery

Pottery attributable to the Iron Age amounts to 48 sherds, weighing 498g (0.55 EVEs). The condition is generally good, although there is some loss of calcareous/argillaceous inclusions resulting in vesicular fabrics. The average sherd weight (10g) is moderately high for a group of this period and there are large, joining sherds from some context groups, including ditch 1527 and pit 1044.

Fabrics

- FL: Flint-tempered. Common moderately-sorted angular flint (1–1.5mm). 4 sherds; 143g; 0.05 EVEs
 QZ: Sandy. Common well-sorted sub-angular quartz (0.3–0.5mm). 10 sherds; 141g; 0.20 EVEs
 SH: Shell. Common or abundant, moderately or well-sorted fossil(?) shell (1–4mm). 9 sherds; 81g
 AR: Argillaceous/grogged. Soapy-feeling fabric with common, moderately-sorted yellow-brown, sub-rounded argillaceous inclusions (0.5–1mm) and sparse, rounded quartz. 9 sherds; 52g; 0.30 EVEs
 V: Vesicular. ‘Open’ fabric with common sub-rounded voids resulting from leached calcareous or argillaceous inclusions, with sparse rounded quartz. 16 sherds; 81g

Vessel form and decoration

There is broad correspondence with this pottery and the significantly larger assemblage recorded from the predominantly middle Iron Age assemblage from Crick Covert Farm to the west (Hughes and Woodward 2015, 42–4, 59–62). The scarcity of identifiable vessel forms or decorated sherds is a factor that makes closer dating difficult.

Carinated vessel forms in burnished, fine flint-tempered fabrics, from pits 1557 and 1563, are suggestive of some limited early Iron Age activity, perhaps a single pit cluster. However, one sherd, from pit 1557 has repeated

deep scoring, consistent with the East Midlands ‘Scored Ware’ style of the middle Iron Age (Elsdon 1992).

Most material, including neckless ovoid or barrel-shaped vessels in sandy and argillaceous/grog-tempered fabrics (ditch 1527 and pit 1044) is in accord with a middle Iron Age date. One sherd featuring fairly elaborate geometric decoration (Fig 5, 1), from early drainage ditch 1517, resembles some Late La Tène grouped by Cunliffe as ‘Hunsbury-Draughton style’ (Cunliffe 2005, 636), closely dated to the late middle to late Iron Age.

Roman pottery

The Roman group makes up the bulk of pottery recovered, amounting to 366 sherds, weighing 8332g (7.62 EVEs). The condition is good, with some substantially complete vessels present, and the mean sherd weight is high at 23g. The assemblage includes some moderately large context groups (42–146 sherds), from ditch 1066/1085. Although there was very little other evidence for habitation on the site beyond crop processing and the single find of a spindle whorl, the volume and condition of the pottery from these features suggests that areas of settlement were probably located relatively close by.

Fabric

The assemblage composition is quantified in Table 1, with fabric codes based on the fabric series compiled for Northamptonshire by P Aird and E MacRobert (summarised in Perrin 2006). The Roman group is dominated by reduced sandy coarsewares and by what are termed developed grog-tempered wares, a proportion of which at least are known to be produced in the central Northamptonshire area across the later 1st to early 3rd centuries AD. The origin of a significant proportion of the coarsewares is uncertain; the site is located roughly equidistant from major pottery manufacturing sites of central Warwickshire, close to Bubbenhall (Evans 2009, 119–20), and those of the Upper Nene Valley, east of Northampton (Johnston 1969). The common coarse, sandy greywares (including C18) are closest to the products of the Warwickshire kilns. Upper Nene greywares, which tend to finer fabrics with pale cores, were however identified from fill 1388 (ditch 1387) and fill 1421 (ditch 1418). White and buff-firing sandy coarsewares match types known from Central Northamptonshire sites including Ashton (Aird and MacRobert) and Stanwick (Perrin 1995) and probably come from Upper Nene Valley sources. A bowl in fabric D16 from ditch 1066 features red painted bands and is an example of what has in the past been termed ‘Northamptonshire painted ware’ (Marney 1989, 109) occurring for example from Whilton Lodge, c.10km to the south (MacRobert 1988, fig 13).

Regional imports are almost completely absent: a Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium is the exception (Fig 5, 2). The absence of Dorset black-burnished ware and Lower Nene Valley colour-coated wares, types which are routinely present at sites in the area after c.AD 150/180, indicate that the assemblage largely dates to before this period. Gaulish samian is uncommon: 7 sherds (1.8%) representing a maximum three vessels. The identifiable vessel forms consist of Central Gaulish plainware dishes

Table 1: Roman pottery quantification

Origin	Code	Description	Count	Weight (g)	EVEs
Unsourced	A	Grog-tempered	10	59	.07
	AC	Grog with quartz	1	6	–
	B	Shell-tempered	10	428	.26
	C16	Greyware with reddish-yellow sandwich core	50	1668	1.53
	C20	Greyware with sparse quartz	53	905	1.16
	C19	Coarse sandy, black-firing	28	553	.94
	C	Greyware with grog/clay pellet	8	169	.22
	D9	White/off-white gritty (Oxford or UNV)	30	456	.10
	D2	Fine white/cream	6	74	–
	D	Sandy oxidised	4	51	.03
Upper Nene Valley (UNV)	C4	Upper Nene greyware (pale core)	8	190	.22
	D16	Fine buff sandy	28	308	.23
	A3	'developed grog'-tempered pink/buff	17	1087	.55
	A1	'developed grog'-tempered white/cream	4	118	.06
Warwickshire?	C18	Hard sandy greyware	97	1961	1.93
Regional	D28	Mancetter/Hartshill mortaria	4	174	.12
Continental	D40b	Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian	6	122	.20
	D40c	East Gaulish samian	2	3	–
Total			366	8332	7.62

of form 18/31 (from ditch 1066) and form 31 (trackway ditch 1314).

Forms

Jars are the dominant vessel form among the Roman group (5.54 EVEs or 73%) and comprise mainly necked (medium and wide-mouthed) and channel-rimmed classes. Bowls are next most common (0.68 EVEs or 8.9%) and comprise mainly wide, curved sided or carinated/reeded rim forms. Dishes (0.55 EVEs or 7.2%) consist of flat or triangular-rimmed vessels, based on (2nd-century) forms in black-burnished wares. There are single examples of lid (0.53 EVEs or 7%) and beaker (0.20 EVEs or 2.6%), the latter a bag-shaped form in greyware C20, influenced by colour-coated ware forms current across the 2nd/earlier 3rd centuries. The single mortarium (0.12 EVEs or 1.6%) is a Mancetter-Hartshill vessel with curved flange and projecting bead (Fig 5, 2).

The spindle whorl

A sherd of Roman greyware pottery, from ditch fill 1305, has been shaped to form a disc, roughly 34mm in diameter, with a central circular perforation.

Discussion

It is clear that the main chronological emphasis is with the earlier Romano-British period, with no indications for activity beyond *c.* AD 200. There is limited evidence, in the form of wheelthrown grog-tempered pottery, for activity in the early or middle 1st century AD, although much of this material appears to be redeposited. The coarsewares, particularly the larger ditch groups (ditch 1066/1085, and particularly fill 1293) are consistent with dating across the later 1st and 2nd centuries AD. More precise date markers are provided by the samian forms dating to the Hadrianic/early Antonine and mid/late Antonine (*c.* AD 125–160) and from the mortarium of the Mancetter/Hartshill potter Gratinus, dated *c.* AD 125–155.

In its overall composition and date range, the Roman group is comparable to larger assemblages from Crick Covert Farm (Hancocks and Willis 2015) and The Lodge, Kilsby (McSloy 2015), both located within 2km of Crick. At all sites there is limited evidence for the use of imported finewares, amphorae or mortaria. Viewed together these groups are evidence for earlier Roman settlement activity typical of many 'lower-status' smaller rural sites, where pottery coarsewares were utilised for a variety of kitchen related tasks.

Anglo-Saxon pottery

Pottery of early or middle Anglo-Saxon date amounts to 26 sherds, weighing 186g (0.05 EVEs). This small group was recorded from four deposits relating to Roman ditches 1309/1314 and post-Roman ditch 1387 and pit 1509.

Fabric

SQZ1: Quartz/sandstone type. Abundant, well-sorted angular/sub-angular quartz (0.3–0.5mm), with some sparse polycrystalline fragments 1-2mm. 19 sherds; 133g; 0.05 EVEs

SQZo: Quartz/organic type. Description as for SQZ1, with sparse voids from burnt-out organics. 3 sherds; 31g

SGR: Granitic fabric. Common, moderately-sorted, angular granitic fragments 0.5-3mm; common, rounded and sub-rounded quartz; sparse charcoal. 4 sherds; 22g

Vessel form and decoration

The Anglo-Saxon group comprises mainly unfeathered bodysherds with decoration/surface treatment limited to occasional burnishing. A rimsherd from enclosure recut 1309 close to ditch 1314 (Fig 5, 3), comes from a vessel (jar) with globular profile and simple upright rim. A small,

in-curved rim from ditch 1387 (Fig 5, 4) may come from a small neckless jar. Both are forms also recorded from the primarily 6th-century assemblage from St John's Square, Daventry (Blinkhorn 1998, figs 18–19).

Discussion

The Anglo-Saxon pottery compares in its range of fabrics to material recorded from St John's Square Daventry (ibid) and from Courteenhall, on the outskirts of Northampton (Ratkai 2006). A group of 208 sherds known from previous excavations at Crick is referred to by Blinkhorn (1998, 71–2) and would seem to be similar compositionally. Granitic fabrics occur at all of the sites referred to and are a feature of early/middle Anglo-Saxon assemblages from the Midlands and East Anglia, the likely source being the Charnwood Forest area of Leicestershire.

There is little present in the Anglo-Saxon group to refine its chronology and this might extend across the later 5th to 7th or 8th centuries. The absence of decorated vessels in such a small group need not imply a later date within this range. Decorated vessels are relatively uncommon in non-funerary groups; only 10 being present among the considerably larger (857 sherds), mainly 6th-century assemblage from St John's Square, Daventry.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery

- Fig 5, 1 Iron Age decorated sherd. Hunsbury-Draughton style? (Cunliffe 2005, 637, Fig A25.8). Fabric AR. Late middle Iron Age ditch 1517 (fill 1518).
- Fig 5, 2 Roman mortarium with curved flange and projecting bead. The broken stamp reading GRA[identifies the potter Gratinus considered

to have operated c. AD 125–55 (Hartley 2014). Over 80 stamps of this potter are known (ibid.) including from the kiln site at Hartshill (Hartley 1973). Fabric D28 (Mancetter/Hartshill white-ware). Roman ditch 1085 (fill 1087).

- Fig 5, 3 Anglo-Saxon globular jar; simple upright/everted rim. Fabric SQZ. Post-Roman ditch 1309 (fill 1313).
- Fig 5, 4 Anglo-Saxon jar/miniature jar with simple in-curved rim. Fabric SQZ. Post-Roman ditch 1387 (fill 1472).

The plant macrofossils and charcoal
by Sarah Cobain

A total of 14 bulk soil samples were collected, processed and assessed for plant macrofossil and charcoal remains. Two plant macrofossil and three charcoal samples contained quantities of well-preserved material and these were selected for further analysis.

Methodology

Plant macrofossil and charcoal remains were retrieved by standard flotation procedures (CA 2003). The seeds were identified with reference to Cappers *et al* (2006), Neef *et al* (2012), Berggren (1981) and Anderberg (1994). Up to 100 charcoal fragments (>2mm) were identified with reference to Gale and Cutler (2000), Schoch *et al* (2004) and Wheeler *et al*. (1989). Nomenclature of seed and charcoal species and habitat information follows Stace (1997). Full methodological details are available in the archive. Summary results for all periods are displayed in Tables 2 and 3.

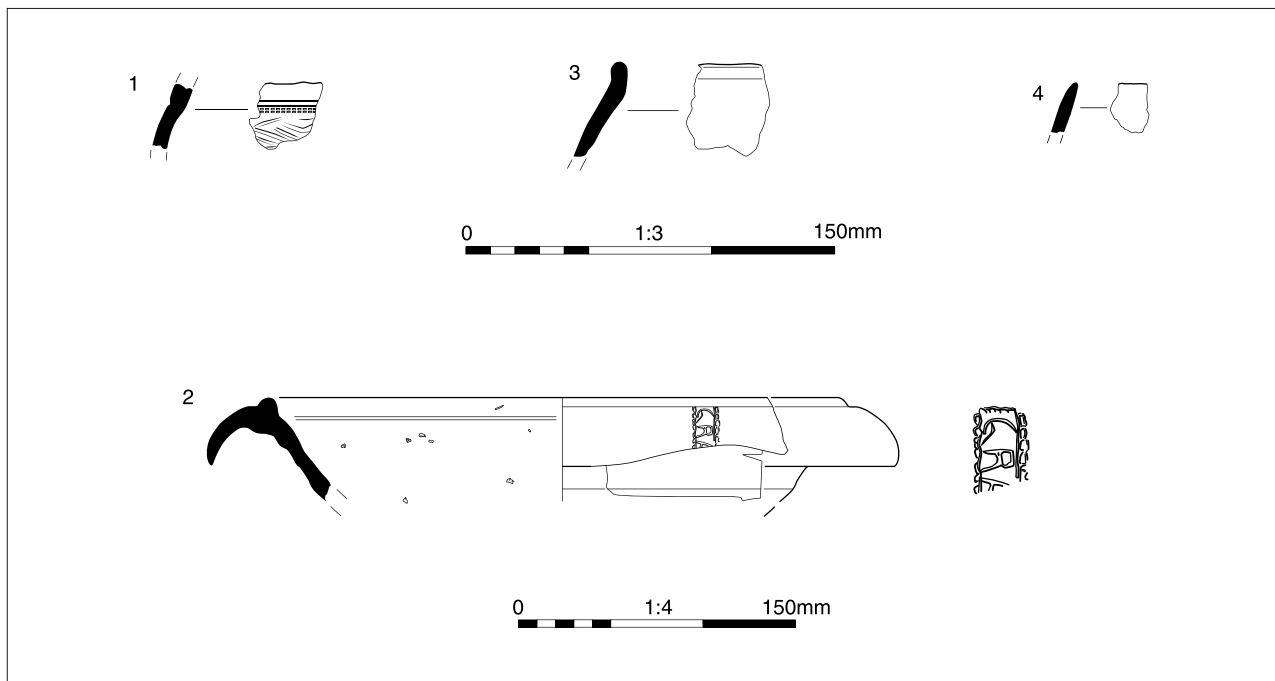


Fig 5: Iron Age (1), Roman (2) and Anglo-Saxon pottery (3–4)

Bronze Age

The fire-cracked stone and charcoal within the burnt spread 1245 is indicative of burnt mound activity. The large assemblage of charcoal was well-preserved and dominated by alder and hazel (*Alnus glutinosa* and *Corylus avellana*) with smaller numbers of maple (*Acer campestre*), oak (*Quercus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hawthorn/rowan/crab apple (*Crataegus monogyna*/*Sorbus/Malus sylvestris*) and cherry (*Prunus*) fragments. Only 12% of the assemblage originated from woodland species (oak and ash) with the remainder from scrub/hedgerow species, suggesting fuel was collected locally from the edges of wooded areas. The large number of roundwood alder/hazel fragments identified suggests the use of poles/small branches that may have originated from coppiced woodlands, although there was no evidence of wide growth rings typical of rapidly-grown coppiced wood.

Similar environmental evidence has been found in association with burnt mound activity at sites in the area such as Nortoft Lane, DIRFT (Cobain 2015) and Rugby Gateway (Cobain 2013, 23–4), as well as at sites further afield, such as Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (Cobain 2014, 13–17) and Wishaw (Site 20), Langley Brook (Site 39) and Collets Brook (Site 40) along the route of the M6 toll road, Warwickshire (Stevens 2008, 457).

Early middle Iron Age

Pit 1563 was rich in heavy cereal chaff, such as straw and culm nodes, along with moderate quantities of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) cereal grains. This pit had a profile consistent with that of a grain storage pit, and the charred waste within it may represent fuel used to fire and re-sterilise the pit for continued use, or reuse of the pit for refuse. This type of assemblage is typical of crops cultivated during the Iron Age (Dark 2000, 36).

The arable and arable/opportunistic weeds identified consist of species measuring 1m or less in height when grown. Since most cereal crops grow to at least 1.2m, it can be assumed that the crops during this period were cut low down on the plant. Threshing and winnowing would then take place in order to separate the ears of grain into component grains (barley) and spikelets (emmer/spelt wheat). This would result in cereal-processing waste rich in straw, culm nodes and weeds, as found within pit 1563, suggesting threshing and winnowing was taking place in this area (Hillman 1981, 132).

Another species that had potential for economic use is bromes (*Bromus*). Whilst a widespread arable weed, it may also have been deliberately cultivated for use as a fodder crop. The presence of a hazelnut shell may also indicate the gathering of wild food resources, although it may also be attributed to the occasional hazelnut left on a branch being used as fuel. Herbaceous taxa identified included species indicative of arable and disturbed environments (bromes, redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*)), species indicative of grassland/pasture (thistles (*Cirsium/Carduus*), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and

marshland species such as sedge (*Carex*). This indicates a mixed arable/pastoral landscape, along with localised marshy areas, most likely within waterlogged areas of fields.

Late middle Iron Age

Pit 1044, within ring gully 3, was rich in light cereal chaff including spelt and emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/Triticum spelta*), wheat glume bases and spelt wheat cereal grains, along with a smaller number of weeds including vetches/peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), false oat-grass, and bedstraws (*Galium*). Similar to pit 1563 (and pits 1048 and 1096), the shape of this pit resembles that of a grain storage pit, and this crop processing waste again may be associated with re-sterilisation of the storage pit, or subsequent general refuse. Spelt wheat continued to dominate crop assemblages from the Iron Age into the Roman period, and the material within this pit would be expected from this period (Dark 2000, 36; Cool 2006, 69).

Crops during the Iron Age/early Roman period were typically processed on a small scale, so, after harvest, the spikelets were stored until ready for use. As required, the emmer/spelt wheat spikelets would have been taken from the storage pits and parched over a hearth, rendering the chaff brittle and facilitating pounding to release the grain from its spikelet. The crop processing waste in pit 1044 was rich in light chaff and grains (with fewer weed seeds) and is typical of this stage of processing (Hillman 1981, 133).

Only a single barley grain was identified within pit 1044. It is possible that barley was a less dominant crop during this period, although as a free-threshing cereal it does not require parching (Hillman 1981, 133–4) and so there is a lower risk of it being exposed to fire and charring. As a result it would be under-represented within crop-processing waste. Bromes were again identified in the late middle Iron Age assemblage, along with vetches/peas, which may also have been cultivated for fodder. In addition, vetches/peas are known for their ability to fix nitrogen to the soil thereby fertilising fields, which would be an additional benefit of cultivation (Zahary *et al* 2013, 75). Similar to the early middle Iron Age, a range of arable/opportunistic (bromes, bedstraws, docks (*Rumex*) and grassland/pasture (ribwort plantain, false oat-grass, grass sp) weed species were identified.

A small amount of charcoal was recovered from late Iron Age/Romano-British features (Table 3). A total of 56% of this assemblage originated from the use of scrub/hedgerow-type species, such as hazel, alder, hawthorn/rowan/crab apple and cherry species, and the remainder from woodland species such as oak, ash and maple. Oak is one of the better fuels, as it provides a constant high temperature (Harris *et al* 2003, 13), however since parching of cereal requires lower temperatures, a higher proportion of scrub/hedgerow species appears to have been selected. This may also indicate increasing pressure on resources, in that woodland clearance continued throughout the Iron Age (Rackham 2001, 35). It is likely less efficient fuels were collected locally from unman-

Table 2: Plant macrofossil identifications

				Context	1564	1047
				Feature	1563	1044
				Sample number (SS)	13	2
				Flot volume (ml)	53	29
				Sample volume processed (l)	34	35
				Period	EMIA	LMIA
				Plant macrofossil preservation	Good	Good
Habitat Code	Family	Species	Common Name			
D/P	Asteraceae	<i>Cirsium</i> Mill./ <i>Carduus</i> L.	Thistles	1	–	
HSW	Betulaceae	<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazelnut shells	1	–	
M/D	Cyperaceae	<i>Carex</i> L.	Sedges	21	–	
D/A/P	Fabaceae	<i>Vicia</i> L./ <i>Lathyrus</i> L.	Vetches/Peas (3–4mm whole)	–	1	
P	Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	Ribwort Plantain	–	1	
P/D	Poaceae	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> (L.) P. Beauv. ex J. & C. Presl	False Oat-grass	1	1	
E		<i>Avena</i> L.	Oats	–	3	
A/D		<i>Bromus</i> L.	Bromes (whole)	21	13	
A/D		<i>Bromus</i> L.	Bromes (fragments)	16	2	
A/D		<i>Festuca</i> L./ <i>Lolium</i> L.	Festuces/Rye-grasses	4	–	
E		<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Barley grain	18	1	
P/D/A		<i>Poa</i> L.	Meadow-grasses	–	1	
E		<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> /	Emmer/spelt wheat grain	–	4	
		<i>Triticum spelta</i>				
E		<i>Triticum spelta</i>	Spelt wheat grain	16	64	
E		<i>Triticum spelta</i>	Spelt glume base	–	39	
E		Poaceae	Glume base	1	33	
E		Poaceae	Straw	21	–	
E		Poaceae	Culm node	8	–	
E		Poaceae	Indeterminate cereal grain (whole)	–	14	
E		Poaceae	Indeterminate cereal grain	16	40	
			(fragment >2mm)			
E		Poaceae	Indeterminate cereal grain	++++	++++	
			(fragment <2mm)			
D/A/P/	Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex</i> L.	Docks	3	–	
M/HSW						
D/A		<i>Persicaria maculosa</i> Gray	Redshank	1	–	
P/D/A	Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus</i> L.	Buttercups	1	–	
A/D	Rubiaceae	<i>Galium</i> L.	Bedstraws	–	1	
Total:				148	217	

Key: A=arable weeds; D=weeds indicative of disturbed environments (opportunistic species);

HSW=hedgerow/scrub/woodland species; M=marshland species; G=grassland species; E=economic species.

+ = 1–4 items; ++ = 5–10 items; +++ = 21–39 items; ++++ = >40 items.

h/w = heartwood (tyloses present); r/w = curved growth rings present (possible twig or small branch)

aged woodlands, scrub and hedges in order to preserve oak for activities such as ironworking that requires much higher temperatures. Taken together, the plant macrofossil and charcoal assemblages suggest that the landscape was predominantly arable and pastoral, with fields separated by hedgerows (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple, hazel, cherry) and areas of residual stands of woodland including oak, ash and maple.

The plant macrofossil and charcoal assemblages from the Iron Age deposits are important due to the site's

location and place within the wider Iron Age landscape in this area. It complements evidence for similar small-scale spelt and barley cereal-processing methods from nationally important Iron Age sites like DIRFT I, Nortoft Lane (Cobain 2015) and Crick Covert Farm (Monckton 2015, 55, 72, 91) and provides valuable evidence which will be available to combine with these sites within regional research reviews for work undertaken in the Northampton area.

Table 3: Charcoal identifications

		Context number	1245	1047	1065
		Feature number	–	1044	1063
		Sample number (SS)	3	2	10
		Flot volume (ml)	194	29	10
		Sample volume processed (l)	18	34	18
		Period	M/LBA	LMIA	LMIA
		Charcoal quantity	++++	++++	+++
		Charcoal preservation	Good	Good	Moderate
Family	Species	Common Name			
Aceraceae	<i>Acer campestre</i> L. r/w	Field maple r/w	2	6	–
	<i>Acer campestre</i> L. twig	Field maple twig	–	1	–
Betulaceae	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaertn. r/w	Alder r/w	3	1	–
	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaertn. / <i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Alder/hazel	4	3	1
	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaertn. / <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. r/w	Alder/hazel r/w	60	2	–
	<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. r/w	Hazel r/w	2	2	–
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus robur</i> L./ <i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl.	Pedunculate Oak/Sessile Oak	4	5	14
	<i>Quercus robur</i> L./ <i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl. h/w	Pedunculate Oak/Sessile Oak h/w	1	–	–
Oleaceae	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	Ash	5	–	4
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq./ <i>Sorbus L./Malus sylvestris</i> (L.) Mill.	Hawthorn/rowan/crab apple	7	1	3
	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> / <i>Sorbus</i> spp/ <i>Malus sylvestris</i> r/w	Hawthorn/rowan/crab apple r/w	3	1	7
	<i>Prunus</i> L.	Cherries	2	1	–
	<i>Prunus</i> L. r/w	Cherries r/w	9	7	1
		Indeterminate	–	7	–
Number of fragments:			100	23	30

Key: h/w = heartwood (tyloses present); r/w = curved growth rings present (possible twig or small branch)

Table 4: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and context

Context	Bos (cattle)	O/C (sheep/ goat)	Sus (pig)	Equus (horse)	LM Large	MM small mammal	Total No.	Weight (g)
1018	–	1	–	1	–	–	2	98
1027	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	25
1028	3	–	–	–	3	–	6	75
1029	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	8
1030	3	–	–	2	1	–	6	86
1067	4	–	–	–	–	–	4	49
1123	1	2	–	2	–	–	5	561
1131	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	8
1209	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	9
1318	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	113
1421	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	67
1508	1	1	–	–	–	–	2	24
1512	5	1	–	–	2	–	8	360
1526	–	6	2	–	4	–	12	52
Pit 1557 (1558)	–	7	–	–	2	4	13	53
Pit 1557 (1559)	–	4	–	–	–	–	4	13
Pit 1557 (1561)	–	4	1	–	3	4	12	67
Pit 1563 (1564)	1	–	–	–	3	–	4	5
Total	23	26	3	6	15	11	84	
Weight (g)	722	149	31	681	76	14.5		1673

Animal bone

by Jonny Geber and Andrew Clarke

A total of 84 fragments of animal bone were recovered from 18 deposits dating broadly to the Iron Age. The bone was in a varied state of preservation, with both old and new breakage noted, rendering 26 fragments (30%) of the assemblage unidentifiable beyond the level of large or medium-size mammal. However, it was possible to identify the presence of the four major domestic species. Cattle (*Bos taurus*), ovicaprid (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*) were represented in the main by meat-rich elements such as vertebrae, long bones and os coxae. Horse (*Equus caballus*) was represented by skull and limb bone fragments. A clear pattern in deposition was observed, as the larger bones of cattle and horse were recovered from ditches, while the smaller fragments of pig and ovicaprids were primarily found in pit fills.

Cattle and ovicaprid dominate the assemblage (Table 4) indicating that beef and mutton were more important in terms of protein in the diet, with pork making only a minor contribution. Those meat-poor skeletal elements are poorly represented, suggesting the assemblage represents waste from butchery only, with the act of (and waste from) slaughter occurring elsewhere.

Discussion

by Andrew Mudd

The burnt mound

The spread of charcoal-rich soil and heat-fractured stones was the earliest feature identified. It was without finds, except a flint knife, and remains undated, but its characteristics put it into the broad spectrum of enigmatic sites commonly classified as 'burnt mounds', for which a middle or late Bronze Age date (*c.*1750–850 BC) is typical (EH 2011). A date within this range seems likely, although its immediate stratigraphic relationship was with a Roman gully which cut it, so its date could have been somewhat later. The quantity of charcoal from various woody species and the absence of material suggestive of habitation is common to burnt mounds, although it lacked other characteristics such as proximity to a watercourse (it lay on a hilltop), an association with a trough for holding water, and the presence of a hearth for heating stones. It may have been a cooking site used on an occasional or seasonal basis. Whatever its origin, the feature is unusual in Northamptonshire, and rare in the East Midlands generally, with only a handful of sites recorded mostly from the Trent Valley region well to the north, and also from Birstall north of Leicester (Clay 2006, 83; Willis 2006, 81, 83). More recently, two middle Bronze Age troughs and associated waterholes with heat-fractured stones and charcoal have been excavated at Nortoft Lane, Kilsby (Hart and Mudd 2015), part of the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT) development to the west (Fig 1). The absence of surviving mounds on either site is unsurprising given the extent of plough truncation in historical and modern times, although, in the case of Crick, the truncation of the spread by a Roman ditch

suggests that any stone mound had already been levelled in prehistory. The location of the Crick and Nortoft Lane burnt spreads, towards the north-west margin of the county, is probably significant since such features are absent in other parts, such as the upper and middle Nene Valley, despite the extensive excavations that have taken place. [Editor's note; Four burnt mound deposits with troughs have been excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Peterborough, Stanground in the lower Nene valley (Taylor *et al* 2011). Two of these have been radiocarbon dated to the early Bronze Age, *c.*2120–2090 Cal BC and 1730–1510 Cal BC (95% confidence), report forthcoming].

Middle Iron Age settlement

The date and nature of the initial Iron Age settlement are not altogether clear. There is some indication of activity pre-dating the enclosure, but generally the evidence of settlement was found exclusively within the enclosure, and other features, perhaps agriculturally related ditches, outside of it. It is therefore plausible that the first settlement was within the earliest phase of enclosure, although this enclosure ditch was subsequently largely truncated by recuts. There was no chronologically diagnostic material from the earliest ditch fills, and indeed the general poverty of cultural remains hinders much consideration of chronology or function in relation to the settlement. Pits (1557 and 1563) did, however, yield early Iron Age pottery, suggesting a date perhaps as early as the 5th century BC for an episode of pre-enclosure occupation. Land division pre-dating and perhaps conditioning middle Iron Age settlement is well attested in other parts of the county (Kidd 2004, 58) but there was no good evidence for this at Crick, where the wider development site yielded nothing of significance. The minor ditches outside the enclosure in the area investigated were probably quite restricted in extent. There is certainly no indication that the enclosure was an element of a large aggregated settlement.

The terminal date of the Iron Age occupation is likewise difficult to determine. The presence of some highly decorated pottery suggests a continuation into the 1st century BC, while the absence of late Iron Age grog-tempered, wheel-finished pottery may indicate a cessation of occupation within the 1st century BC, although there is uncertainty over the significance of this material as a chronological indicator as opposed to a cultural one. However, its presence at The Lodge (DIRFT), just 1.5km to the west, in deposits dating to the early 1st century AD, does give some reason to doubt that the Crick enclosure endured that late. Furthermore, settlement within the enclosure does not appear to have been dense and, despite two or three phases of recutting of the enclosure ditch, occupation need not have lasted more than 200 years, and probably less.

Ditched enclosures of under 0.5ha in size containing one or more roundhouses and ancillary features are the most common form of late middle to late Iron Age settlement in Northamptonshire (Kidd 2004, 54) and more widely in central Britain (Willis 2006, 101). An unusual feature is the north-western entranceway ditches, which

appear designed to have funnelled people and livestock around the northern perimeter of the enclosure. It suggests that there was a greater desire to control movement than is often seen, and perhaps there was even a defensive intent. It is possible that other entrances were present in one or more phases on the northern and southern sides.

There is evidence that mixed farming was practised. Samples from pits, probably for grain storage, showed that spelt wheat was the dominant crop processed. This was particularly the case for pit 1044 within ring gully 3. A greater prevalence of barley in the northern area (pit 1563) may have related to different areas of storage for different crops, or a chronological difference, or may just have been a more random variation.

Roman settlement and after

The enclosure seems to have been redefined in the later 1st century AD and re-occupied. The quantity of pottery, most notably from ditch 1066/1085 and associated fill 1293, leaves little doubt that there was habitation here, although angular gullies 1552 and 1254 are the only surviving evidence for a timber structure, apparently in the form of a shallow-founded small rectangular building. The earlier enclosure ditch was re-dug on the western and northern sides in a much reduced form, and on the eastern side more substantially, where it had almost obliterated in plan the earlier ditch sequence. The northern interior trackway showed substantial re-working with a steep-sided ditch (1122), which by its form may have been intended to hold a timber palisade. The reasons for such elaborate treatment of this feature are hard to understand. The ditch was later replaced by a shallower one to the north. Another modification involved the blocking of the north-west entrance to the enclosure.

The Roman period occupation did not outlast the 2nd century AD. Later, a pair of parallel ditches cut across the southern part of the site. Their date is unclear and they may have post-dated the enclosure by a considerable period, albeit they followed its orientation. The ditches may have flanked a broad trackway or droveway. Anglo-Saxon activity of some form is suggested by the presence of 6th to 8th-century pottery in the trackway ditch, ditch 1367 and 'quarry' pit 1509. There is no good evidence of features specifically of this period, so the activity represented by the pottery remains undefined.

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