

Archaeological Services



An Archaeological Evaluation on Land South of Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire

> NGR: SP 8904 7456

Gavin Speed

ULAS Report No 2012-177 ©2012 An Archaeological Evaluation on Land South of Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire

(SP 8904 7456)

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For: A.P.Lewis and Sons Ltd

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the south of Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire (SP 8904 7456). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.

The evaluation revealed archaeological finds and deposits consisting of ditches and pits of prehistoric date in the north-east corner of the development site, the remaining trenches being devoid of archaeological evidence. Based on the results of the evaluation, the evidence may indicate a prehistoric settlement, or else field systems close to a settlement.

The site archive will be held by ULAS, accession no. NH_KWBL12, until a recipient organization for Northamptonshire has been established.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for A.P.Lewis and Sons Ltd in November 2012 on land to the south of Kingfisher Way (Figure 1), Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire (SP 8904 7456). This was undertaken in advance of an application for proposed residential development.

The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest. Therefore, Northamptonshire County Council, (NCC) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, require that an evaluation by trial trenching is undertaken as detailed in their briefs (NCC a and b 2012).

The work was required in order to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present in order to determine the potential impact upon them from future development proposals.

This document presents the results of the archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, and follows a Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work (Clay 2012), as agreed with NCC. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The village of Burton Latimer is located on the route of the A6, approximately 3km to the south-east of Kettering, and demarcated to the west by the River Ise (Figure 1).

The proposed development area lies on the western edge of the settlement of Burton Latimer (Figure 1). It lies on the southern edge of an area of recent housing development, with open ground to the south and west. It is centred on grid ref SP 8904 7456 and is approx 1.7 hectares in area. The site is currently made up of overgrown meadow and topographically slopes down towards the west with a height of 65m aOD at the north-eastern corner, and 55m aOD at the south-western corner. The site contains Northampton Sand and Ironstone to the east and Whitby Mudstone Formation to the west.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the application area (Clarke 2012).

The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The site is located 500m to the west of the line of the Roman road from Durobrivae to Dungee Corner and the Northamptonshire HER has records of a number of Romano-British sites in the vicinity, in addition to aerial photographs which show numerous cropmarks relating to possible occupation sites of prehistoric origin.

According to documentary sources, the manor of Burton, referred to variously as Burtun, Burton Latymer and Burton Latimer, consisted of 8 ½ hides of land until the 13th century, held by Earl Ralph of Herefordshire during the reign of Edward the Confessor and by Guy de Reinbuedcurt at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086. Enclosure of the common parish fields, comprising some 2500 acres of land, took place in 1803. Prior to enclosure, the present assessment area formed part of what had been known as the Nether Field, part of the medieval three-field agricultural system.

The site is currently a meadow, with cartographic evidence showing no signs of previous development during the 19th or 20th centuries. Although no archaeological sites had been recorded within the assessment area, this may be due to an absence of previous survey and there was some potential for such deposits to be present, in a relatively well-preserved state and lying close to the ground surface.

4. Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To identify possible areas of archaeological potential liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To establish the location, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits located.
- To define the quality and state of preservation of these deposits.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The objective was to gain an indication of the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which may be present in order that an informed planning decision can be taken.

5. Methodology

A 3% sample by trial trenching of the area was proposed of the 1.6 ha area which comprises c. 480 square metres, the equivalent of nine 30m by 1.8m trenches. One trench targeted the proposed new badger sett area to the west of the development (Figure 2). The exclusion zone is to protect badger setts in the north-west section of the area.

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken. Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they were to be adequately protected from deterioration

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish their stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention was to be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

Measured drawings of all archaeological features was prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate. Sections of any excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale and at least one longitudinal face of each trench was recorded. All sections were levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark. Trench locations were also tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Any human remains encountered were to be initially be left in situ and only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The trenches were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

The work followed the approved design specification (ULAS 2012) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2010).

6. Results

Nine trenches were excavated, six (trenches 1-6) located in the east field, two (trenches 7 & 8) in the west field, and a single trench (trench 9) in the area of the new proposed badger sett to the west of the development (Figure 2). Archaeological deposits were located in trenches 1, 2, 4, and 5 (Figure 3), with the remaining trenches containing no archaeological finds or deposits.

The topsoil, was fairly consistent across the site, and was composed of a dark grey-brown sandy-clay loam with occasional small rounded pebbles. It ranged in depth from 0.1m to 0.4m. Below this was a mid grey-brown clay subsoil, ranging in thickness from 0.05m to 0.35m. A dark grey-brown alluvium was identified in trenches 7 and 8, 0.2m thick, natural substratum was reached in all trenches consisting of ironstone in trenches 1-8, and silt-clay in trench 9 at depths varying from 0.30-0.95m (see trench details in Appendix III),.

Trench 1 contained a ditch orientated north-west to south-east [2] (Figures 4-5), with steep sides and concave base. It was a minimum of 1.8m in length (running across the width of the trench), 0.98m wide, and 0.38m deep. It contained a single fill (1), consisting of a loosely compacted mid dark silt-loam, with coarse components of less than 10% ironstone. This contained no finds.

Trench 2 contained a ditch [4] (Figures 6-7) with one steep and one gradual side. It had a concave base, and was orientated east-west. It was was a minimum of 1.8m in length (running across the width of the trench), 1.43m wide, and 0.66m deep. Within the ditch was a friable mid grey-brown silt-sand (3) with less than 10% crushed ironstone fragments. Within the backfill (3) was a single worked flint (secondary flake); of a broad later prehistoric date (see Appendix I). This may be the same ditch as [8] in trench 4.

Trench 4 contained a ditch [8] (Figures 8-9) with stepped, steep sides, and a concave base. It was a minimum of 2m in length (running across the width of the trench), 1.6m wide and 0.69m deep. Within the ditch were four deposits. The primary fill (11) consisted of a friable mid brown-grey silt-sand with small sub-rounded stones and ironstone fragments. A thin silt-sand deposit lay on the south-side (9). Overlying both (9) and (11) was a mid-dark grey-brown silt-sand (10 beneath a mid grey-brown silt-sand (7). No finds were recovered from this feature which may be the same ditch as [4] in trench 2.

Trench 5 contained a pit [12] (Figures 10-11), and an irregular spread / layer [14]. The pit [12], was sub-circular with concave sides and flat base. It contained a single deposit of a loosely compacted mid black-brown silt-sand (13) with 10% small fire-cracked pebbles. Within the backfill were the partial remains of a single, thin-bodied, hand-made vessel of Mid-Late Iron Age pottery (East Midland Scored Ware). Two tertiary flint flakes were also recovered, of later prehistoric date (see Appendix I). Three hazel nut shell fragments were recovered from the environmental sample, suggesting some consumption of wild food. An irregular spread / layer [15] (14) towards the east-end of the trench contained a single fragment of pottery, dating to the late 18th or early 19th century (see Appendix I).

7. Iron Age Pottery by Nicholas J. Cooper

The partial remains of a single, thin-bodied, hand-made vessel of Mid-Late Iron Age pottery in East Midland Scored Ware (Elsdon 1992) was recovered from (13) [12] in Trench 5. Six joining sherds from a plain, flattened, upright or slightly incurving rim, together with 20 body sherds from lower down the vessel, were recovered, weighing 120g, and deriving from a barrel-shaped jar similar to Elsdon's Form 11 (Elsdon 1992, 85, fig.1.11) with an estimated rim diameter of 180mm. The decoration, comprising finely incised single random lines, extends right up to the rim as in Elsdon's example. As would be expected in the southern part

of the Scored Ware distribution, in the Nene Valley (Elsdon 1992, fig.2), the fabric is shell-tempered conforming to Fabric S1 in the Leicestershire Prehistoric Pottery Fabric Series (Marsden 2011, 62).

8. The Post-medieval Pottery by Deborah Sawday

A single fragment of Mocha ware, dating to the late 18th or early 19th century and weighing less than one gram was recovered from context 15 [14]. The pottery was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series, (Davies and Sawday 1999),

9. The Worked Flint by Lynden Cooper

Two tertiary flakes from (13) [12]. One secondary flake from (03) [04]. Broad later prehistoric date, i.e. Neolithic / Bronze Age.

10. Assessment of Potential for Environmental Analysis by Anita Radini

Introduction

During an archaeological evaluation at Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, conducted by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services, a soil sample was taken for the recovery of plant and other remains which can give evidence of different activities on the site, and of the environment in the past. The sample was assessed for its potential to provide evidence about past environment, food production, and consumption at the site.

Materials and Methods

Sample 1 (13), consisting of 5 litres of dark brown gravelly soil and dating the Mid to Late Iron Age, was wet-sieved in a sieving tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation through a 0.30 mm mesh sieve. The residue in the tank mesh was air dried sorted for all finds. The flotation fraction (flots) was air dried and scanned under a stereomicroscope at magnification between 10x and 40x.

Morphological criteria were used for the identification of seeds and fruits, based on modern reference material and seed identification manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Plant names follow Stace (1997).

Results

Preservation of the material

The few fragments recovered from the flot was preserved in the form of charred remains. A high amount of un-charred root and rootlets fragments were recovered in the flot together with some modern seeds, suggesting a degree of post-depositional soil disturbance.

Plant macroremains

Only three hazel nut shell fragments were recovered from the sample, suggesting that some consumption of this wild food took place at some point nearby the site.

Charcoal

Almost no charcoal fragments or flecks were retrieved from the sample, and the very few flecks recovered could have been transported by wind or water.

Other finds

No other finds were retrieved from both tank mesh and flot.

Conclusion

Overall, the archaeobotanical assemblage was very poor and the remains found could represent residual or intrusive material. The assessment is therefore negative.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

No further archaeobotanical analysis is recommended on the sample. It is important to take in account that soil condition can vary largely in different areas of the site. Despite the paucity of remains recovered in this assessment, an appropriate sampling strategy is still highly advisable if future archaeological work is undertaken in the area.

11. Discussion

From the nine trenches excavated, four revealed archaeological evidence (trenches 1, 2, 4, 5), all in the north-east corner of the development site (Figure 3). The remaining trenches contained no archaeological finds or deposits (trenches 3, 6-9).

The archaeological evidence consisted of ditches and a pit, two of which contained dating evidence – ditch [4] by a worked flint of a broad late prehistoric date, and pit [12] by pottery to the mid to late Iron Age. Ditch [2] was undated, as was ditch [8], although as this was on the same alignment as [4] it may be the same ditch. A late 18th or early 19th century spread [14] was also located. The ditch located in trenches 2 and 4 is orientated east-west (Figure 3) and extends westwards into the area not investigated due to the presence of badgers. The absence of features in trenches further south (trenches 6-9) may indicate that activity is focused in the northern and eastern areas of the site.

Based on the extent of the trenches excavated thus far, the evidence may indicate a prehistoric settlement within the development site, or else field systems close to a settlement. Sites of a similar date are known in the immediate locality, the closest being a late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Shannon Way, approximately 400m to the east of the application area (Clarke 2012, 8). Further cropmarks of possible prehistoric date are known 700m to the west of the site, close to the junction of Kettering Road and Station Road (*ibid*). The site also lies close to a Roman road that runs through Burton Latimer and finds of a Roman date are known close to the development site.

12. Conclusion

In summary, the evaluation revealed archaeological evidence in trenches in the north-east corner of the development site. Based on the results of the evaluation, the evidence may

indicate an Iron Age settlement, or else field systems close to a settlement. Similar sites are known in the surrounding area.

13. Archive

The site archive will be held by ULAS, accession number NH_KWBL12, until an appropriate recipient organization is established for Northamptonshire.

The archive contains:

- 9 trench recording sheets
- Context summary records
- 15 context sheets
- Drawing index sheet and drawings (x1 sheet)
- 1 photographic recording sheet
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Survey data
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs
- 33mm black and white contact sheet and negatives

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York, under ID: universi1-137069. Available at: <u>http://oasis.ac.uk/</u>

ID	OASIS entry summary				
Project Name	ct Name Land South of Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire				
Summary	The evaluation revealed archaeological finds and deposits consisting of ditches and pits of prehistoric date in the north-east corner of the development site, the remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological evidence. Based on the results of the evaluation, the evidence may indicate a prehistoric settlement, or else field systems close to a settlement.				
Project Type	Evaluation				
Project Manager	Patrick Clay				
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed				
Previous/Future	Previous: none / Future: unknown				
work					
Current Land Use	Field				
Development Type	Residential				
Reason for	NPPF, Section 12				
Investigation					
Position in the	Planning condition				
Planning Process					
Site Co ordinates	SP 8904 7456				
Start/end dates of 24/10/2012 - 26/10/2012					
field work					
Archive Recipient	TBC				
Study Area	0.14ha				
Associated project					
reference codes	OASIS form ID: universi1-137069				

14. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Northamptonshire Archaeology* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

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- NCC 2012b Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team, unpublished document, 20.09.2012.

NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. Dept of Communities and Local Government March 22 2012

Stace C., 1997. New Flora of the British Isles . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

16. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken for A.P.Lewis and Sons Ltd, and was carried out by Gavin Speed, Steve Baker, and Tony Gnanaratnam. Dr Patrick Clay managed the project. Liz Mordue (County Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council) monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority. We would like to thank James Lewis of A.P.Lewis and Sons Ltd for arranging access and supplying the plant.

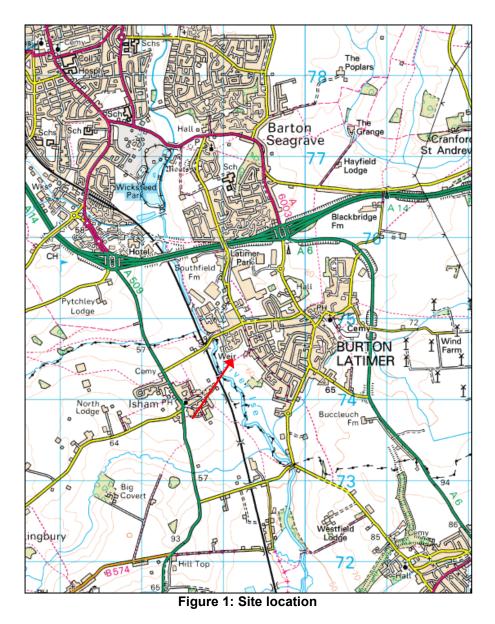
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Figures



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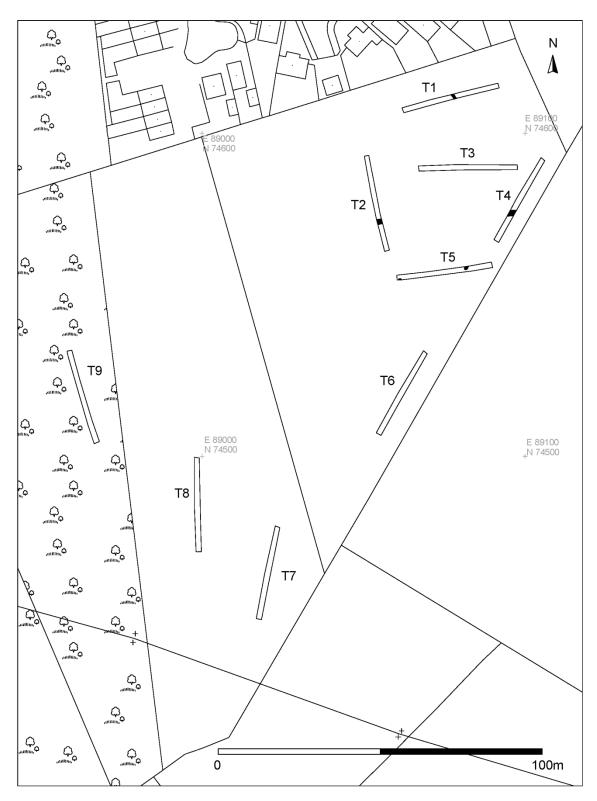


Figure 2: Trench plan

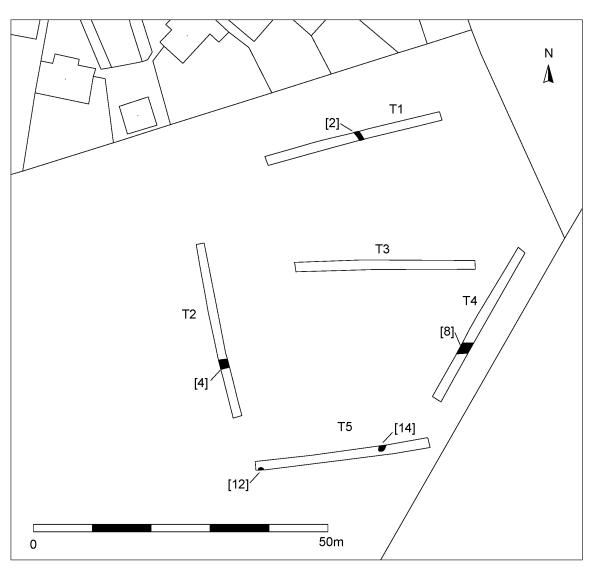


Figure 3: Detailed trench plan (east-end of site)

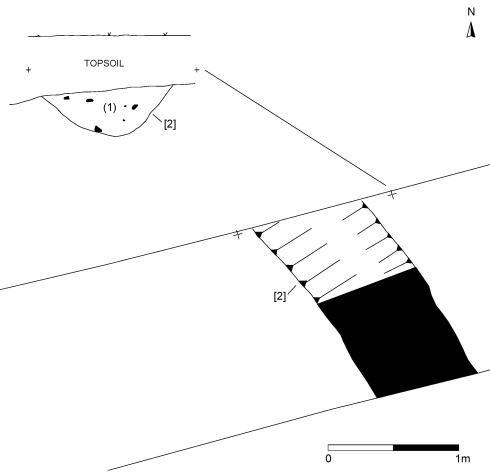


Figure 4: Plan and section of ditch [2] in trench 1



Figure 5: View of ditch [2] in trench 1, 0.5m scale, looking north

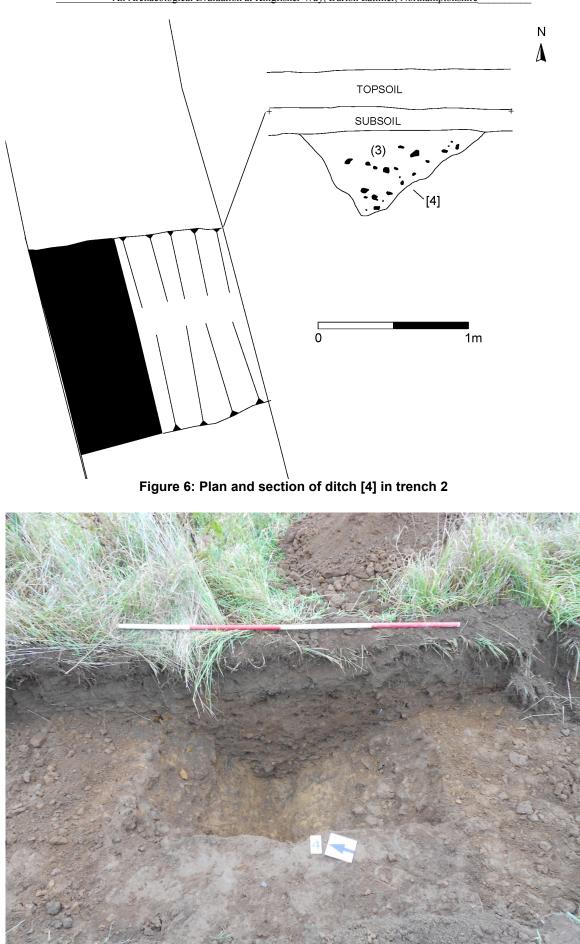


Figure 7: View of ditch [4] in trench 2, scale 2m, looking east

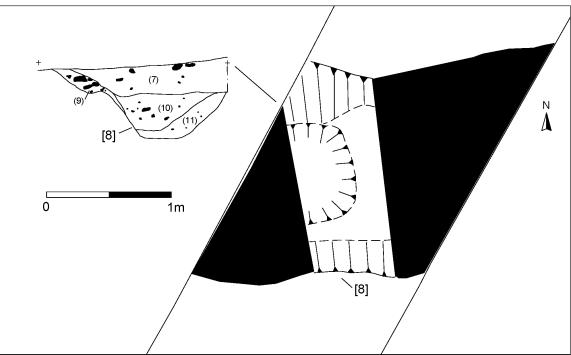


Figure 8: Plan and section of ditch [8] in trench 4



Figure 9: View of ditch [8] in trench 4, 0.5m scale, looking west

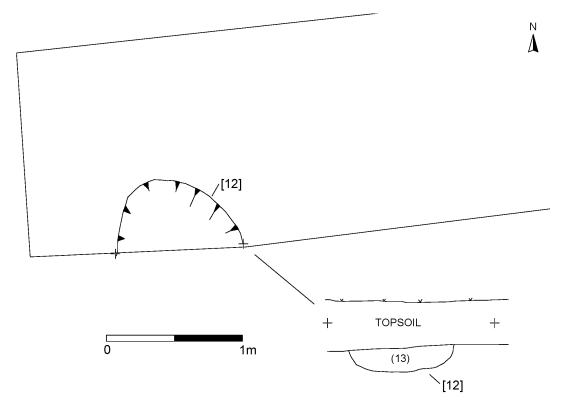


Figure 10: Plan and section of pit [12] in trench 5



Figure 11: View of pit [12] in trench 5, 0.5m scale, looking south

Appendix: Trench and context details

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH (MIN- MAX metres)
1	E-W	30 x 1.8	Topsoil 0.29-0.34m, no subsoil. Ditch / gully [2] mid-way along the trench orientated NW-SE. No dating evidence.	0.31-0.40
2	N-S	30 x 1.8	Topsoil 0.22-0.25m, subsoil 0.24-0.3m. Ditch [4] mid-way along trench orientated E-W. Fill (3) contained a single worked flint.	0.35- 0.37
3	E-W	31.6 x 1.8	Topsoil 0.22-0.42m, subsoil 0.24-0.3m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.3-0.5
4	NE-SW	30 x 1.8	Topsoil 0.30m thick, subsoil 0.1-0.14m. Ditch [8] mid-way along trench orientated E-W. Fill (8) contained no dating evidence.	0.36-0.48
5	E-W	30 x 1.8	Topsoil 0.25-0.3m, subsoil 0.05-0.15m. Pit at west-end [12]. Iron Age pottery, worked flint. Spread [14] at east-end, one sherd of modern pottery.	0.3-0.48
6	NE-SW	30 x 1.8	Topsoil 0.26-0.34m, no subsoil. No archaeological finds or deposits. Some vegetation disturbance.	0.32-0.49
7	NE-SW	30 x 1.8	Topsoil 0.21-0.26m, subsoil 0.25-0.33m, alluvium (0.2m). No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.6280
8	N-S	30 x 1.8	Topsoil 0.23-0.26m, subsoil 0.29-0.33m, alluvium (0.2m). No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.8-0.94
9	N-S	x 1.8	Topsoil 0.20-0.25m, subsoil 0.35-0.5m. No archaeological finds or deposits. Plastic land-drains, plough scar (6)	0.7-0.95

Table 1: Trench details

CONTEXT	CUT NO	BELOW	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION
1	2	Subsoil	1	Ditch fill
2	2	1	1	Ditch cut
3	4	Subsoil	4	Ditch fill
4	4	3	4	Ditch cut
5	6	Subsoil	9	Plough scar cut
6	6	5	9	Plough scar fill
7	8	Subsoil	4	Ditch fill
8	8	11	4	Ditch cut
9	8	10	4	Ditch fill
10	8	7	4	Ditch fill
11	8	10	4	Ditch fill
12	12	12	5	Pit cut
13	12	Subsoil	5	Pit fill
14	14	15	5	Cut of irregular layer
15	14	Subsoil	5	Fill of irregular layer

Table 2: Context details

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