



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Excavation
on Land North of Park Lane,
Castle Donington,
Leicestershire
NGR: SK 436 276**

Roger Kipling

with contributions from
Jennifer Browning, Patrick Clay,
Lynden Cooper, Nicholas J. Cooper,
Rebecca Hearne, Elizabeth Johnson,
Anita Radini, Gavin Speed & Leon Hunt



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**For: J.S. Bloor (Measham) Ltd./
Nexus Heritage**

Approved by:

Signed:
Date: 26 th June 2014
Name: Vicki Score

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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An Archaeological Excavation on Land to the North of Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire

[NGR: SK 436 276]

Roger Kipling

Summary

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by ULAS in 2011 on land to the north of Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire, with a follow-up watching brief in January 2013, prior to residential development. Area 1, located on the brow of a north-facing slope overlooking the River Trent, produced evidence of Late Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, including an Early Bronze Age ring ditch, possibly representing a ceremonial or mortuary enclosure and with local parallels at Cossington and Lockington. The feature was associated with a small linear cremation cemetery comprising four Collared Urns containing cremated human bone, in close proximity to a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pit alignment of over 20 pits. The considerably larger downslope Area 3 contained an extensive and complex series of ditches with fragmentary traces of timber structure(s) and probably representing a transitional Late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement set within a wider field system.

1. Introduction

An archaeological excavation was undertaken on land to the north of Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire, prior to residential development. The site was known to lie within an area of archaeological potential, as indicated by earlier archaeological work in adjacent areas which had located Bronze Age and Iron Age deposits (Coward 2004; Coward 2010). In addition, the application is recognised as lying close to sites of some archaeological significance and listed on the Historic Environment Record (HER).

In view of the potential impact of the development upon archaeological remains, in pursuance of Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) Policy HE6, and following recommendations by the Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Principal Planning Archaeologist, the planning authority required that targeted areas be subject to archaeological excavation following a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Nexus Heritage.

All archaeological work was in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The LCC *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) were also adhered to.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site covered approximately 9.2 ha and comprised two fields (Figure 1) bounded to the north by rough pasture with occasional trees, to the west by rough pasture, to the south by Park Lane and to the east by the rear gardens of residential development

on Fox Road. The small field, in the south-east corner of the area was covered by scrub and bushes and exhibited considerable topographic variation, with the surrounding ground dropping sharply into a small ravine which ran from the south to the north-east of the field. The larger field to the west was rough pasture land. This field sloped gently from the south to the north and east, with a greater fall towards its north-east edge where it bordered housing and part of the small field.

The British Geological Survey shows the underlying geology to be Triassic Mudstone bedrock with a typical Permo-Triassic soil of the Bromsgrove Series characterised as well-drained reddish loam over soft sandstone.



Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000) Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

Archaeological evaluation in the form of geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation of the field immediately to the west of the site was undertaken in 2003 (Stratascan 2003; Coward 2003). This programme of archaeological investigation identified multi-period remains in a dense pattern and the alignment and nature of certain features such as ditches and gullies suggested that such features extended to the east and may be present in the site. A geophysical survey of the site conducted in 2008 (see below) has confirmed this conjecture.

An Environmental Statement for a development at the site was prepared in 2007 (Wardell Armstrong, 2007) and the Archaeology & Cultural Heritage chapter noted

that the site had not benefitted from any archaeological investigations but fieldwork in the vicinity had yielded a multi-period archaeological resource dating from the prehistoric period, through the post-medieval period. Desk-based research and a site visit undertaken for the purposes of the environmental impact assessment identified ridge-and-furrow earthworks on the site and two discrete features visible of aerial photographs of the site taken in 1945 (a circular earthwork) and 1971 (a curvilinear cropmark).

In the light of the results of the Environmental Statement a geophysical survey of the site was commissioned in 2008 (Stratascan, 2008). The detailed magnetometry survey identified a number of rectilinear enclosures likely to be of archaeological origin, but did not identify a circular enclosure observed in the aerial photographs of the site.

A programme of archaeological trial trench investigation was completed and reported upon in the summer of 2010 (Coward 2010). The excavations focussed on the geophysical anomalies and many of the less pronounced geophysical anomalies appeared be of agricultural origin, or responses to a complex geology. However, two areas containing ditches and gullies of probable late Iron Age/early Roman date were identified in the north-east and south-west corners, some of which were not apparent in the geophysical data. One feature to the north of the site contained Anglo-Saxon pottery. In the south-west corner many of these features lay beneath varying depths of colluviums including a ring-ditch containing Late Iron Age/very early Roman pottery. Archaeological features were also identified along the western edge of the field and in the north-west of the site. The small field in the south-east corner appeared to have been previously disturbed with undulating topography and significant depths of deposits. The trenches here contained up to 2m of colluvial material, and an undated burnt oval feature of unknown function was recorded in one trench. Similar anomalies on the geophysical survey suggested that several more of these features may have been present in this area.

4. Aims

The aims of the archaeological excavation were to:

1. Identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. Establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by proposed ground-works.
3. Record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.
4. Produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the excavation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in mitigation of the potential impact upon them from the development. All work was recorded in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS. The University of Leicester's Health and Safety policy was adhered to.

5. Methodology

On the basis of the results from the evaluation (Coward 2010), six areas were identified for archaeological excavation (Figure 2). Within **Area 1**, excavation focussed on a ring feature from which sherds of Iron Age and 1st century AD Roman pottery had previously been recovered in addition to shallow gullies from which prehistoric and mid-1st to mid-2nd century AD Roman pottery sherds had been recovered.

Excavation in **Area 2** was intended to centre on the investigation of a series of discrete oval features, one of which had previously been sampled and found to be a large oval, burnt feature 4.6m long. The evaluative works revealed no residues which could assign a definite function to the process being carried out at this location or the date. No artefacts were found to date the features and the charcoal recovered from the sample was not sufficient for radiocarbon dating. Therefore, the investigation of the remaining six features identical in geophysical signal to the one evaluated provided an opportunity to answer a variety of fundamental questions. In the event, developer activity in this area was restricted to topsoil removal, which did not necessitate archaeological monitoring.

Area 3 encompassed a complex of Iron Age/early Roman enclosure ditches and gullies, and open area excavation in this part of the site provided an opportunity to clarify the character, phasing and dating of the land use in this zone.

A further three planned areas of investigation (**Areas 4-6**) were not undertaken due to location beyond the limits of the current phase of development. **Area 4** contained a ditch and gully possibly related to activity in Area 3 or else known archaeological remains to the west and north-west of the site. **Area 5** was positioned in order to target a ditch which was identified during the evaluation.

The north-western corner of the site yielded archaeological remains during the evaluation. Whilst the evaluation did not detect any physical evidence for the geophysical anomaly identified running north-west to south-east, correction of the location of the geophysical survey showed this to lie further north. A ditch was discovered running north-east to south-west and the fill contained late 3rd to 4th century pottery. The continuation of this ditch was not located in an evaluation trench further to the south, and excavation in **Area 6** was intended to investigate the terminus and/or change of direction in this ditch and the wider area either side of it. Topsoil and overburden were removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a 13 tonne 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The areas were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed substratum, whichever was reached first. Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and potential archaeological deposits were investigated. Confirmed likely archaeological deposits were sample-excavated using the volume criteria set out as follows:

- 50% of each intrusive non-structural feature (pits, random postholes) and up to 50% (by number) to be then fully excavated following on site assessment

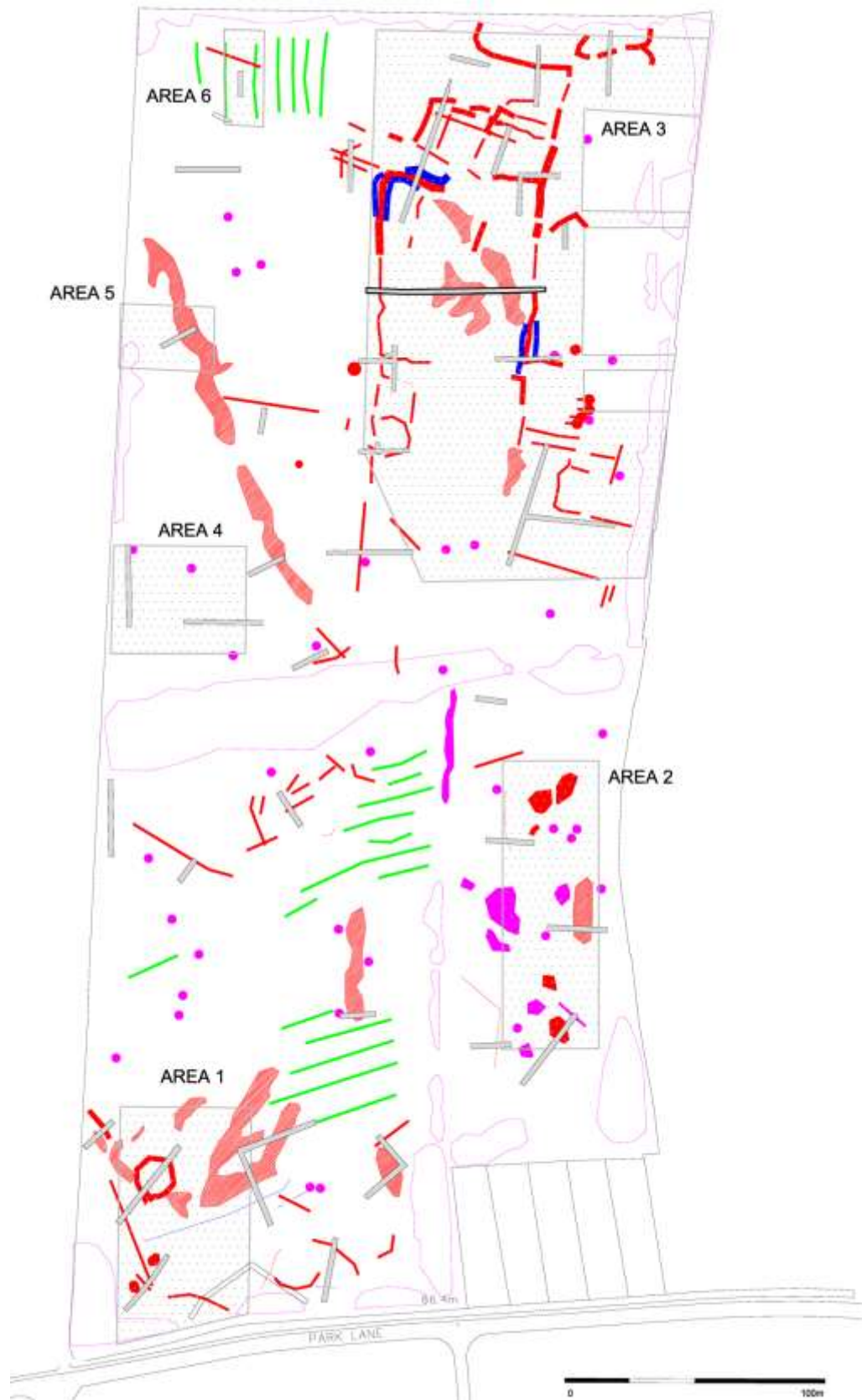


Figure 2: Site plan showing geophysical survey (red/blue = potential archaeological features, green = agriculture, pink = iron/disturbed areas) and location of evaluation trenches and excavation areas.

- 15-25% of each linear feature's exposed area and all terminals & intersections to define relationships
- 75-100% of structural features (beamslots, ring ditches)
- 75-100% investigation of debris areas, collapsed structures, walls
- All structurally associated postholes to be 1/2 sectioned then fully excavated
- 100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths, ovens, furnaces, kilns)
- 100% of any cremations or inhumations subject to MoJ approval
- Any and all *in-situ* burnt features to be sampled for archaeomagnetic dating purposes

All plans and sections were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by use of differential GPS survey.

6. Results

The overall area of excavation comprised 9ha, extending over two fields of rough scrub and grassland. The excavation was conducted between August and October 2011 following a geophysical survey in 2008 and an evaluation in summer 2010. The latter revealed Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age archaeology, plus Iron Age or Roman ditches seemingly defining several enclosures. A short follow-up watching brief was maintained over Areas 4 and 5 in January 2013.

Area 1

Area 1 comprised a largely level rectangular area extending north from Park Lane and measuring *c.*4320m² (Figure 3). The machined area was characterised by a substantial depth (up to 1.5m) of colluvial material, resulting in a markedly higher degree of archaeological preservation than in the remainder of the excavated areas. Principal features included a Bronze Age ring ditch, a Late Bronze Age pit alignment and a possible Early Bronze Age collared urn cremation cemetery.

Phase 1: Late Neolithic Pits

Pits [101]; (102), [104]; 103)

Two small pits of probable Late Neolithic date were located at the southern limit of excavation adjacent to the Park Lane frontage (Figures 4, 5 & 6). Pit [101] was a small circular feature measuring 0.70m in diameter and 0.17m deep with 45° sides to a concave base. The single light orange-brown silt fill (102) produced 12 Neolithic pottery sherds (below p.45) as well as a significant assemblage of flint tools including a knife and combination tool below p.42, Figure 42) of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date and a Wolds flint scraper. The material appeared to be a placed deposit in overall good condition, including micro-debitage and a 'special' deposit of the combination tool. The latter may hint at a transitional late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date.

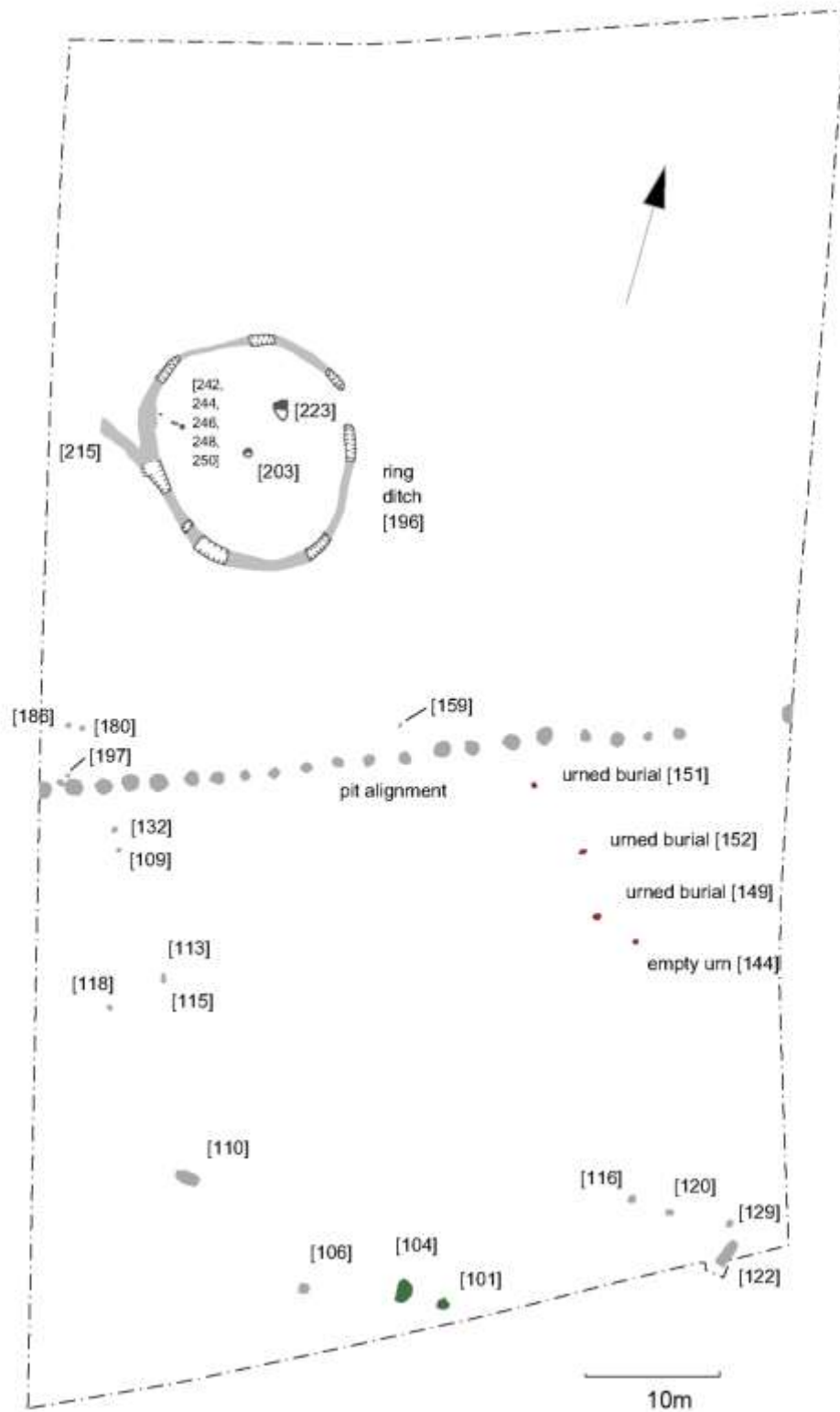


Figure 3: Area 1: general plan of major features

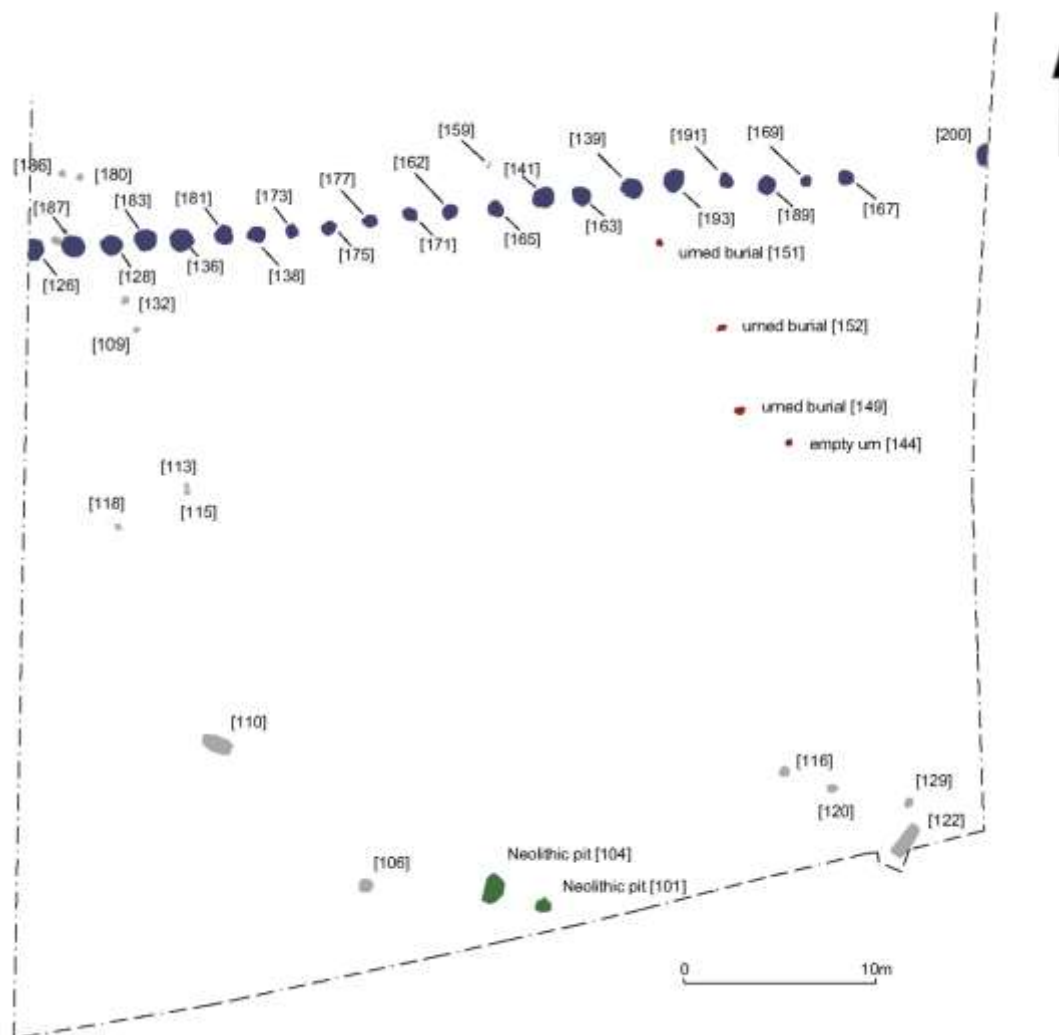


Figure 4: Area 1 (south): principal features

The more substantial second pit [104] of oval plan measuring 2.02m x 0.97m and 0.26m deep with 40° and 80°-85° sides to an uneven base produced a single Neolithic decorated pottery rim sherd.

Further flint was recovered from the vicinity of the pits, including a Neolithic ground axe resembling Group VI types and a ‘slug’ knife of very fine quality and artisanship with a suggested date range of 3000-2500 BC (below p.45, Figures 40-41). Given the location of the artefact close to the Bronze Age cremation cemetery, it is possible that this may have been a grave deposit and examples are often found in Early Bronze Age Beaker burials.

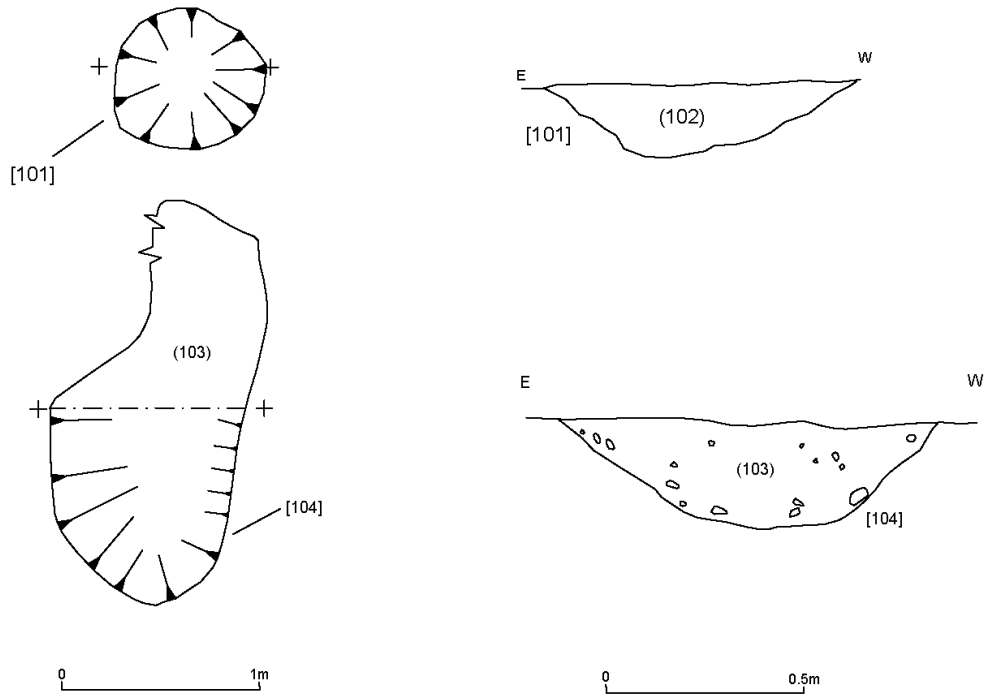


Figure 5: Neolithic pits and sections.



Figure 6: Pit [101]; scale 0.30m

Phase 2: Bronze Age Ring Ditch, Cremation Cemetery & Pit Alignment

Phase 2.1: Ring Ditch and associated features (Early Bronze Age)

Ditch [196]; (195, 199, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 251), [122]; (123, 124)

Internal post-holes [203]; (202); [209]; (210), [242]; (241), [244]; (243), [246]; (245), [248]; (247), [250]; (249)

Internal pit [223];(222)

A truncated sub-circular ditched feature occupied the north-western corner of Area 1, measuring *c.* 12m east-west and *c.* 14.5m north-south internally and defined by a sub-circular ditch [122]/[196] of between 0.5m and 1.3m (Figures 7-10). The internal area of the ditch measured *c.* 144m² and the irregular nature of the ditch might be explained by plough truncation. A single entrance on the eastern (leeward) side, *c.* 2.35m wide, was defined by butt end terminals to the enclosing ditch.

Sample excavation of several sections across the ring ditch revealed an open v-shaped profile of 0.18m-0.37m depth. The ditch contained mid grey-brown sandy silt fills (195 & 199), the former producing a single sherd of 1st century pottery.

Whilst there were no indications of a surviving associated mound or burial(s), several post-holes (0.10m-0.30m deep x 0.10m-0.30m in diameter) and a pit [223]; (222) were located within the internal area, possibly representing structural elements to the feature. The oval pit measured 1.33m x 0.86m x 0.12m deep and had 45° sides to an uneven base. The grey-brown silty clay fill (222) produced no finds.

The overall plan shape and dimensions of the feature, in addition to the modest size of the defining ditch in combination with the presence of internal features suggests that the ring ditch represents a mortuary enclosure, a form of monument associated with burial ritual, rather than a round barrow ditch. The close proximity of the feature to early Bronze Age cremation burials might support this proposition.

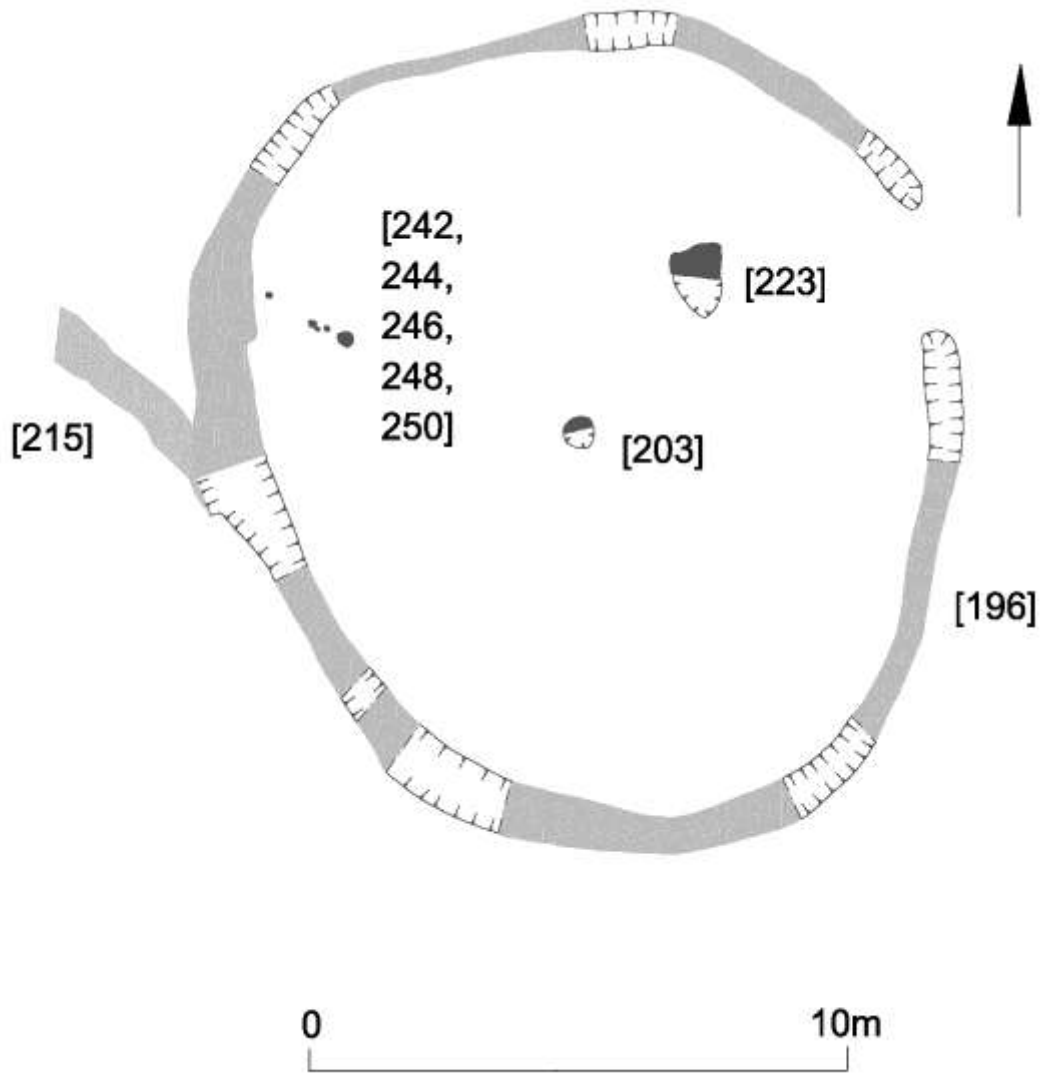


Figure 7: The possible mortuary enclosure



Figure 8: The possible mortuary enclosure; the site worker stands in the entrance; view east.

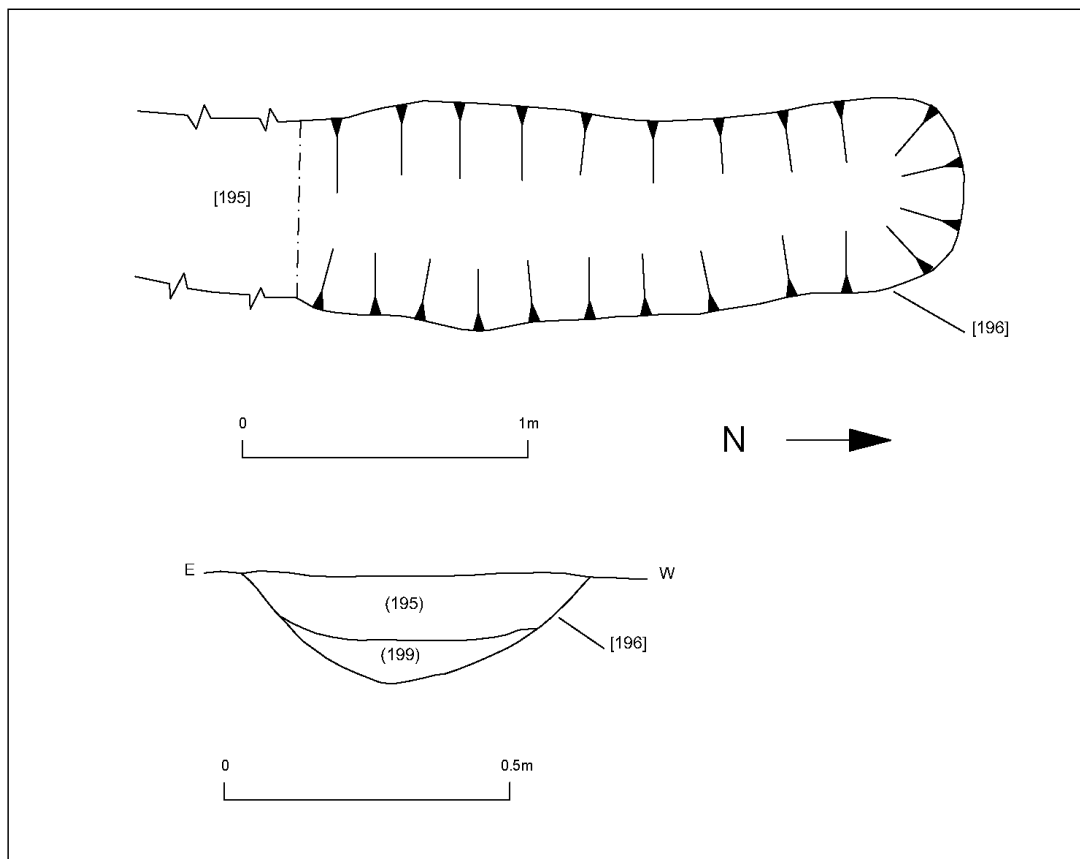


Figure 9: Possible mortuary enclosure ditch [196] plan and section



Figure 10: Gully terminal [196] excavated; view south; 1m scale

Phase 2.2: Cremation Cemetery (end of Early Bronze Age)

Empty possible cremation pit [144]; (143)

Cremation [145]; (146)

Cremation [149]; (147, 148, 154, 155)

Cremation [151]; (150, 156, 157)

Cremation [152]; (153)

A linear grouping of four Bronze Age cremation burials contained in pottery vessels was located a short distance south of the eastern end of the pit alignment, consisting of two intact burial urns, a partial third and a small empty scoop feature, likely representing a disturbed fourth burial. The grouping is likely to represent a cremation cemetery (Figure 11).



Figure 11: Cremation burials excavations in progress

Cremation [145]; (146)

The cremation urn lay on its side with the area closest to the surface suffering plough-truncation and located adjacent to cremation [149]. It appeared to have been disturbed from its original pit and re-deposited (Figures 12-13). The coil-made vessel was decorated with incised lines forming a continuous band of herring bone around each of the upper zones with intermittent transverse slashes across the flat rim. The decorative style has parallels from Uttoxeter and Coneygre Farm in the Trent Valley at Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire.



Figure 12: Urn [145] during excavation



Figure 13: Urn [145] prior to lifting

Cremation [149]; 147, 148, 154, 155

Cremation pit cut [149] was located adjacent to vessel [145], the fills of the former containing the fragmentary remains of another small Collared Urn predominantly from lower fill (148), which contained 19 sherds, but with four joining sherds from (154) and three unstratified. The coil-built vessel was decorated with a herringbone pattern, which date to 1880-1630 cal BC (below p.45).

Cremation [151]; (150, 156, 157)

This vessel had been placed inverted in its cremation pit, resulting in truncation of the base and lower part of the vessel, exposing the cremated bone it contained (Figures 14 and 15). The coil-built urn was decorated with lines of twisted cord decoration, a style recognised on other Collared Urns in Leicestershire (below p.45).



Figure 14: Cremation urn (156) during excavation.



Figure 15: Upturned cremation urn (156) prior to lifting; note cremated bone visible



Figure 16: Cremation urn [145] following cleaning and conservation

Cremation [152]; (153)

Thirteen sherds belonging to the base and lower body of another Collared Urn and likely representing a fourth, disturbed, cremation, were recovered from a shallow sub-circular cut measuring 0.45m x 0.35m x 0.08m deep with 30° sides and undulating base. Animal bone fragments were also recovered (Section 11).

Phase 2:3: Pit Alignment (Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age) and associated features

Pits: [125]; (126), [127]; (128), [135]; (136), [137]; (138), [139]; (140), [141]; (142), [161]; (162), [163]; (164), [165]; (166), [167]; (168), [169]; (170), [171]; (172), [173]; (174), [175]; (176), [177]; (178), [181]; (182), [183]; (184), [187]; (188), [189]; (190), [191]; (192), [193]; (194), [200]; (201)

The pit alignment comprised a line of 22 pits, located c.38m north of Park Lane and c.12m south of the ring ditch. The pits traversed the site on an approximate east-west alignment in a virtually straight line across the full 50m width of the machined area (Figs 4 and 17).



Figure 17: The Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pit alignment; view east.

The pits displayed some inconsistency in plan and size, being either circular or sub-circular in shape and measuring between 0.65m-1.2m in diameter and 0.15m-0.46m deep. Profiles were generally open with steep (45°-60°) sides to a flattish base (Figures 18-19). Spacing between individual features was irregular, between 0.8m and 1.4m intervals. All 22 pits were fully excavated and found to contain consistent mid grey-brown sandy clay silt fills.

Table 1 Pit alignment feature descriptions

Cut	Fill	Fill description	Profile descriptions	Dimensions (m)
126	125	Mid brown sandy silt	Irregular sides, uneven central base	1.06 x 0.35 deep
128	127	Mid brown sandy silt	Concave sides to uneven central base	1.15 x 0.46 deep
136	135	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Concave sides to flat base	1 x 1.23 x 0.24 deep
138	137	Mid brown sandy silt	Irregular 45°-50° sides to wavy central base	1 x 0.83 x 0.26 deep
139	140	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Gradual concave sides to flat base	1.7 x 0.90 x 0.38 deep
141	142	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Concave sides to flat base	1.1 x 0.90 x 0.17 deep
162	161	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	50°-70° sides to wavy central base	0.68 x 0.69 x 0.24 deep
163	164	Mid reddish-brown clay silt	45°-60° sides to concave base	1.06 x 0.93 x 0.25 deep
165	166	Mid orange-brown fine silty sand	50°-60° sides to flat base	0.86 x 0.70 x 0.18 deep
167	168	Light grey-brown sandy clay silt	Concave sides to flat base	0.65 x 0.65 x 0.15 deep
169	170	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Concave sides to flat base	0.72 x 0.67 x 0.12 deep
171	172	Pale grey-brown silty sand	Concave sides to flat base	0.68 x 0.35 x 0.27 deep
173	174	Pale yellow-brown sandy silt	70° sides to flat base	0.68 x 0.62 x 0.15 deep
175	176	Pale yellow-brown sandy silt	Regular sides 50° to concave base	0.80 x 0.80 x 0.25 deep
177	178	Pale yellow-brown sandy silt	Regular 50° sides to concave base	0.72 x 0.63 x 0.16 deep
181	182	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay silt	Regular sides 60° to concave base with gradual break of slope	1.04 x 0.96 x 0.31 deep
183	184	Mid orange-brown fine sandy silt	Regular 50°-60° sides, slightly stepped to irregular base	1.18 x 1.14 x 0.35 deep
187	188	Mid orange-brown fine sandy silt	60° regular sides to flat base with gradual break slope	1.22 x 1.18 x 0.32 deep
189	190	Mid grey-brown sandy clay silt	Concave sides to flat base	1.20 1.0 x 0.30 deep
191	192	Mid grey-brown silty clay sand	Concave sides to irregular base	0.90 x 0.80 x 0.08 deep
193	194	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Concave sides to flat base	1.30 x 0.97 x 0.18 deep
200	201	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Concave sides to flattish base	0.75 x 0.75 x 0.11 deep

Typically of pit alignments, the pit fills produced few finds. Pit [200], observed in the main eastern site section with concave sides and a flattish base, contained a single mid grey-brown sandy silt fill (201), which contained a small group of sherds from the same pottery vessel resembling an Early Neolithic Bowl from the first half of the Fourth Millennium, but which are likely to be residual (below p.45).

Nine sherds of Iron Age pottery were also recovered from pit [139] (140) (sub-oval plan, concave sides to a flat base and mid grey-brown sandy clay silt fill) and [189] (190) (sub-rectangular plan, concave sides to a flat base and mid grey-brown sandy clay silt fill (190) at the eastern end of the alignment, in addition to pit [183], located towards the west end of the line, of circular plan with steep sides to an irregular base and mid orange-brown fine sandy silt fill (184)

The alignment appeared to have functioned as a linear division between the ring ditch to the north and the cremation burials to the south.



Figure 18: Pit [139]: east-facing section (1m & 0.30m scales)

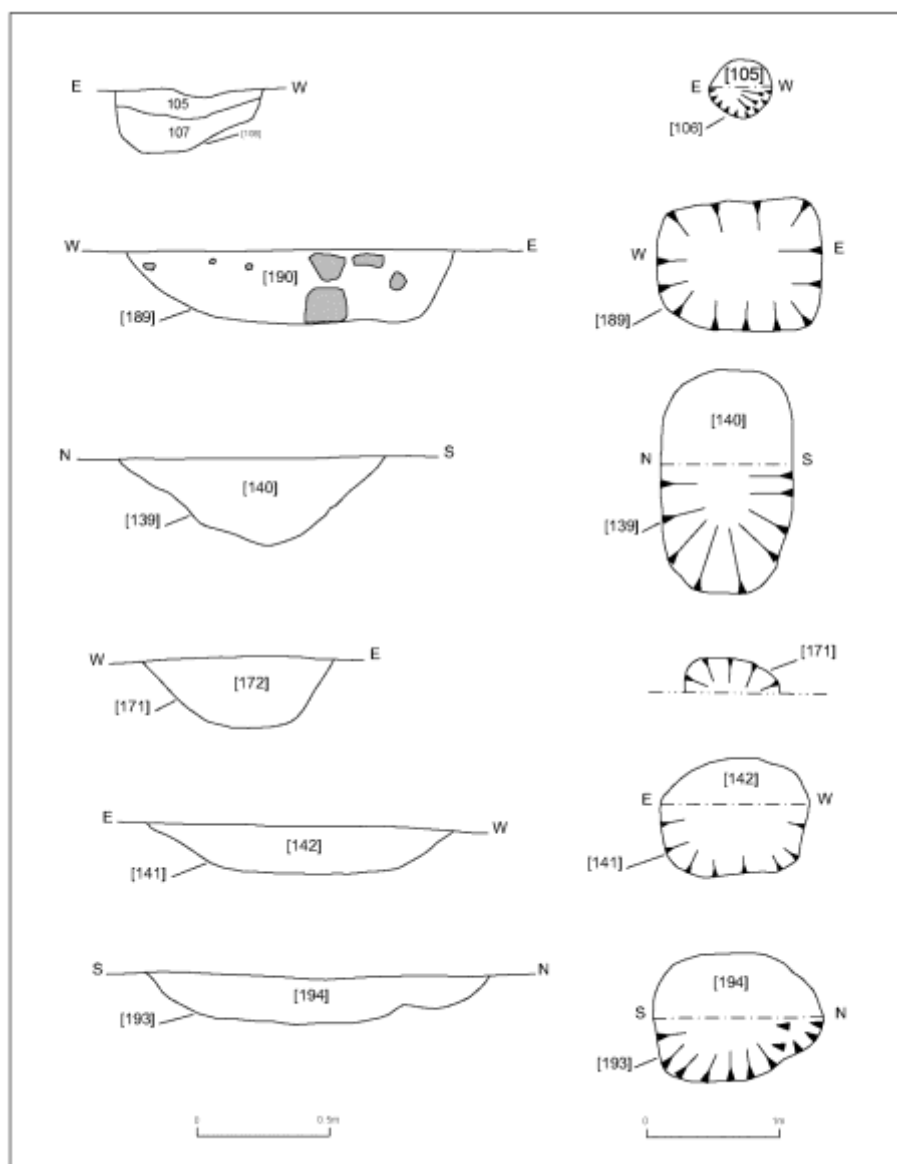


Figure 19: Plans & sections, pit alignment pits and post-hole [106]

Associated Post-holes

[197]; (198), [180]; (179), [186]; (185) (north of the western end of the pit alignment)

[159]; (158) (north of the eastern end of the pit alignment)

[109]; (108), [110]; (111), [113]; (112), [115]; (114), [132]; (131) (south of the western end of the pit alignment)

Nine heavily-truncated undated post-holes were located in the vicinity of the pit alignment although no tangible structure or alignment could be identified. All measured approximately 0.20m-0.40m in diameter and 0.10m-0.25m deep, with single mid grey-brown friable silty clay fills. None produced any finds.

A single isolated post-hole [106] (105) (107) located adjacent to the Neolithic pits at the southern end of the excavation produced a single sherd of mid-late Iron Age pottery.

Area 3

Area 3 constituted the greater part of the excavation, comprising a substantial rectangular area covering *c.*1881m² (1.881ha.), located at the northern, downslope end of the development area (Figure 20). The area was characterised by considerably less top- and subsoil than was the case in Area 1, resulting in considerably heavier (plough) truncation, and featured a changeable geology varying from ironstone to bands of sand and gravel.

Archaeological activity was solely early Roman (1st to 3rd century AD) in date and dominated by a series of ditches of varying size defining several enclosures and dating to the mid to late 1st century AD. Whilst the enclosure interiors were largely blank due to plough truncation, there were indications of a contemporary post and beam-slot structure situated close to a slightly later - 3rd century quarry pit and associated ditch.

Phase C: Early Roman Ditches, Beam-slot Structure and Hearth (Mid 1st - mid 2nd century)

The Ditched Enclosures

(Mid to late 1st century AD)

Area 3 was dominated by a mid- to late-1st century AD system of agricultural, possibly stock, enclosures, as defined by a series of interconnecting ditches, dominated by two substantial rock-cut north-south parallel features, linked to associated smaller ditches running at right angles and forming square and rectangular enclosures. Finds and stratigraphic evidence suggests that this was a single, contemporary system, largely laid out in and in use in a single period.

Due to the size and complexity of the ditched system, descriptions will be limited to the major north-south ditches and certain smaller, representative examples of subsidiary features.

North-South Ditches

The enclosures were laid out around two lengthy and substantial parallel ditches aligned broadly north-south and linked by lesser east-west ditches. Several sections were excavated across each of the two larger linear features, and are described below.

The Western North-South Ditch

[553]; (554, 555, 562, 566, 567, 568); [569], (571); [603], (604); [610], (611); [619], (618); [620], (621, 622)

One of a pair of substantial parallel north-south aligned ditches framing several land parcels, defined by secondary east-west ditches. This major ditch was traced for a distance of *c.*85m south of its northern point, although it is likely to have originally extended further south prior to plough truncation. The ditch was investigated at several key points, including intersections with other linear features.

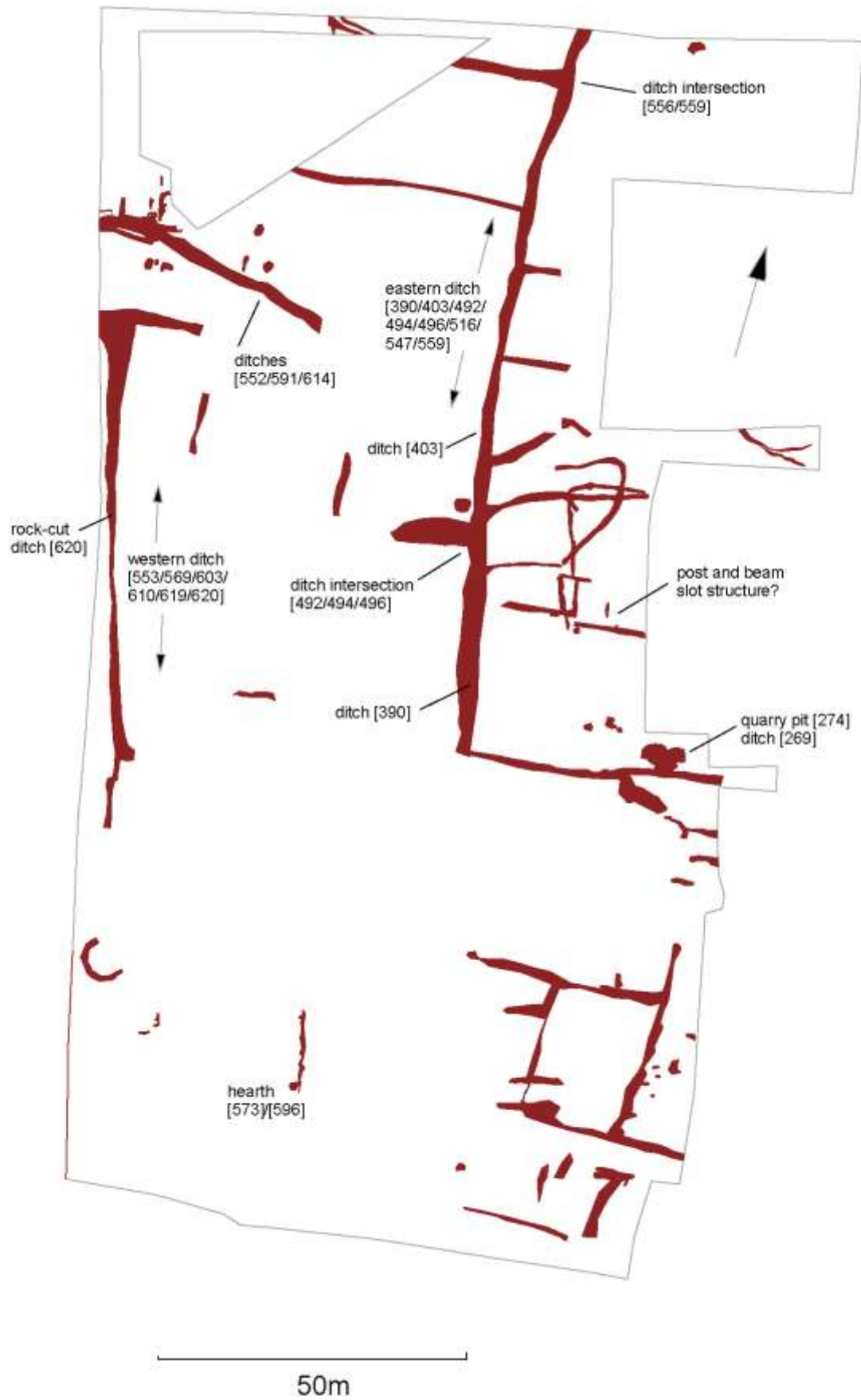


Figure 20: Area 3: General plan of principal features [610]; (611), ([612], (613), [616], (617)

[610] was a north-south oriented ditch with a flattish base and 50% sides, the full dimensions of which were unknown, and which represented the northern terminal end of a ditch that ran north-south along the western limit of excavation. The ditch contained a single fill (611) of loose mid brown silty clay with sandstone inclusions and was cut by two shallow east-west aligned gullies, 0.70m-0.90m wide, 0.47m-0.48m deep ([612], 613, [616], 617.

[553]; (554, 555, 562, 566, 567, 568)

A substantial rock-cut ditch aligned north-south measuring 1.25m wide and 0.80m deep with an open v-shaped profile, stepped on the eastern edge with a sharp break slope to a narrow, flat base. Hence in character the ditch resembles a military feature with an 'ankle breaker' sharp profile. This represented a major feature, likely explained by its apparent function of the western boundary of a complex of ditched enclosures. Fills represented by mid yellowish brown sandy silts with heavy sandstone fragment content.

[569], (571)

[569] represented a possible shallow recut of ditch [553] (above), measuring 0.60m wide, 0.15m deep and with 30°/45° sides to a flat base.

[620], (621, 622)

10m south of the previous section, somewhat more shallow than was observed further north (1m wide, 0.55m deep), with an open U-shaped profile with 50° sides and a flattish base with a slight fall towards the north. The feature contained the same mid brown sandy silt clay fills (Figure 25).

[619], (618)

[619] constituted a further excavated section across the ditch, here measuring 1.40m wide and 0.50m deep at this point, with steep sides to a flattish base and a single fill, (618) of mid-dark brown clay silt. Pottery recovered from the latter was of mid- late 1st century grey ware.

[603], (604)

The southern extent of the ditch was represented by a right angled intersection with a smaller east-west aligned ditch, [599], (600, 601 & 603), the relationship with which could not be established. The smaller feature probably represents an east-west land subdivision linked to a second major parallel north-south ditch located *c.*60m to the east. Its single fill (604), a mid grey-brown silty clay, produced pottery from three vessels, including sherds from a Black Burnished ware jar dated to *c.*AD 120-160.

The Eastern North-South Ditch

[403]; (404, 405); [389]; (390); [492] (493), [494] (495), [496] (497), [516] (515), [547] (548), [559] (560) (Figures 20-27)

The total length of this major landscape feature measured *c.*120m north-south (actually slightly northeast-southwest at its north end), although more of its length was likely lost through plough truncation.

[403] (404, 405)

Midway along its north-south length, the ditch measured 0.78m wide and 0.39m deep (Figure 21). The western edge sloped at *c.*70°-80°, whilst the opposing sides was a gentler 50° to a concave, slightly undulating base. The dark grey-brown clay silt primary fill (404) was overlain by a paler, slightly more friable secondary fill (405). There were no finds.

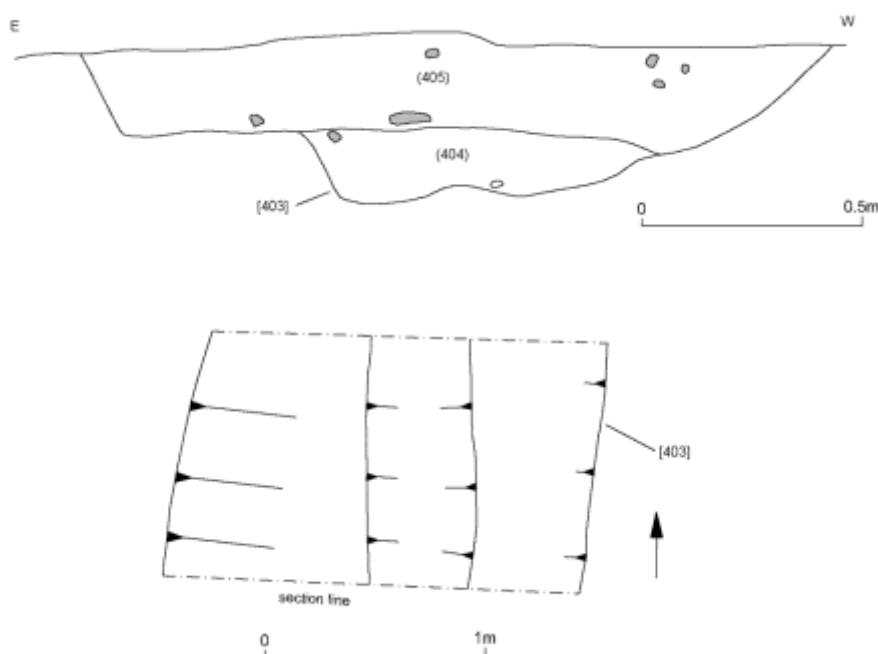


Figure 21: Ditch [403]

[389] (390) (Figure 27)

The southern end of the principal eastern north-south ditch [389] was cut through sandstone bedrock, producing a shallow, 2.5m wide, 0.55m deep profile with 45° sides to an uneven base. The single dark grey-brown friable clay silt fill (390) contained abundant charcoal and sandstone fragments but no finds.

[556] (557); [559], (560)

A section cut across the intersection of the north-south ditch with a second linear, [556], (557, 558), revealed the former to measure 2m wide, 0.81m deep, with gradually sloping sides to a flat base. The single fill (560), a mid-brown silty clay,

produced a single Scored Ware pottery sherd of mid to late 1st century date. The larger ditch appeared to cut the smaller east-west ditch.

[547] (548)

The north-south ditch by this point measured 1.20m wide, 0.32m deep and had a very shallow, wide u-shaped profile with a flattish base. The ditch was joined by a second, smaller ditch, [545] (546)/[563] (564, 565)/[580] (581, 582) on its western side and serving to interconnect the two parallel principal north-south ditches. The east-west ditch was heavily truncated and measured 40m+ in length east-west, up to 0.50m deep and 0.95m-1.50m wide. The silty clay fills of both features were indistinguishable, suggesting that that they were contemporary. Fill (564) of [563] produced a small quantity of charred wheat and barley.

[516] 515

At this, third, section across the ditch, the feature measured 0.27m wide, 0.32m deep and with an open v-shaped profile. The single fill, (515), produced mid-1st century AD Belgic type pottery.

[492] 493 and Ditches/Gullies [494] 495, [/496] 497 Intersection (Figures 22 & 23)

[492] was located towards the southern end of the eastern major north-south ditch, at its T-shaped intersection with two smaller ditches [494 & 496] which joined it from the west and terminated at this point. [492] was heavily truncated and hence only 0.20m deep. The two smaller linear features, measuring 0.60m wide and 0.15m and 0.10m deep respectively, ran closely parallel before converging at the point of junction with [492]. Stratigraphically, all three features appeared to be contemporary. None produced any dating evidence.



Figure 22: Ditches [492/494/496]; intersection; view looking south-west

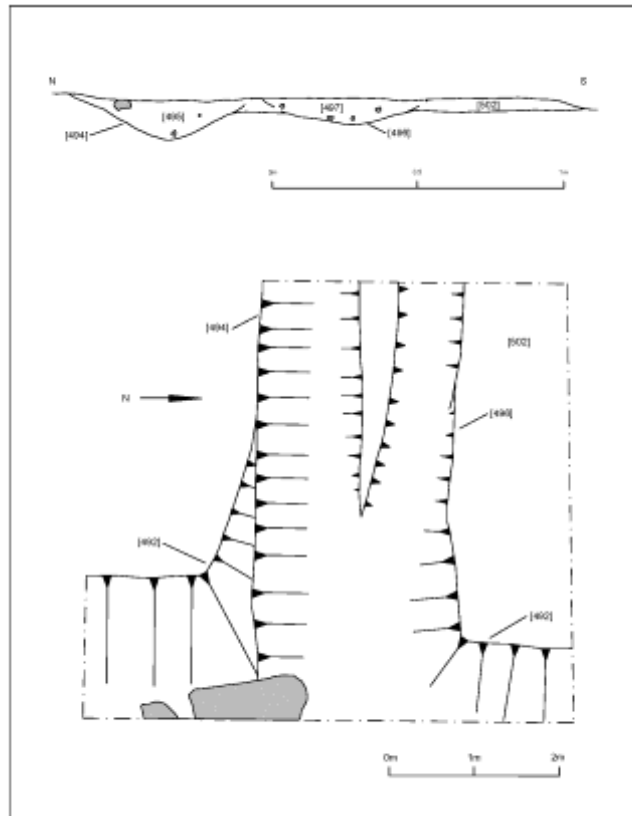


Figure 23: Ditches [492, 494 & 496]; plan & section



Figure 24: Area 3; Photo details of excavated ditches



Figure 25: Excavation in progress, Area 3; view south-west



Figure 26: Rock-cut ditch [620]; view south; 1m scale



Figure 27: Ditch [390]; view north; 1m scale

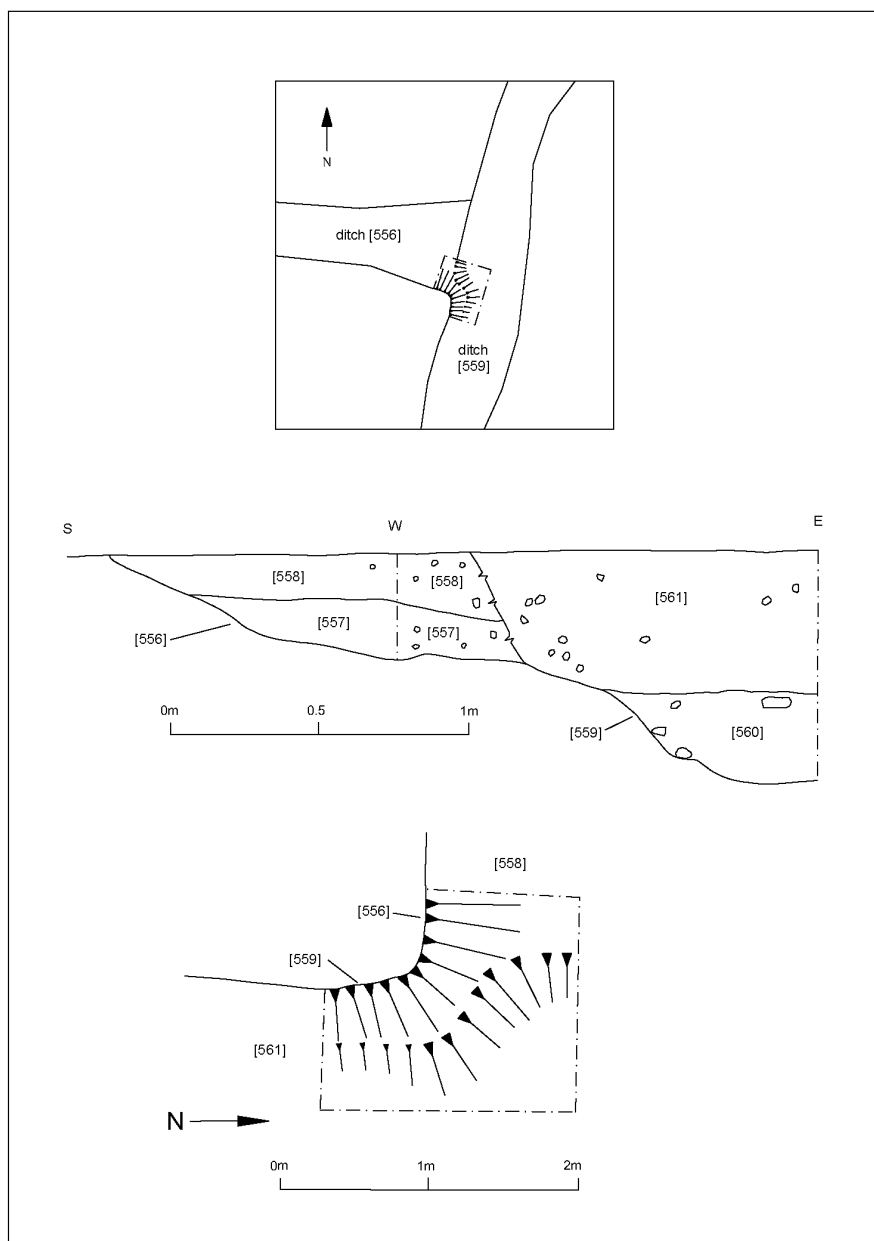


Figure 28: Ditches [556] & [559]

[552]; (551) recut [591]; (590)

Ditch [591] and its recut [552], located in the north-west sector of Area 1, were aligned broadly east-west and likely represent a ditch interconnecting the two major north-south ditches (Figs. 20 & 29). [591] (1.10m x 0.52m with 45° sides to a narrow concave base) had a single fill, (551), which contained abundant limestone rubble. It also produced a substantial amount of pottery, the largest single group from the excavation, totalling over 400 sherds, including from Derbyshire and Black Burnished ware vessels, producing a date within the 2nd century, possibly as early as the middle of the 2nd century. A shallower recut [591] (0.67m wide x 0.19m deep), its base truncated by a modern field drain, contained a single mid grey-brown sandy silt fill (590).

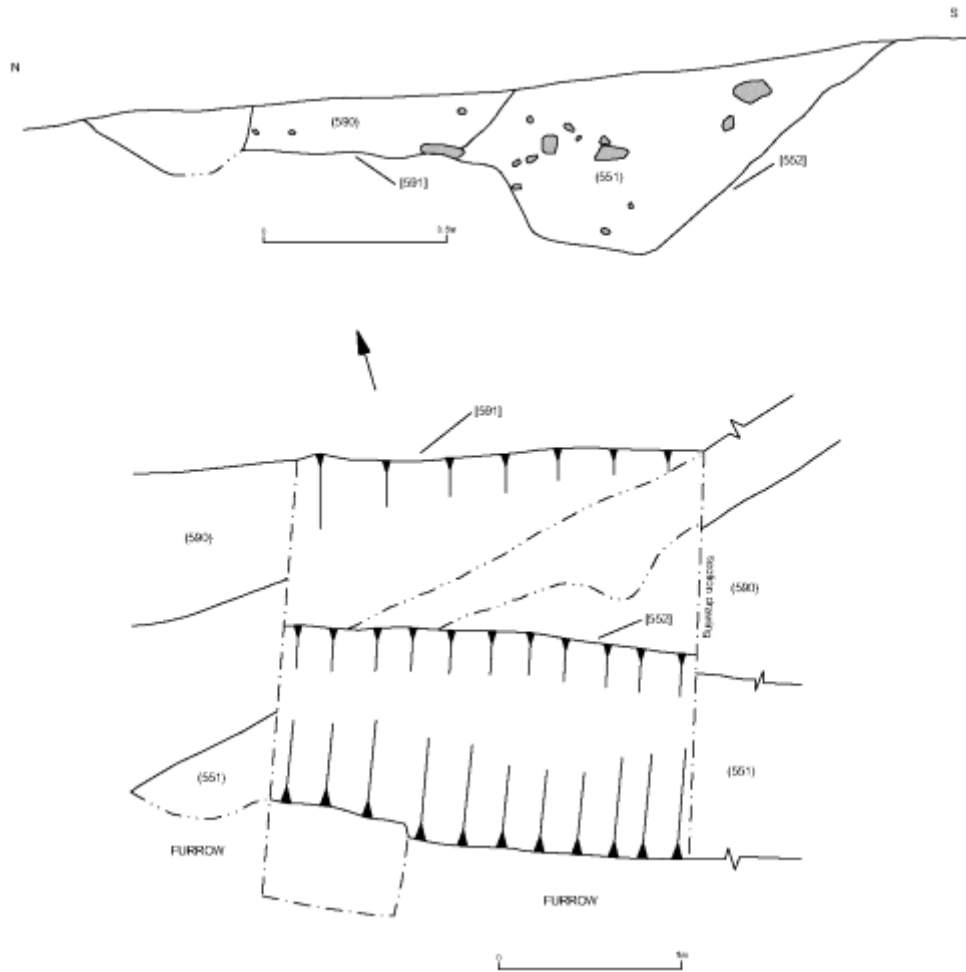


Figure 29: Ditches [552] & [591] intersection

East-west ditch [614]; (623, 615) (Figure 30)

A secondary section opened across the same east-west ditch, revealed a comparable broad, open and shallow v-shaped ditch [614] measuring 2.05m wide and 0.56m deep with 30°-45° sides to a flattish narrow base. A dark greyish brown sandy silt primary fill, (623), was sealed by a light greyish brown sandy silt (615), which produced three fragments of a gritstone rotary quern.

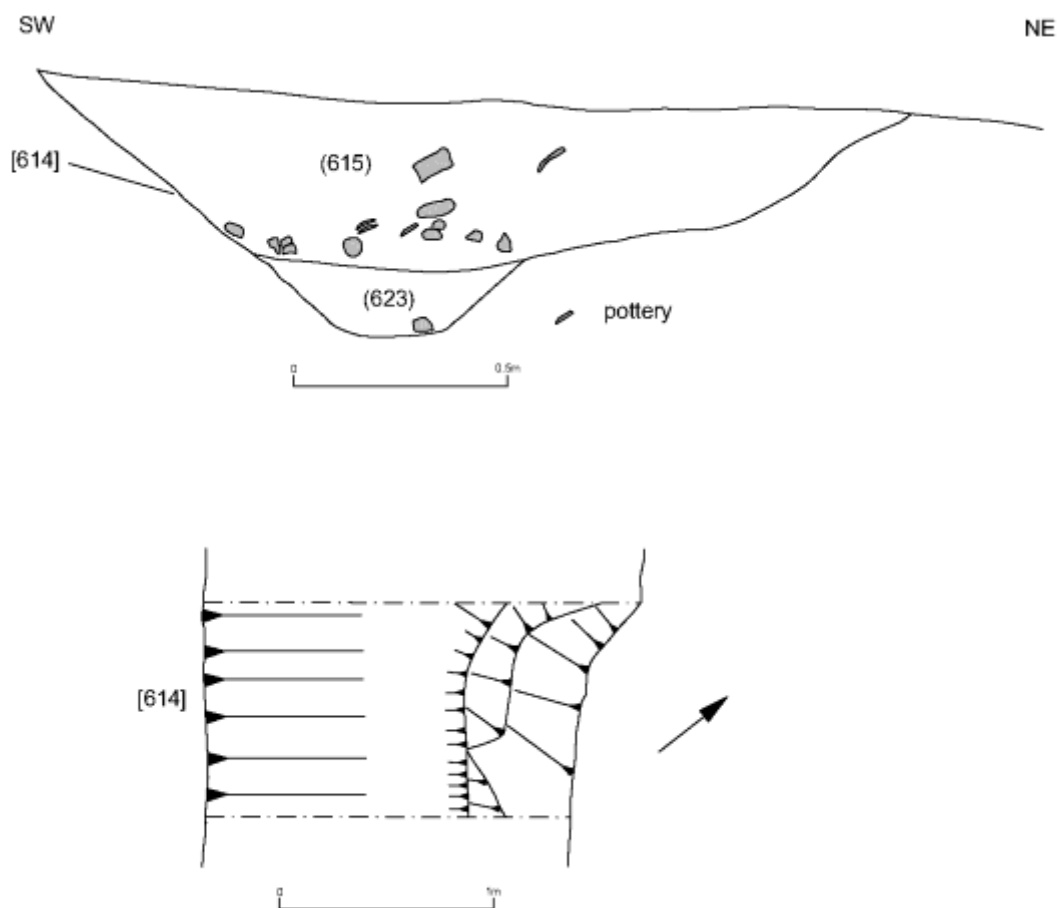


Figure 30: Ditch [614]

Post and Beam-Slot Structure

Late 1st or early 2nd century AD

Beam-slots [277]; (278, 279, 301, 302); [280]; (282), [283]; (284), [296]; (295), [298], (297), [299]; (300), [307]; (306), [311]; (310)

Post-holes [285]; (280, 286), [304]; (303)

?Pit [309]; (308)

Feature [313]; (312)

Associated ditch [328/330]

An ephemeral timber building was represented by several beam-slots, two post-holes and a number of potentially associated features (Figures 31 & 32). The possible building appeared to be defined by shallow, beam-slot-like linear features on its western and southern sides and measured approximately 7m east-west and 5m north-south. It was aligned approximately north-south and possibly comprised two rooms or units. The general area had suffered heavy plough truncation, likely explaining the absence of internal features.

The western beam-slot, [298], (297) measured 3m+ long, 0.5m wide, 0.13m deep, with 45° sides to a concave base. The single fill produced no finds. A second beam-slot [296] (295)/[307] (306) formed a corner with [298] at the latter's southern end and was aligned east-west, measuring 1m+ in length, 0.38m wide and 0.10m deep. The cut sloped 30°-40° to a flat base. The slot produced mid-late 1st century pottery. The slot was crossed on the transverse (north-west to south-east) by a third gully or beam-slot [311] (310) (0.54m wide, 0.08m deep and 10m+ in length). The relationship between the two features could not be ascertained. Sandstone slabs at the base of the beam-slots, initially believed to be packing within the backfill were subsequently identified as part of the underlying natural sandstone outcrop.

The structure appeared to be associated with a parallel gully or small ditch [328] (327)/[330] (329) running east-west to the south and measuring 0.48m deep x 0.22m wide x 12m+ in length and which produced pottery of late 1st or early 2nd century AD date. A small post-hole, [304] (303), 0.20m in diameter and 0.16m deep, cut the northern side of the ditch

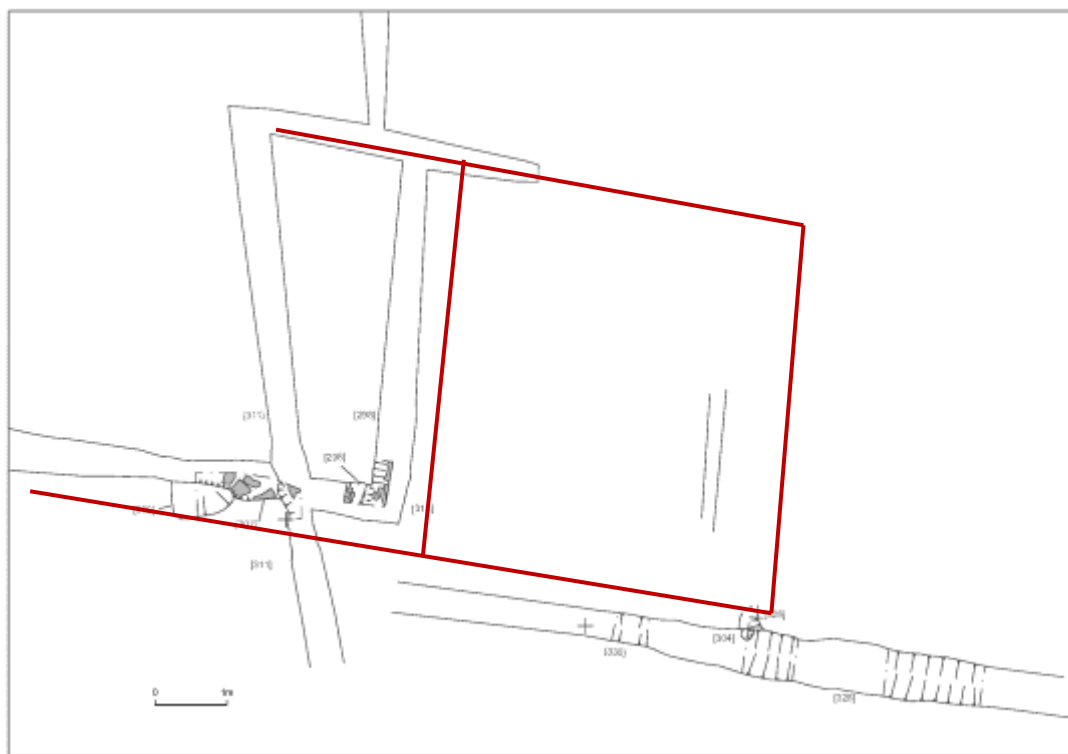


Figure 31: Area 3: possible Romano-British post- and beam-slot-built structure



Figure 32: Detail of possible timber structure; beam-slots [307 & 311]; view west

Hearth

[573]; (583), [596]; (572)

An isolated, undated stone-lined hearth or pit was located at the central southern limit of Area 3 (Figure 33). The sub-circular cut feature, [573], measuring 1.90m x 1.20m x 0.38m deep, had steeply-angled sides and a flat, patchy orange, heat-oxidised base. The backfill was a reddish-brown sandy clay containing abundant charcoal flecks and sandstone fragments (583). A subsequent recut of the feature, [596], had been backfilled with heat-cracked flint pebbles in a grey-brown sandy silt matrix (572) containing a small quantity of charred wheat and barley. The feature likely represented a hearth or else shallow pit into which hearth or fire waste had been emptied. Pottery dating indicated that the feature had gone out of use by the mid-2nd century.



Figure 33: Hearth/pit [573]; 1m scale

Phase D: Roman Quarry Pit and Associated Ditch (*Mid-3rd century*)

Quarry Pit and Ditch

(AD150-250+)

Quarry pit [274]; (272, 273, 275, 276, 386)

Ditch [271]; (269, 270)

A sub-circular pit, [274], was located adjacent to an east-west aligned ditch, [296], *c.*20m south-east of the later-dated possible timber and post-hole structure on the eastern limit of excavation (Figs. 34-37).

The pit, measuring *c.*2.70m in diameter, 0.80m deep and 45° to a flat base, contained substantial quantities of sandstone rubble in its backfill, suggesting its having functioned as a quarry pit. The highly organic dark grey/black silty clay primary fill (386) may represent a natural silting-up of the feature prior to its deliberate backfilling. The overlying fills produced a substantial assemblage of pottery, including mortaria and samian ware sherds, dating to AD 150-250+.

The pit was cut on its southern side by a ditch, [271], aligned east-west, measuring 0.98m wide and 0.35m deep, with an open v-shaped profile. The uppermost of the two brownish-grey silty clays fills, (269), contained substantial quantities of Roman pottery dating to AD 250 onwards, suggesting that the ditch may have been an open feature contemporary with the backfilling of the quarry pit.



Figure 34: Excavation of ditch [271] and quarry pits, Area 1



Figure 35: Quarry pit [274] and ditch [271], Area 1; view west

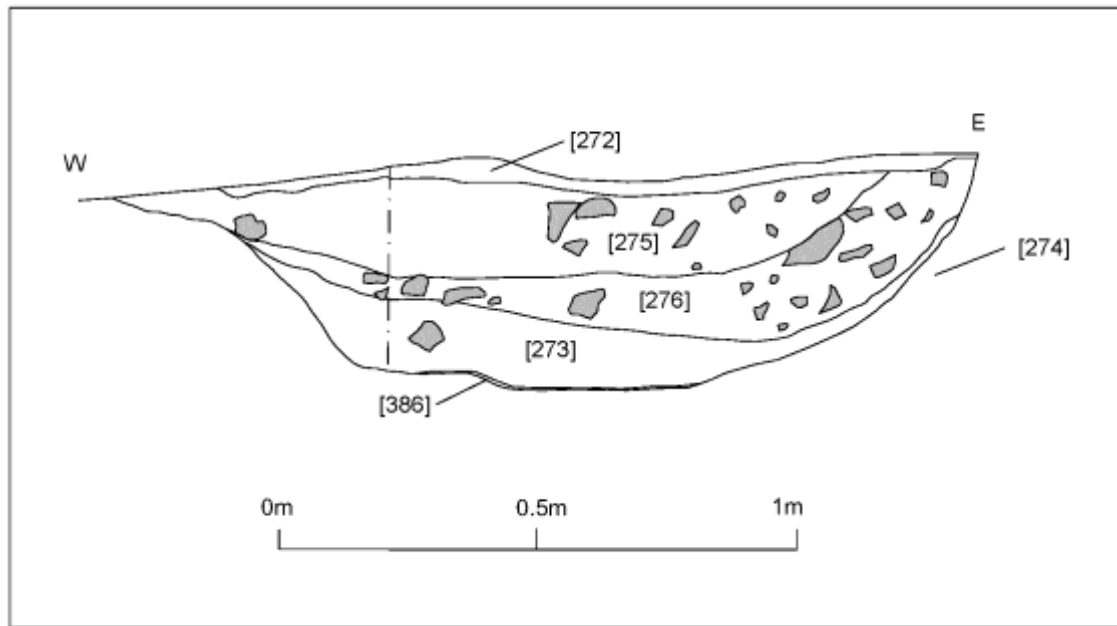


Figure 36: Quarry pit [274]; south-facing section

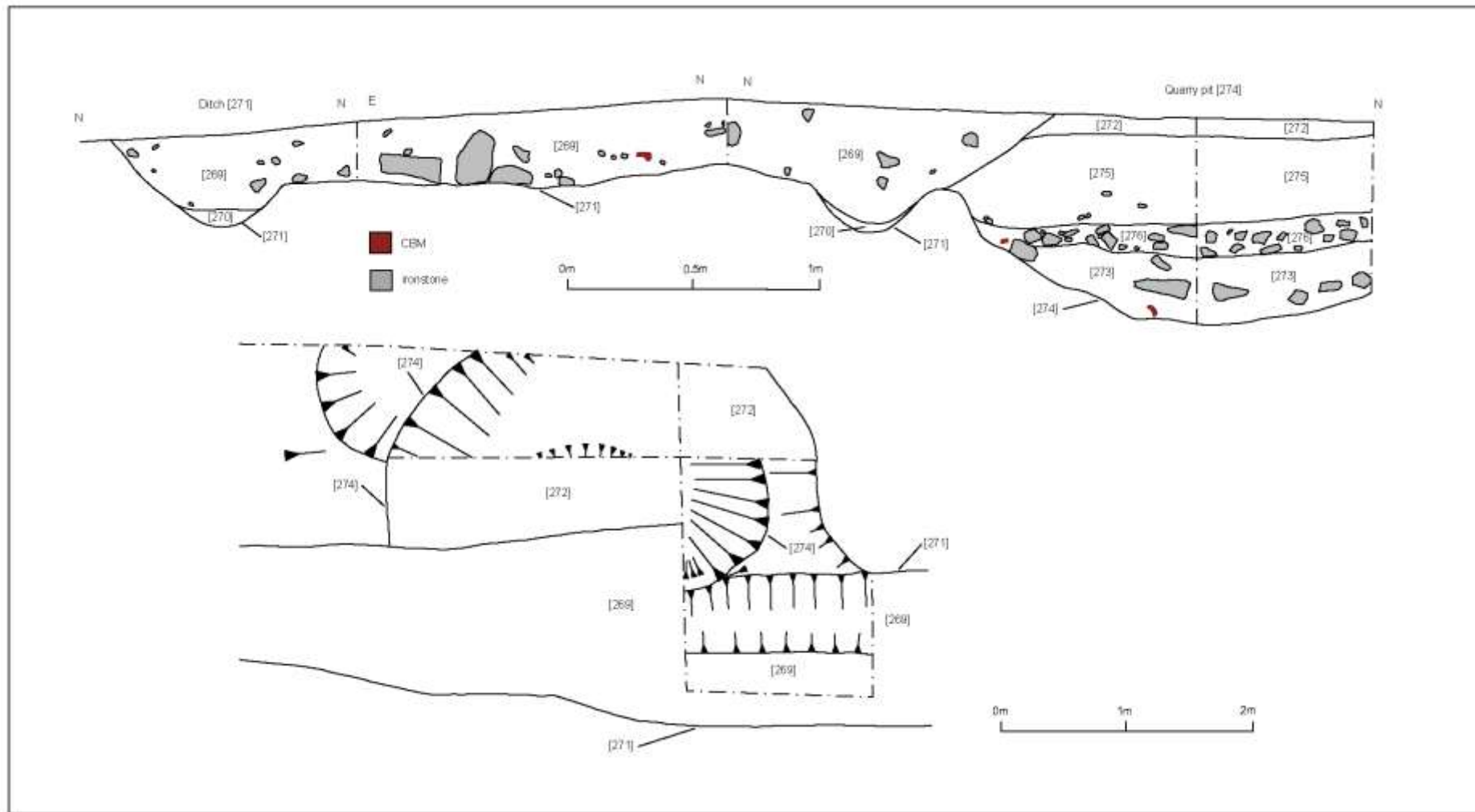


Figure 37: Ditch [271] & quarry pit [274]; plan & section

Area 4

Subsequent to the main excavation of 2011, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on a small area (Area 4) measuring 40m x 15m (620m²) centred on SK 43518 27648 (Figure 38). The area was machine stripped of topsoil and subsoil between 9th-10th January 2013 and centred on evaluation Trenches 40 and 42 in order to target a potential ditch and gully (Coward 2010). In addition, Anglo-Saxon features had been observed in a field a short distance to the west beyond the site boundary (Coward 2003).

Topsoil consisted of a dark blackish-brown loam former plough soil, *c.*0.25m deep. Very little subsoil was observed, more closely resembling a thin (*c.*0.1m) mix of topsoil and natural substratum. The natural substratum consisted of pinkish/red clay with patches of ironstone. Five east-west orientated furrows were located, spaced every 6m-8m, each *c.*1.5m wide, which corresponded with a furrow in Trench 42, geophysical anomalies, and a 'ditch' [25] in Trench 40, now seen to be a furrow (Figure 39). No further archaeological deposits or finds were encountered. Due to the lack of significant archaeological features, Richard Clarke (LCC County Archaeologist) agreed that the area-strip was sufficient, with no requirement to machine further east to the area of Trench 42.



Figure 38: Areas 4 and 5 location plan

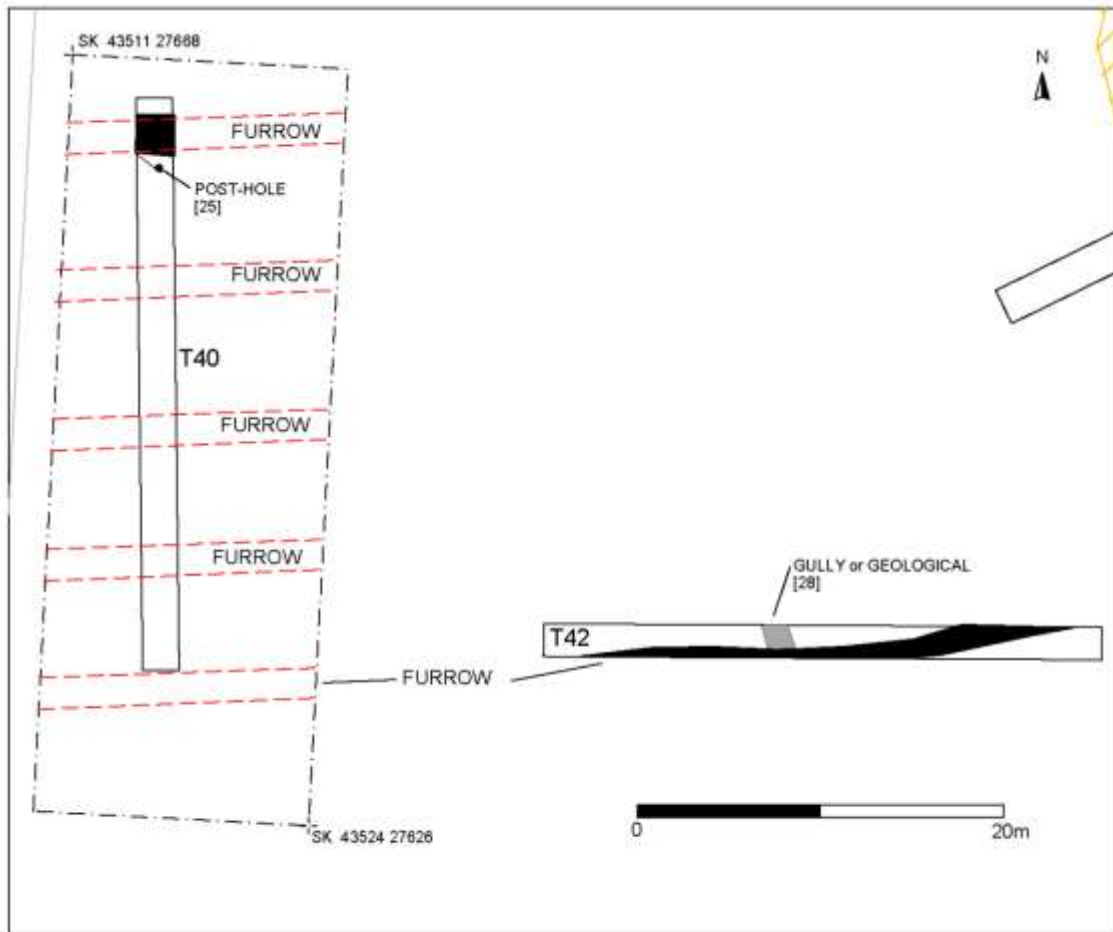


Figure 39: Plan of Area 4



Figure 40: Area 4, view SW, 1m scale



Figure 41: Area 4, view N, 1m scale

Area 5

A further supervised strip was carried out on Area 5 on 20th August 2014. Area 5 had previously been used to dump spoil from other areas and so could not be accessed until this time. Unfortunately, the south-west corner of the area had been used to dump stone and could not be accessed. Also, development was ongoing and a new house foundation (Plot 90) was being excavated at the time of the site visit on the northern part of the site, further reducing the area of the site that could be excavated.

The area was also being used as a thoroughfare to the development on the northern part of the site and so the remaining parts of Area 5 that could be accessed had to be excavated in sections.

Excavation was first undertaken at the eastern end of the area (Figure 42). It was clear at once that the area here had been heavily truncated by previous stripping and little of the upper soils were left. The upper layer largely consisted of natural sandy clay that had been heavily compacted by machinery. The tracked excavator could barely scratch the surface of the area but an attempt was made to excavate a trench measuring 10m by 2m at least to evaluate the area. This was accomplished and showed that no upper soils were extant on this part of the site and no archaeological remains were encountered.

Work then proceeded to the western side of the site where there appeared to be some soil left. An area around 15m by 10m was excavated in two sections.

This showed that 0.15m of sandy silt subsoil lay over the ironstone and clay. No archaeological features were encountered.

A section of the foundations for Plot 90 were observed during the archaeological visit. These also showed that the upper soils been largely no longer present.



Figure 42: Stripped area on eastern side of Area 5, looking south-east



Figure 43: Stripped area on western side of Area 5, looking south



Figure 44: Excavated foundation trenches, Plot 90, showing lack of upper soils, looking north-east

7. The Prehistoric Lithics*Lynden Cooper*

Table 2 The lithics

Context	Description
Unstrat	Group VI (?) ground axe fragment, butt with side facets ‘Slug’ plano-convex knife. Wear shows it as a curated item. Broken corner shows heavy wear from use as a strike-a-light. Core fragment Retouched flake Flake
(102)	Core on flake Combination tool, end-scraper and knife. Large dark brown flake – East Anglian(?). Scraper, Wolds flint 11 x chips
(102)	bladelet Flake knife Serrated blade fragment Scraper, Wolds flint, crude 6 x flakes
(153)	blade
(190)	retouched blade fragment
(261)	fire cracked quartzite pebble 3 x flakes
(370)	flake fragment blade fragment
(405)	notched flake
(454)	flake fragment
(538)	bladelet (patinated)
(589)	flake crested bladelet

Discussion

The assemblage from Park Lane, Castle Donington comprised some 42 lithics, consisting of 40 worked flints, a polished stone axe and a quartzite pebble. The majority of the material is derived from local deposits, namely dark grey brown semi-translucent flint nodules).

The material from context (102), pit [101] appears to be a placed deposit having an overall good condition, including micro-debitage and a ‘special’ deposit of the

combination tool (Figure 45). The latter may hint at a late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date.

The remaining stratified flints were residual in Romano-British features. These are mostly of a Neolithic-Bronze Age date with the bladelets perhaps representing a minimal Mesolithic component.

The unstratified Neolithic ground axe butt (Figure 46) resembles Group VI types.

The unstratified 'slug' knife is of very fine quality and artisanship (Figure 47). Given the location close to the Bronze Age cremation cemetery, it is possible that this was once a grave good. Such examples are often found in Early Bronze Age Beaker burials. It is of Kinnes Phase D type with his suggested date range of 3000-2500 BC (Kinnes 1979).



Figure 45: Flint combination tool



Figure 46: Ground axe butt



Figure 47: 'Slug' knife

8. The Neolithic and Bronze Age Pottery *Nicholas J. Cooper*

Introduction

Earlier prehistoric pottery was recovered from three areas; two pits of possible Neolithic date towards the southern edge of the site, the Bronze Age pit alignment, and the Early Bronze Age cremation cemetery.

Method

The assemblage has been analysed by form and fabric using low power microscopy and with reference to an evolving Leicestershire Prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 2011; Marsden *et al.* 2009; Allen 2008).

Neolithic Pottery from the pits

Pit [101] (102) along the southern limit of excavation, which also contained flint tools including a scraper, yielded a small assemblage of 12 body sherds (30g). Four of these are in Fabric Q5, the distinctive, angular white pebble-quartz tempered fabric (inclusions up to 5mm) used in Neolithic traditions such as Carinated Bowl and Peterborough Ware in this part of the Trent Valley, to neither of which does this conclusively belong as no decoration, form or surface treatment is apparent. The fabric is also used for pottery in the Iron Age but it is usually with finer inclusions than these. The other eight sherds are in a fine sandy handmade fabric (Q1), all from the same vessel in a light grey fabric with a grey buff external surface.

Pit [104] (103) produced a small decorated rim sherd in Fabric Q5 (Figure. 48c). The rim is upright, flat and has been rolled over on the inside. The external surface and top of the rim are decorated with dense rows of oblique stab marks perhaps in imitation of basketry. This would appear to belong to the Neolithic impressed ware tradition but is not immediately attributable to any of the Peterborough Ware styles.

Early Bronze Age Collared Urns from the cremation cemetery

The line of cremation burials, located a short distance south of the eastern end of the pit alignment, yielded four vessels in varying states of preservation due to disturbance.

Vessel 1 (146) [145] (Figure 48a)

This vessel lay on its side and the area closest to the surface was truncated. It was considered to have been disturbed from its original pit and re-deposited. It was lifted entire with contents but during drying the vessel fragmented into 26 joining sherds (485g), now reconstructed. Rim diameter 130mm; 0.55 EVE, height 125mm, base diameter 80mm, body thickness 5-7mm. Manufactured by coiling in a grog-tempered fabric (G) without any additional sand, the external surface is oxidised buff-orange with patches of grey sooting in the form of fire clouds probably caused by direct contact of fuel with the surface. The internal surface, margins and core are dark grey, due to insufficient burnout of carbon, and indicating a short firing duration. The form is tri-partite with an undecorated lower zone giving way to a decorated cavetto middle zone above the waist, and a decorated collared rim with a flat top. The decoration is

composed entirely of incised lines forming a continuous band of herring bone around each of the upper zones with intermittent transverse slashes across the flat rim.

This relatively small vessel shares its style of decoration with a much larger vessel recently excavated over the Staffordshire border at Uttoxeter (Cooper 2011, Cremation 2) and another from Coneygre Farm in the Trent Valley at Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire (Allen *et al.* 1987, 192, Figure 10.54).

Vessel 2 (148), (154) [149] and U/S

Adjacent to the location of Vessel 1 was cremation pit [149] the fills of which contained the fragmentary remains of another small Collared Urn predominantly from lower fill (148), which contained 19 sherds (200g), but with four joining sherds (15g) from (154) and three unstratified (15g). Four of the sherds from (148) including the complete base together with the three unstratified sherds are vitrified indicating that after its initial breakage part of the vessel was incorporated into a fire with temperatures approaching 900 or 1000 degrees C, before being re-incorporated with the other sherds. The vessel remains comprise a complete base 85mm in diameter and then a series of joining body sherds with a carination, decorated with impressed 'maggots', arranged in a herringbone pattern horizontally either side of the angle, which presumably represents the waist. The herring bone pattern continues up the neck towards the collared rim which is also decorated with a herringbone pattern of impressed 'maggots', which has an internally bevelled rim decorated with a line of 'maggots' set obliquely. The diameter is 160mm (0.18 EVE). The vessel is of similar size to Vessel 1 but perhaps with a height of about 150mm. Vessel thickness 7mm. The vessel is coil-built in a fine grog-tempered fabric (G) with oxidised buff-orange external surface and margin, and core, internal margin and surface dark grey due to insufficient burnout of carbon. The re-fired sherds have a largely reduced light grey surface all over and across breaks with patches of orange.

In terms of decoration, the closest parallel is a vessel from Cossington with an associated C14 date of 1880-1630 cal BC (SUERC 11276) (Allen 2008, 30, Figure 33.9).

Vessel 3 (156) Figure 48b

This vessel was inverted in the cremation pit and therefore the base and lower part of the vessel was truncated, exposing the cremated bone it contained. The urn was lifted with its contents but during drying and excavation of the contents the vessel fragmented into 60 sherds (1140g). The rim is all present (diameter 170mm), along with the upper part of the body which extends below the waist giving a preserved height of 135mm (which may increase if fully reconstructed. Body thickness is 8-10mm. The vessel is coil-built in a grog-tempered fabric (G). The external surface and margin is oxidised buff whilst the core, external margin and surface are grey due to insufficient burn out of carbonaceous material during a short firing, except around the mouth of the vessel where the surface is oxidised. The vessel is tri-partite in form, the lower part below the waist being undecorated, although it has been smoothed. Above the waist and below the collar there are three continuous horizontal lines for twisted cord decoration, evenly spaced about 10mm apart. On the collar, these twisted cord

lines are more densely spaced every 4-5mm, and there are nine in total. The inside of the rim is in-sloping and decorated with three twisted cord lines 3mm apart.

Twisted cord decoration is known on other Collared Urns in Leicestershire, including two examples from Cossington, higher up the Soar Valley, both of which are tripartite forms with the necks and collars decorated. The first had whipped cord impressions in the form of 'maggots' and has an associated C14 date of 1880-1630 cal BC (SUERC 11276) (Allen 2008, 30, Figure33.9) whilst the other has horizontal and vertical 'strings' with oblique lengths between, as well as an in-sloping or bevelled rim (Allen 2008, 30, Figure33.9). Whipped cord also occurs on a number of the other Early Bronze Age cremation urns with bevelled rims from Cossington Barrows, again with associated C14 dates in the 18th to 16th centuries BC (Allen 2008, 30-1, Table 2 and Figure33.10-12 and Figure34.13-17).

Vessel 4 (153) [152]

A total of 13 sherds (165g) belonging to the base and lower body of another Collared Urn was recovered from what was considered to be a fourth, disturbed cremation. The base has a diameter of 75mm. Body thickness is 6mm. The vessel is hand-made in a sandy clay fabric (Q1) with rounded quartz sand inclusions of 0.1mm-0.5mm. The external surface and margin are oxidised orange and the core, internal margin and surface are grey. The form is uncertain but the occurrence of a single sherd with a carination (presumably from the waist) and a concave sided sherd with two oblique angled 'maggot' impressions from the neck, suggests it is likely to be a collared urn.

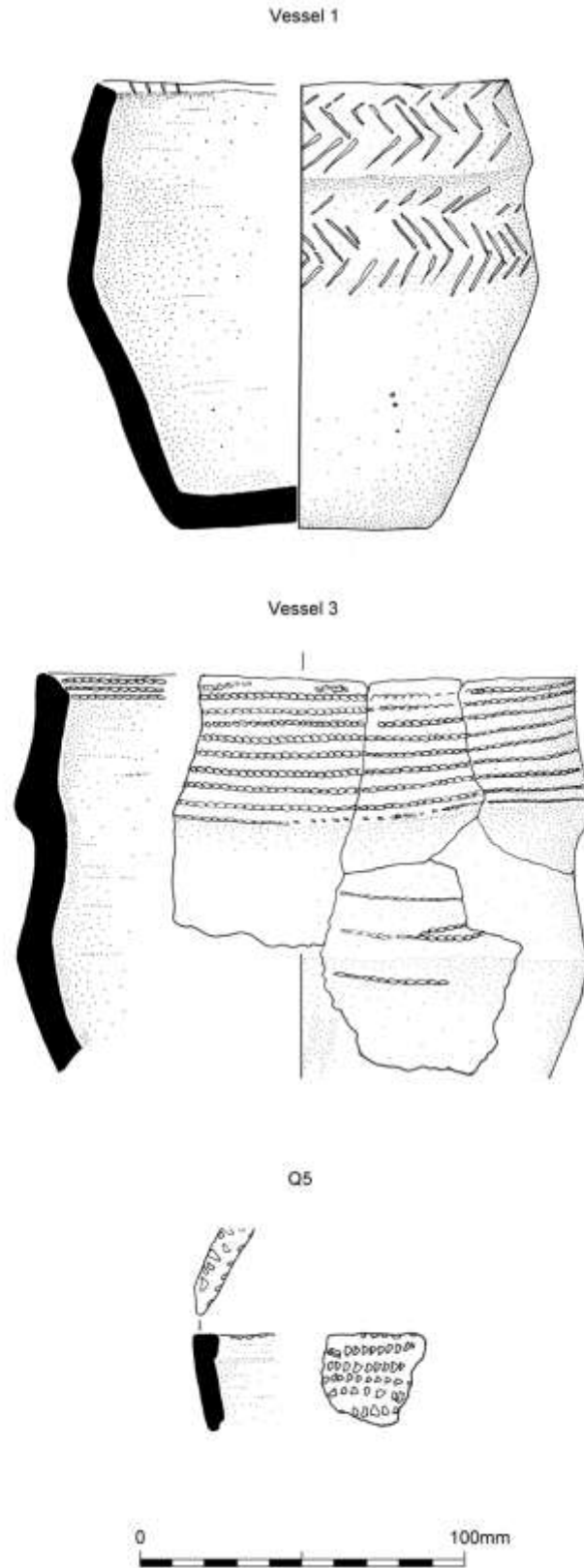


Figure 48: Pottery illustrations (a: Bronze Age Vessel 1; b: Bronze Age Vessel 3; c: Neolithic Vessel from pit)

Pottery from the Pit Alignment

Two pits yielded pottery. Fill (161) contained two very abraded sherds (5g), in a coarse sandy/quartz fabric (Q4), which could be Middle- Late Bronze Age in date but not conclusively. Fill (201) of pit [200] contained a small group of 13 body sherds (20g) all from the same vessel and in good condition. The fabric contains angular white quartz (Q5) up to 3mm and the vessel is well-made with a lightly burnished external surface and a vessel thickness of 6mm. The only prehistoric tradition it resembles is Early Neolithic Carinated Bowl from the first half of the Fourth Millennium BC, of which there was a large assemblage excavated at Rothley Temple Grange (Cooper forthcoming), but this would not appear to fit the anticipated dating of the alignment, and so a later date is likely.

9. The Iron Age and Roman Pottery

Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage Size and Condition

An assemblage comprising 95 sherds of Iron Age pottery weighing 0.761kg with an EVEs value of 0.84, and 1755 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 16.099kg with an EVEs value of 18.355, was retrieved from the excavations. Average sherd weights of 8g and 9.2g respectively suggest average levels of preservation, with many small and abraded sherds present.

Methodology

The pottery was examined in hand specimen using a binocular microscope at x15 magnification and classified using the Leicestershire fabric series for prehistoric and Roman pottery, along with additions from the Derbyshire fabric series as appropriate (Pollard 1994; Leary 2001a; Marsden 2011). When identifying the Roman pottery, specific fabrics were assigned to all sherds wherever possible within the archive dataset, however, in this report the generic ware groups summarised in Table 4 below are used for clarity of quantified data presentation.

Table 3: Summary of prehistoric pottery fabric series (Leary 2001a; Marsden 2011).

Fabric	Description
<i>Sandy</i> Q1 <i>Quartz sand</i>	Common to abundant sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm)
<i>Quartz</i> Q4 <i>Sandy fabric with quartz</i>	Common to abundant sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm) and rare to sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz (probable pebble source, 0.5–5mm, occasionally larger, up to 10mm)
<i>Granitic rock</i> R2 <i>Sandy fabric with Granitic rock</i>	Common to abundant sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25m-1mm) and moderate to common mostly sub-angular (occasionally angular and sub-rounded) granitic rock inclusions (0.5-4mm).
<i>Shell-tempered</i> S2 <i>Sandy fabric with shell</i>	Moderate to very common shell or platy voids (1-5mm), common to very common sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm)

Grog-tempered G1 <i>Grog in shelly and sandy fabric</i>	Shelly and sandy fabric (similar to S2) with sparse rounded grog (c.0.2-0.5mm).
G2 <i>Grog in sandy fabric</i>	Sandy fabric (similar to Q1) with rare rounded grog (0.5-2mm).
MM1B (Derbyshire fabric series)	Orange-buff-brown surface with darker core. Hard with bumpy, rather leathery feel and irregular fracture. Moderate, ill-sorted, coarse to fine, sub-angular to sub-rounded orange-brown and grey argillaceous inclusions; moderate, well-sorted, medium-sized sub-angular quartz. Rare, ill-sorted fine to coarse, laminar or rhomboidal vesicles.

Table 4: Summary of Roman pottery fabric series (Pollard 1994; Leary 2001a)

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:	Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
Samian	Samian wares	BB1	Black Burnished wares
C	Colour-coated wares	TVW	Trent Valley wares
WW	White wares	CG	Calcite gritted (shelly)
OW	Oxidised wares	SW	Sandy wares
OAC1	“Pre-Derbyshire” ware	GW	Grey wares
DS	Derbyshire wares	GT	Grog-tempered wares
MO	Mortaria	MG	Mixed-gritted wares

Quantification was by sherd count, weight (grams) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rim values). Average sherd weights (ASW) have also been calculated to provide an indication of the condition of the material and levels of preservation within the assemblage. Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Museums form series and other published typologies. The dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

The Iron Age Pottery

The table and chart below detail a summary of the pottery fabrics within the assemblage as a whole. Figure 49 illustrates the percentage of fabrics present by sherd count, whilst weight is shown to enable comparison with other published sites.

Table 5: Quantification of the Iron Age pottery.

Fabric	Sherds	% Sherds	Weight (g)	% Weight	EVEs	% EVEs	ASW (g)
G1	7	7.4%	54	7.1%	0.1	11.9%	7.7
G2	11	11.6%	42	5.5%		0.0%	3.8
Q1	27	28.4%	81	10.6%		0.0%	3.0
Q4	11	11.6%	61	8.0%		0.0%	5.5
R2	4	4.2%	18	2.4%		0.0%	4.5
S2	20	21.1%	301	39.6%	0.64	76.2%	15.1
MM1B	15	15.8%	204	26.8%	0.1	11.9%	13.6
Total	95	100.0%	761	100.0%	0.84	100.0%	8.0

The assemblage is dominated by fabrics with grog/argillaceous inclusions or shell-tempered wares, which form 39.4% and 39.6% by weight respectively. This is followed by quartz sandy ware at 10.6%, with pebble quartz (8%) and granitic rock (2.4%) fabrics forming the two smallest groups. This is unusual for an Iron Age

assemblage in this part of the East Midlands, as either granitic rock or pebble quartz fabrics tend to be dominant, with shell-tempered wares and fabrics with argillaceous inclusions forming minor components (Johnson 2011, 71-74). The identifiable forms are ovoid jars with inturned rims and 11 sherds are scored, suggesting the material fits broadly within the East Midlands Scored ware tradition. Scored wares generally date from the middle to late Iron Age, and are believed to continue well into the 1st century AD in rural areas along the Trent and Soar Valleys of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (Elsdon 1992, 83-89). The continuation of this tradition into the first half of the 1st century AD may be an explanation for the quantities of shell-tempered and grog/argillaceous fabrics in this group, as transitional Late Iron Age-Early Roman fabrics are often shell or grog-tempered. The interesting point here is that the forms are clearly Iron Age and the vessels are hand-made. It is possible the material dates to the very late Iron Age during the first half of the 1st century AD, with fabrics more akin to transitional and early Roman fabrics of the mid-1st century.

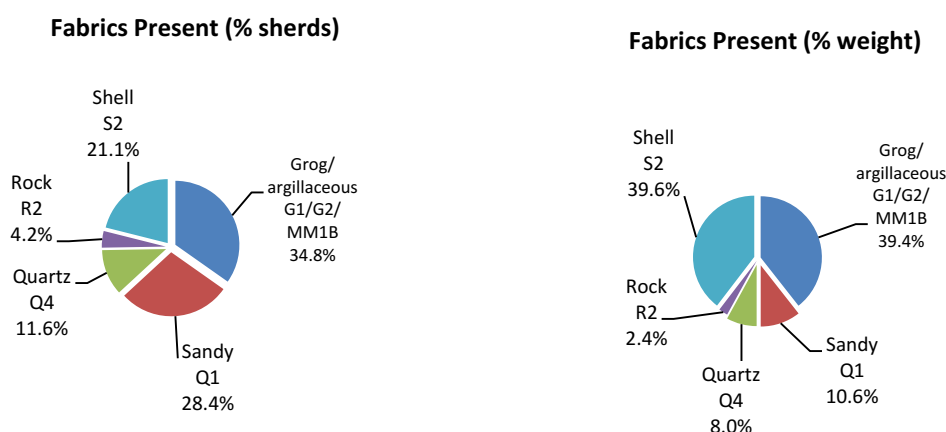


Figure 49: Iron Age pottery fabrics present by % sherds and weight.

The Roman Pottery

Table 6 below details a summary of the major pottery fabrics within the assemblage as a whole. Figure 50 shows the percentage of fabrics present by EVEs as a measure of individual vessels identified, whilst sherd count is shown to enable comparison with other published sites. All references to percentage values relate to sherd count unless otherwise stated.

Table 6: Quantification of the Roman pottery.

Fabric	Sherds	% Sherds	Weight (g)	% Weight	EVEs	% EVEs	ASW (g)
BB1	131	7.5%	727	4.5%	1.085	5.9%	5.5
C	5	0.3%	8	0.0%	0	0.0%	1.6
CG	171	9.7%	1314	8.2%	1.51	8.2%	7.7
DS	99	5.6%	1168	7.3%	1.275	6.9%	11.8
GT	8	0.5%	84	0.5%	0	0.0%	10.5
GW	972	55.4%	9435	58.6%	11.78	64.2%	9.7

MG	2	0.1%	9	0.1%	0	0.0%	4.5
MO	29	1.7%	974	6.1%	0.52	2.8%	33.6
OAC1	4	0.2%	24	0.1%	0.2	1.1%	6.0
OW	85	4.8%	518	3.2%	0.55	3.0%	6.1
Sam	10	0.6%	223	1.4%	0.225	1.2%	22.3
SW	193	11.0%	1061	6.6%	0.2	1.1%	5.5
TVW	15	0.9%	130	0.8%	0.05	0.3%	8.7
WW	31	1.8%	424	2.6%	0.96	5.2%	13.7
Total	1755	100.0%	16099	100.0%	18.355	100.0%	9.2

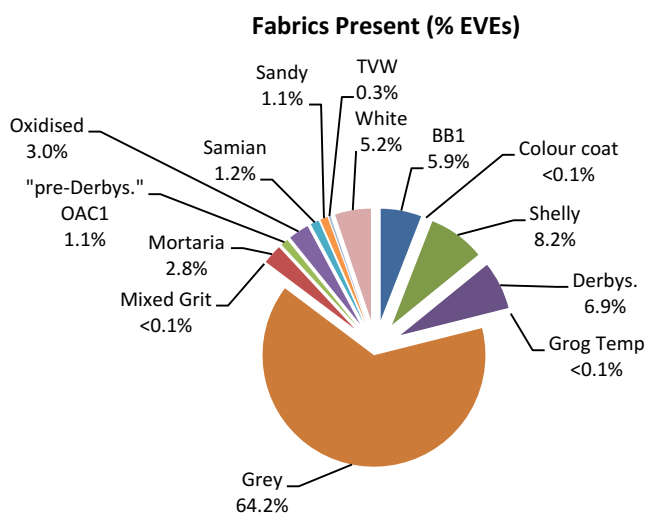
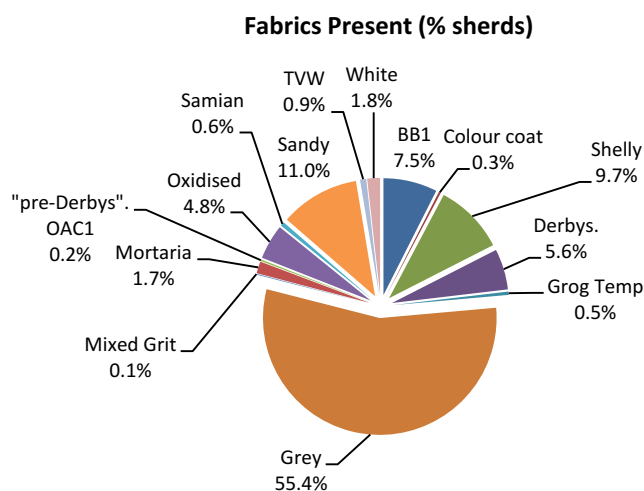


Figure 50: Roman pottery fabrics present by % sherds and EVEs.

Grey, shelly, sandy, mixed-gritted and grog-tempered coarse wares account for 76.7%, with grey wares dominant at 55.4%. The majority of these are most likely locally made and predominantly provide the utilitarian jars and bowls for general household use. The sandy, mixed-gritted and grog-tempered wares are sometimes known as “transitional” fabrics and date within the 1st century (Pollard 1994, 74-75). The grog-tempered and mixed-gritted wares are jars, with the exception of one fine grog-tempered beaker dating to the mid-1st century. The sandy wares comprise jars and bowls including carinated and cordoned Belgic style vessels dating to the mid-1st

century. Only two rims are present, a fine lid-seated form and necked carinated jar, both dating to the mid-1st century. Other decoration present includes rustication and fine combing again suggesting a mid-1st or mid-late 1st century date. Trent Valley ware was found in two contexts, (405) and (583), and is a transitional fabric local to the Trent Valley area dating to the mid-late 1st century. The single rim is from a roll-necked jar comparable to other mid-late 1st century coarse wares (Todd 1968a). The shelly wares are almost all jars including roll-necked and ledge rimmed forms, many with combed decoration typical of the mid-late 1st and 2nd centuries. One dish was recovered from (276). The vessel is shallow with a flat rim and fine ribbing on the outer surface. Overall the shelly wares are not in a good condition, with many severely abraded sherds. The range of grey wares comprises a variety of jars, dishes, bowls, beakers and a lid. Jars are the dominant vessel type accounting for 82.8%. The forms present include carinated and s-shaped jars and bowls with rounded rims and cordons, along with roll-necked and everted rimmed jars with roulette, rusticated and lattice decoration dating to the first and second centuries. Only two vessels can be clearly dated to the 3rd century. A jar with a frilled rim comparable to later East Midlands Burnished type wares was recovered from [485] (486) (Todd 1968b), whilst a bead and flanged bowl dating from *c.*AD250 onwards was found in [614] (615) (Pollard 1986, 5). A small quantity (14 sherds) of grey ware is comparable to the BSA2 Derby fabric (Leary 2001a), suggesting the sources of pottery to the site include the Trent Valley to the north.

The remaining coarse wares indicate regional pottery supply to the site. The Black Burnished wares comprise a range of jars and bowls dating from the middle of the 2nd century through to the 3rd (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991). The proportion of Derbyshire ware at 5.6% is relatively high for a Leicestershire site which could be explained by the proximity of Castle Donington to the Derbyshire border. Similarly, at Lockington, also situated in North Leicestershire close to the Derbyshire border, Derbyshire ware constituted 6.1% of the assemblage. However, the quantity is still low compared to sites in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, where Derbyshire ware is the dominant coarse ware often overtaking grey ware. For example, at Barrow-on-Trent in Nottinghamshire (Leary 2001b), Derbyshire ware accounted for 52% of the coarse wares and at Little Chester in Derby, it accounted for 24.5% (Johnson 2008). This compares to 0.35% Derbyshire ware at the Vine Street excavations in the centre of Leicester (Johnson 2009). The vessels are all jars and although there is one rounded rim, most are the ledge or cupped rimmed types. Derbyshire ware production commences around the middle of the 2nd century and continues into the 4th century (Leary 2001a, 120; Sparey-Green 2002, 152-154). Four sherds of “pre-Derbyshire” ware dating to the mid-late 2nd century were recovered from [274] (273) and [552] (551) (Brassington 1971, 59-60; 1980, 33; Leary 2001a, 100). There are very few white wares, most of which are flagons dating to the later 1st and 2nd centuries, though there is one globular beaker from [552] (551). The oxidised wares comprise a range of jars, bowls and beakers. As with the grey wares, the prevalent forms are carinated and cordoned vessels with everted and rounded rims suggesting a 1st or 2nd century date. Some of these have a distinctly Belgic style including a corrugated jar dating to the mid-1st century from [318] (319). The beakers include vessels with roulette decoration dating within the 2nd century (Pollard 1994, 77-79). Possible sources for the oxidised and white wares are Mancetter-Hartshill and Northamptonshire, though the kilns producing Derbyshire ware such as those at Little

Chester, also produced grey and oxidised wares (Brassington, 1971; Swan 1984, 98-101; Pollard 1994, 113-114).

Fine wares account for just 0.9% of the assemblage and comprise a mixture of imported Gaulish Samian ware and Romano-British colour-coated wares. Samian ware accounts for 0.6% (1.2% EVEs) and comprises tablewares (dishes, cups and bowls), typical of the 1st and 2nd centuries (Webster 1996). Only five sherds (8g) of colour-coated fine ware were recovered from the site, all of which are Nene Valley colour-coated ware beakers dating to the later 2nd-early 3rd century (Howe *et al* 1980, 16-25). No rims were present but one sherd had roulette decoration. All of the mortaria are from Mancetter-Hartshill, most of which probably date with the 2nd century, though one example from (269) dates from the mid-2nd century to the early 3rd. No amphorae sherds were recovered from the site.

Stratified Features

Area 1

Pit Alignment

[139] (140); [183] (184); [189] (190).

Nine sherds (32g) of mid-late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the Pit Alignment within Area 1. The fabrics present comprise Q4 pebble quartz and Q1 sandy ware. A jar base from (140) was the most substantial element, as the material from (184) and (190) was fragmentary.

Ring Ditch

[196] (195), (207), (212), (213), (214).

A mixture of mid-late Iron Age and early Roman pottery was recovered from the Ring Ditch. Eight sherds (32g) of mid-late Iron Age pottery were recovered from (213) and (214), comprising R2 rock-tempered and Q4 pebble quartz fabrics. The other contexts contained mid-1st century transitional Roman pottery, comprising nine sherds (34g) of grog-tempered and sandy ware. A single sherd from a grog-tempered jar from (195) accounts for 24g, whilst the sandy ware is fragmentary and not identifiable to form.

Post-hole

[106] (105)

One sherd (15g) of mid-late Iron Age pottery was recovered from this post-hole. The vessel is a jar in the Q4 pebble quartz fabric.

Area 3

Western North-South Ditch

[603] (604); [619] (618); [620] (622).

In total, 143 sherds (690g) of Roman pottery was recovered from four sections along this ditch, with 125 sherds (537g) from [603] (604). The earliest material was recovered from [620] (622) which comprised an oxidised ware jar or beaker and a sandy ware jar both dating to the mid-1st century. All the pottery from [619] (618) was grey ware, including a rusticated jar dating to the mid-late 1st century. The remaining grey ware is not closely datable and, though it could date within the 1st century, it may be early 2nd century. Although the majority of the pottery was recovered from [603] (604), the material is in a fragmentary state and represents only three vessels, comprising an oxidised ware jar (two sherds, 10g), a grey ware jar (41 sherds, 156g) and a Black Burnished ware jar (82 sherds, 371g). The oxidised ware is powdery and abraded, as is the grey ware. The Black Burnished ware jar is also fragmentary, but acute lattice decoration and a wavy line on the rim provide information to date the vessel to between *c.*AD120-160 (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 95-96).

Eastern North-South Ditch

[516] (515); [559] (560).

Very little pottery was recovered from the Eastern North-South Ditch. Ten sherds (210g) of mid-late 1st century sandy ware were recovered from (515), including a Belgic style fine sandy ware carinated jar or bowl dating to the mid-1st century. Two sherds (102g) of grey ware were recovered from (560), probably dating to the late 1st or early 2nd century.

Quarry Pit and Ditch

Quarry Pit: [274] (272), (273), (276).

Ditch: [271] (269).

A substantial assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from pit [274] totalling 233 sherds (3.774kg). The latest datable material was all retrieved from (272), comprising a Black Burnished ware jar with obtuse lattice, a Nene Valley colour-coated ware beaker with roulette decoration and Derbyshire ware jars including one cupped rim. These all indicate a 3rd century date. The remaining material comprises a range of grey, oxidised, white and shelly ware jars and bowls mostly dating to the 2nd century. One sherd of “pre-Derbyshire” ware dating to the second half of the 2nd century was found in (273). Ten sherds of mortaria (833g) were found altogether, including joining sherds from (273) and (276). This accounts for just over a third of the total mortaria sherds from the site and 85% by weight. Though most are not closely datable, one from (273) can be dated to between the mid-2nd and mid-3rd century. Three sherds (10g) of samian ware were found in (272) and (276), comprising a Drag.30 bowl and possibly a dish. All the samian ware is from Central Gaul and dates to the 2nd century. The bowl is powdery and abraded and all the sherds are small.

Eighty-nine sherds (569g) of Roman pottery were recovered from the ditch adjacent to the quarry pit [274]. The material is comparable to that from the pit, including a Black Burnished ware jar with obtuse lattice, a Nene Valley colour-coated ware beaker, and a Derbyshire ware jar suggesting a 3rd century date. There are also 18

sherds (72g) from a Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria, which accounts for almost the rest of the mortaria recovered from the site. One sherd weighs 53g and the rest are small fragments. The vessel can be dated to between the mid-2nd and mid-3rd century. The rest of the pottery comprises a grey ware plain rim dish and a group of jars including roll necked forms. The grey wares are not closely datable and probably date from the 2nd century onwards.

Beam-slots

[283] (284); [307] (306).

A very small quantity of pottery was recovered from two beam-slots associated with a post and beam structure. Three sherds (12g) from a fine grog-tempered ware beaker dating to the mid-late 1st century were recovered from (284). Three sherds (5g) from a sandy ware jar or bowl also dating to the mid-late 1st century were recovered from (306). The sandy ware was abraded.

Hearth

[573] (583); [596] (572).

In total, 121 sherds (430g) were recovered from a stone-lined hearth or pit. Almost all the pottery was retrieved from the primary fill (583), with only two sherds of oxidised ware found in (572). The latest datable vessel is a Black Burnished ware dish or bowl base with burnished swirls which would not date before *c.*AD120, but could still be no later than the middle of the 2nd century. Most of the material comprises grey, oxidised and white ware jars dating to the later 1st or 2nd centuries. There is also some earlier material including a sandy ware rusticated jar, abraded shelly ware ledge rim jar and a roll necked Trent Valley Ware jar, all of which would date to the mid-1st or mid-late 1st century. In all, the assemblage is a bit mixed ranging from the mid-late 1st century to the middle of the 2nd. Much of the pottery is fragmentary or abraded which does indicate a secondary deposit and could suggest the hearth went out of use sometime towards the middle of the 2nd century.

Ditch

[552] (551)

The largest single group of pottery was recovered from [552] (551) comprising 417 sherds (3.307kg). The EVEs value of 6.37 accounts for just over a third of the total EVEs for the assemblage as a whole. Two Derbyshire ware jars provide the latest datable material, with cupped rims indicating a date from the mid-late 2nd century onwards. There are also three sherds of “pre-Derbyshire” ware dating from the middle of the 2nd century and two Black Burnished ware jars dating from *c.*AD120 onwards. The majority of the group comprises grey ware jars including 12 rounded outcurved rims. The body sherds show cordons and possibly some carinated vessels. Where decoration is present, this comprises zones of parallel grooves less pronounced than a cordon, including one vessel with a zone of lattice decoration between the lines of grooves. There are also a few globular beakers and carinated bowls or possibly wide-mouthed jars with cordons and rounded rims. There is a small amount of

oxidised and white ware, cordoned and carinated jars and a globular beaker. In addition one sherd of sandy ware may be residual, as is a shelly ware neckless ledge-rim jar. A lot of the grey and oxidised wares are abraded and fragmentary and all of it dates within the 2nd century. In this respect a date within the 2nd century for the group as a whole is most likely, possibly as early as the middle of the 2nd century.

Ditch

[614] (615)

A substantial group of 232 sherds (2.834kg) of pottery was recovered from ditch fill (615). This is the best preserved group with an average sherd weight of 12.2g. Again, most of the pottery comprises grey ware jars with rounded outcurved rims, cordons and some probably carinated vessels. In total, 10 jar rims were recovered. A Black Burnished ware jar and two Derbyshire ware jars including one with a ledge rim, indicates a mid-late 2nd century date. Two white ware devolved ring neck flacons and a strap handle also suggest a date around the middle of the 2nd century. There is a small amount of 2nd century oxidised ware and two sherds of abraded sandy and shelly ware that are probably residual. The latest datable vessel is a grey ware bead and flange bowl, (one sherd, 39g), which dates from around the middle of the 3rd century (Pollard 1986, 5). This does seem somewhat anomalous, given the rest of the assemblage indicates a date within the 2nd century, possibly as early as the middle of the 2nd century.

Discussion

There are two clearly distinct areas of activity, as Area 1 revealed mid-late Iron Age pottery, with a small quantity of transitional early Roman material, whereas Area 3 has evidence of Roman activity from the 1st century through to the 3rd. Area 1 actually revealed earlier prehistoric material as well, which is discussed in a separate appendix (Cooper this volume). There is an interesting division within the Iron Age material, as the pottery found within features in Area 1 is composed of the Q1, Q4 and R2 fabrics typically associated with mid-late Iron Age assemblages in Leicestershire, South Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire. As previously noted, the assemblage appears to have an unusually large proportion of shell-tempered wares and fabrics with grog/argillaceous inclusions. All these fabrics appear within features in Area 3, where the Roman occupation is found. Examination of individual contexts reveals that most of the Iron Age pottery is found without any later material. There are two instances where it is found with early Roman material dating within the 1st century, and two instances where it is clearly residual. In this respect, it could be suggested that the Iron Age material from Area 3 is late Iron Age dating to the first half of the 1st century, with some possibly dating close to the Iron Age-Roman transition of the mid-1st century.

The beam-slots associated with a post and beam-slot structure only had pottery dating to the mid-late 1st century, indicating this as one of the earliest Roman features within Area 3. The Eastern North-South Ditch also produced mid-late 1st century pottery in one section and some late 1st-early 2nd century material in another. Likewise, the earliest pottery from the Western North-South Ditch dates to the mid-late 1st century, with the latest dating to the mid-2nd century. The stone-lined hearth also appears to

have been backfilled around the middle of the 2nd century. The two largest groups of pottery from two ditch fills both date within the 2nd century, although there is one anomalous mid-3rd century sherd from (614). The latest features appear to be the quarry pit and adjacent ditch which date to the 3rd century, possibly the mid-3rd century. There is no ceramic evidence for activity after this date.

On the whole, most of the Roman pottery dates to the 1st and 2nd centuries, with very little clearly dating into the 3rd century. The presence of some material closely matching the Derby BSA2 fabric, some Trent Valley Ware and Derbyshire wares highlights the Trent Valley and production centres to the north as probable sources of material along with the usual sources of Leicestershire coarse wares. The paucity of fine wares and mortaria, along with the overwhelming dominance of coarse ware jars within the assemblage, is typical of a rural site dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries.

10. The Rotary Querns

Rebecca Hearne

Three quern fragments of Roman date were recovered from Castle Donington. All three fragments derive from early rotary quern upper grinding stones and were retrieved from the same context, ditch fill (615) [614], dated by Roman pottery to the early-middle 2nd century. They are catalogued below (Table 7).

Table 7: Rotary Quern Fragments from Castle Donington

No.	Con	Description/Lithology	Length	Width	Thick	Weight
1	615	A wedge-shaped fragment of coarse pink-brown gritstone with <5% coarser quartz grit and small pebbles. Fragment of early rotary quern upper stone. Fragment displays some fire-blackening. No wear marks or furrows but flat on upper face and base. Some pecking on working face from pebble loss through working. Conical central hopper partially preserved. No evidence of handle attachment. Original diameter c. 320mm.	<130	<148	<55	1289
2	615	A wedge-shaped fragment of coarse brown-grey gritstone with <5% coarser quartz grit and small pebbles. Some iron oxide present in cement; some staining. Fragment of early rotary quern upper stone. Slight circular wear marks on concave grinding face and some pecking where coarse grains have been lost. No furrows. Conical central hopper partially preserved. No evidence of handle attachment. Original diameter c. 380 mm.	<140	<150	<55	1273

3	615	A wedge-shaped fragment of coarse pink-grey gritstone with <5% coarser quartz grit and pebbles and iron oxide staining and cement. Fragment of early rotary quern upper stone. Concave grinding surface exhibits circular wear marks. No evidence of furrows or handle fittings. Fragment displays some fire-blackening. Upper face flat and inclined away from central conical hopper. Some radial striations on upper surface (c.80 long). Original diameter c. 380 mm.	<170	<180	<65	1583
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Their dimensions suggest that the fragments represent three individual querns with original diameters of 320-380 mm. All the fragments are composed of coarse pink-brown or grey gritstone with <5% coarser quartz grit and small rounded pebbles, and partially iron oxide-stained cement. This is possibly Millstone Grit which outcrops in Derbyshire (Abesser et al. 2005), more than 60 km (37 miles) from Castle Donington. The use of gritstone here corresponds with the preference of Millstone Grit for rotary stones elsewhere in Leicestershire (Roe 2000, 188).

The fragments all exhibit an upper flat face and a lower concave working surface with a partially-preserved conical central hopper. Two of the fragments display circular wear marks on the working surface. None of the fragments exhibit furrows or evidence of handle attachments; one displays some radial striations on its upper face. Two of the fragments display some fire-blackening which may be a consequence, along with their breakage, of intentional breaking up for re-use, perhaps in the construction of hearths.

11. The Animal Bone

Jennifer Browning

Introduction

Animal bone was recovered from Areas 1 (containing features suggesting prehistoric activity) and 3 (features dating to the Late Iron Age/Roman period). Pottery dates indicate activity in Area 3 spanned the late Iron Age to the 3rd century AD (above p. 48). Twenty features produced animal bones; these were ditches gullies, pits and layers or spreads. Bones from hand-recovered deposits only were examined, as sieving of environmental samples produced no faunal remains (below p. 63).

Methodology

Specimens were identified with reference to comparative modern and ancient skeletal material held at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. Information was compiled directly into a *pro forma* spreadsheet with facility for recording data on species, bone element, state of epiphysial fusion and completeness to elicit information on species proportions, skeletal representation, age and condition. Where possible, the anatomical parts present for each skeletal element were recorded using the 'zones' defined by Serjeantson (1996), with additional zones ascribed to mandibles based on Dobney and Reilly (1988). Surface preservation was

assessed after Harland et al (2003). Joining fragments were re-assembled and the resulting specimen counted as a single fragment, although a record of the original number of fragments was retained.

Provenance

The majority of the assemblage was recovered from ditches, gullies and pits from Area 3, which ranged in date from the late Iron Age through to the 3rd century AD. No features produced an abundance of bone, probably due to the preservational factors discussed below.

Two features from Area 1 produced bones; ditch fill (123) and cremation fill (153).

Preservation and Taphonomy

Surface condition was assessed for each specimen, following Harland et al (2003), and was predominantly 'poor', indicating the bone surfaces were 'powdery or flaky over 50% of specimen'. Fair preservation 'solid in places but flaky or powdery on up to 49% of specimen' was noted in contexts 332, Bones from gully (context 343) and ditches (contexts 123, 332 and 564), generally had good preservation, defined as 'lacks fresh appearance but solid; very localized flaky or powdery'.

The bones exhibited both ancient and modern breakage and re-fitting of joining fragments reduced the total from 262 to 166 fragments. Fragmentation and poor preservation within the assemblage is also indicated by the fact that 70% (n=116) of specimens were not diagnostic enough to assign to taxon and that many of the surviving fragments were tooth enamel, which is more durable than bone.

Gnawing occurred on two bones in the assemblage. These consisted of a cattle metacarpal from a gully and a sheep femur from a ditch. Twelve burnt bones were recovered from the site. Partial scorching was noted on shaft fragments from ditch fill 332 and a cattle scapula (beam-slot fill 283) and shaft fragments (ditch fill 561) were charred, indicating exposure to direct heat, such as a cooking fire. Undiagnostic shaft fragments from cremation fill 153 and ditch fill 332 were calcined, indicating that they were exposed to higher temperatures. Calcination typically occurs at temperatures above 700°C, destroying the organic content of the bone and often consolidating the mineral component (Gilchrist and Mytum, 1986, 30).

Taxa and Carcass Representation

The assemblage produced evidence for the main domestic species; cattle, sheep/goat and pig, as well as horse (Appendix 2, Table). Cattle bones dominate in the assemblage accounting for 78% of identified bones. No wild animals were identified during this phase of work. The small sample size means that it is not possible to usefully analyse distribution of carcass parts beyond making a few observations.

Cattle were recovered only from Area 3 and were represented by teeth, metapodials, radius, scapula phalanges and vertebrae (Appendix 2 Table). Tooth fragments were most common accounting for 56% (n=22) of the identified fragments. Sheep/goat bones (n=5) were recovered from three features, a

ditch and a gully in Area 3 and a ditch in Area 1. Both limb bones and teeth were represented. Horse bones numbered five teeth and limb bones distributed between four gully and ditch contexts in Area 3. Pig was represented by a single maxilla fragment in an Area 3 ditch (context 582).

Age Structure

There was very little evidence for age distribution of the animals at the site. There were no mandible wear stages but a small number of epiphyses were recorded. All but one cattle epiphysis (n=7) and all sheep/goat (n=5) epiphyses were fused, indicating poor survival of juvenile bones (Appendix 2 Table and Table). In addition to the data shown in the tables, a horse distal femur was also fused.

Pathologies and Measurements

There were no pathologies and the material was not sufficiently well-preserved to permit any measurements to be taken.

Butchery and Articulated Bones

Only one bone exhibited butchery marks; however identification of such marks may have been masked by poor preservation. Numerous fine cut marks were noted on the distal shaft of a cattle metacarpal from a gully fill (533), which are likely to have occurred during removal of the hide.

A sheep/goat femur and tibia from prehistoric ditch fill 123 appeared to be articulated. Although there were several fresh breaks, attesting to the brittleness of the bone, the surfaces were in good condition compared to much of the bone from the site.

Discussion

The current excavations produced 50 hand-recovered identifiable specimens. Sieving of environmental samples did not produce any further bones. The total assemblage comprised 262 bones but extensive ancient and modern breakage had resulted in a large number of undiagnostic fragments, limiting the available information on livestock raised and consumed on or near the site. It is a disappointingly small assemblage from such a large excavation, which must unfortunately be put down to soils that are not conducive to bone survival. The identified bones belonged predominantly to cattle however horse, sheep and pig were also represented. Survival may have been biased towards the larger and older animals, whose bones may have been less susceptible to destruction and more likely to be recovered. The assemblage contained small numbers of butchered, burnt and gnawed bones indicating that the remains largely consisted of domestic waste from the settlement.

12. The Charred Plant Remains *Anita Radini*

Introduction

Late Iron Age and Roman features were investigated which included ditches and pits. Samples were taken from features with the potential to contain charred plant remains, which may indicate activities on the site associated with agriculture or occupation.

Methods

Bulk samples were processed from a total of 12 contexts. The sediments were mainly clay and sandy clay, which required soaking in water before wet-sieving. Few remains were recovered by flotation so the residues were examined, and those with any charred material, were refloated by bucket flotation, but produced no further remains.

The flots were sorted for plant and animal remains using a x10-40 stereo microscope. The plant remains were identified by comparison with modern reference material at ULAS and were counted and tabulated below (Table 13). The plant names follow Stace (1991).

Results and discussion

Overall, the archaeobotanical assemblage was very poor. Only four samples (**36**, **44**, **56** and **57**) contained identifiable plant remains, and in very low numbers. Eight further samples, **26** (207), **28** (208), **33** (282), **40** (370), **41** (390), **42** (386), **49** (464), and **50** (500), contained only a low density of charcoal flecks. These samples will not be discussed further.

Results for the samples containing charred seeds and grains are presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Charred plant remains

Samp No.	Cont No.	Samp Vol. litres	Gr ch	Cf ch	Se Ch	Se Un	Chc + flks	Charred plant remains, snails and comments.
56	564	10	4	-	4	2	x	Mid-late IA. A grain of glume wheat and 3 of barley
36	343	10	6	-	5	1	x	1 st C AD. Two grains of glume wheat and the rest is barley Roots +
44	405	10	6	-	3	2	xx	1 st and 2 nd C AD. 3 grains of glume wheat and 3 of barley Roots +.
57	572	10	5	3	4	1	xxx	1 st and 2 nd C AD. A grain of glume wheat and 4 of barley. Glume wheat chaff. Roots +, Earthworm egg case

Key: Gr = cereal grain, Cf = chaff, Se = seed, ch = charred, un = uncharred, Chc+flks = charcoal and charcoal flecks; + = present, ++ = moderate amount, +++ = abundant.

The majority of charred seeds and cereal grains were too damaged (broken and abraded) to be identified to species level, which may be due to the unfavourable burial conditions also affecting the animal bone and pottery. The identifiable cereal grains were of glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) from sample **56**, of mid-late IA date, and samples **36**, **44** and **57**, all of possible Roman date. Occasional wheat chaff fragments (glumes), which were too small to distinguish features useful for identification, were identified as glume wheat, either emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). These were found in low number in sample **57**,

suggesting disposal of crop processing by-products in the ditch. No other food plants were found.

Weed seeds were found in low number in all four samples, and were mainly plants of arable or disturbed ground, such as large grasses (Poaceae), commonly found in the IA and Roman periods. A few seeds of cabbage/brassica-type (Brassicaceae) also occurred in all four samples (see table 1), and can also grow as a grassland plant. Grass stem fragments and seeds of smaller grasses were also present, perhaps deriving from nearby vegetation used as fodder or burnt as kindling. Roots and occasional uncharred seeds were present in samples due to modern disturbance.

Samples with 50 items are useful for the interpretation of crop processing activities by considering the ratios of cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds for example (van der Veen 1992). Unfortunately, none of the samples produced more than 15 items which, whilst poor preservation was a contributory factor, probably indicates that the assemblage resulted from domestic waste from food preparation. No changes can be detected between the IA and the Roman phases

Conclusions

Charred cereal remains were sparsely represented on the site from the Iron Age and Roman phases, probably resulting from domestic activity. The plant remains were typical of Late Iron Age/Roman sites and included occasional grains of glume wheat and barley with low number of chaff fragments and is characteristic of a number of sites of this date across the region (Monckton 2009). The overall potential for the survival of charred plant remains on site can be considered low.

13. Discussion (with Patrick Clay)

Excavations at Park Lane, Castle Donington produced archaeological evidence ranging from the Late Neolithic period through to the mid-Romano-British period, with activity sharply delineated between Area 1 and its prehistoric evidence, and Area 3 and its Romano-British agricultural activity.

Late Neolithic

The discovery of a significant assemblage of flint tools including a knife and end scraper combination tool from a small pit at the southern edge excavation hint at deliberate deposition activity by a skilled craftsperson and, possibly, of settlement in the close vicinity during the Late Neolithic or transitional Neolithic/Bronze Age period.

Isolated pits of Late Neolithic date showing evidence of possible deliberate deposition are increasingly being identified in the East Midlands (Clay 2006, 82). Examples are known from Rearsby (Clarke and Beamish 2007, 47), Syston (Meek 1998) and Eye Kettleby (Finn 2011, 17), amongst others. At two sites in the Soar Valley at Rothley evidence of deliberate depositional patterns of lithic and ceramic artefacts associated

with early and late Neolithic settlement have been identified (Speed 2010; Hunt 2006).

These pits may belong to a tradition of selective deposition common in the Neolithic, perhaps initially used as ‘working hollows’ for tool making, and later as ‘offering pits’ marking an event, a feast, or formal closure of the pits, and/or settlement (Pollard 2001; Thomas 2010, 9).

Bronze Age

Area 1 produced significant evidence for three probable phases of activity between the Early to Late Bronze Age periods.

Ring Ditch

The function of the Early Bronze Age ring ditch is unclear. It may represent a round barrow, being comparable in size to Barrow 1 at Cossington (Thomas 2008a), although the latter lacks the entrance evident at Castle Donington, in which case it might be interpreted as a bowl or pond barrow or similar with an external ditch. In addition, the presence of a centrally-placed pit feature could be interpreted as a grave. Alternatively, the overall plan shape and dimensions of the feature, in addition to the modest size of the defining ditch in combination with the presence of internal features may suggest that the ring ditch represents a mortuary enclosure, a form of monument associated with burial ritual, rather than a round barrow ditch (Kinnes 1979). The close proximity of the feature to early Bronze Age cremation burials perhaps supports this proposition.

Cremation Cemetery (end Early Bronze Age 1880-1630 BC)

The small, well-defined linear Collared Urn cremation cemetery, located close to the ring ditch and dating to the end of the Early Bronze Age (1880-1630 BC) is less problematic, being a relatively common site type in Leicestershire (Clay 2006, 3). Chronologically Castle Donington tallies with Cossington (began 1910-1690 BC and ended 1660-1520 BC) (Thomas 2008a, 43) and overlaps with Eye Kettleby (Finn 2011). The Castle Donington cemetery also appears to be in accord with the linear Cossington and Eye Kettleby examples as regards its location in proximity to an earlier (Early Bronze Age) round barrow. Cemeteries of this type are generally located south or, as here, south-east of a barrow, and generally closer than the c.20m seen at Castle Donington, and are interpreted as representing a family or social grouping (Thomas 2008a).

Pit Alignment (Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age)

Pit alignments are generally acknowledged as representing a form of long distance boundary systems introduced in the Later Bronze Age (Clay 2006, 2). These are generally late prehistoric features, with dates ranging between the Later Bronze Age through to the Middle Iron Age, and, as here, characterised by uniformity of shape, size and spacing of the pits (Finn 2011, 105; Hingley 1989, Thomas 2008b, 144).

Pit alignments are relatively ubiquitous features of the later prehistoric landscape and examples are known across the Midlands (Willis 2006, 122, Thomas 2008b, 144). They are believed to be some of the earliest landscape boundaries of the first millennium BC although they are poorly dated as they are usually some distance from settlements. Cropmark evidence from the Trent Valley indicates that pit alignments were a widespread phenomenon and in most cases can be seen to have had close relationships with the development of field systems and networks of trackways (Whimster 1989; Boutwood 1998; Deegan 1999). In the Trent valley Iron Age pottery has been recovered from pit alignments at Besthorpe (Morris and Garton, 1998), Barrow-upon-Trent (Knight and Southgate 2001) and Whitemoor Haye Quarry, Staffordshire (Coates 2002). An excavated pit alignment at Willow Farm, Castle Donington, to the south-east of Park Lane, was possibly associated with Late Bronze Age settlement (Coward and Ripper 1999). A generally later date has been suggested for the introduction of pit alignments to the Trent Valley, with Knight and Howard (2004, 103) proposing a Late Iron Age origin. Indications from some sites, such as Moor Pool Close, Rampton where a pit alignment containing Romano-British sherds defined the eastern edge of a long lived Iron Age – Roman agglomerated settlement, show that these boundaries may have had a long life in this part of the Midlands (Knight 2000; Knight et al 2004, 139).

Pottery from some of the pits suggests the Castle Donington example may be as early as the Late Bronze Age, and appears to represent a new land subdivision along the head of the northern downslope and running broadly east-west along the contour. This would have had the effect of physically separating the area with the cremations from the enclosure/barrow to the north and so suggests that these monuments were no longer in active use by this date.

Pit alignments often respect pre-existing Neolithic or Bronze Age monuments (e.g Earl Shilton; Jarvis 2011). This may be such an instance here, with deliberate avoidance of the enclosure; the cremation burials may not, however, have not have been visible features and so their presence not acknowledged.

Romano-British Period

Mid-1st – mid 2nd century (Ditches – Building)

Area 3 presented evidence of an extensive system of dominated by an Early Romano-British (mid- to late-1st century AD) system of agricultural, possibly stock, enclosures, as defined by a series of interconnecting ditches, dominated by two substantial rock-cut north-south parallel features, linked to associated smaller ditches running at right angles and forming square and rectangular enclosures. Finds and stratigraphic evidence suggests that this was a single, contemporary system, largely laid out in and in use in a single period.

While more of the settlement may have extended eastwards it appears to be a small farmstead within a field system perhaps originating during the Late Iron Age/Roman transition and continuing into the mid-2nd century.

An ephemeral timber building was represented by several beam-slots, two post-holes and a number of potentially associated features (Figure 30 & 31). The possible

building appeared to be defined by shallow, beam-slot-like linear features on its western and southern sides and measured approximately 7m east-west and 5m north-south. It was aligned approximately north-south and possibly comprised two rooms or units. The general area had suffered heavy plough truncation, perhaps explaining the absence of internal features. The charred plant remains, albeit in low concentrations, and the presence of rotary querns indicates some arable cultivation. From the pottery assemblages the Trent Valley and production centres to the north were the probable sources of material along with the usual sources of Leicestershire coarse wares. The paucity of fine wares and mortaria, along with the overwhelming dominance of coarse ware jars within the assemblage, is typical of a rural site dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries

The settlement appears to have been abandoned in the late 2nd 3rd century and quarry pit [274] some of the site may have been quarried, probably for marl.

There is a relatively dense concentration of Roman settlement in this part of the Trent Valley. Research to the east of the site, in the Lockington area, has revealed at least one other contemporary settlement, a small farmstead which lay within a wider network of trackways (Cooper 2006). Near to this at Warren Farm Lockington, was an extensive complex of interconnected enclosures either side of a long-lived trackway associated with a Roman villa (Thomas 2013). It is possible that the Castle Donington settlement served as a satellite site to the Roman town of Red Hill (Palfreyman and Ebbins 2003) *c.* 6 km to the east. This, and the other nearby contemporary sites may have been inter-related on many levels, particularly with the access that Red Hill provided to a wide range of communications and trading opportunities.

14. Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A15.2012), consisting of finds, paper and photographic records, will be housed with Leicestershire County Council.

The archive consists of:

- 526 context record A5 sheets
- 32 drawing sheets (A2 & A3)
- 507 digital photographs
- 11 x 36 exposure monochrome photographs
- Pottery: 2.5 boxes plus two intact cremation urns
- Flints: 1 small box
- Animal bone: 0.25 box
- Human bone: 2 boxes (cremations)
- 51 environmental samples (10 litres each)

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Oasis Information

Project Name	Park Lane, Castle Donington
Project Type	Archaeological excavation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Construction
Current Land Use	Agricultural
Development Type	Residential development
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Post-determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 436 276
Start/end dates of field work	February-March 2012; January 2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	c.9.2 ha.

Roger Kipling
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2836
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: rwk1@le.ac.uk

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Appendix 1: Context Index

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
101	101	101	cut	pit			
102	101	101	fill	pit			
103	104	104	fill	pit			
104	104	104	cut	pit			
105	106	106	fill	post-hole			
106	106	106	cut	post-hole			
107	106	106	fill	post-hole			
108	109	109	fill	post-hole			
109	109	109	cut	post-hole			
110	110	110	cut	pit			
111	110	110	fill	pit			
112	113	113	fill	post-hole			
113	113	113	cut	post-hole			
114	115	115	fill	post-hole			
115	115	115	cut	post-hole			
116	116	116	cut	post-hole			
117	116	116	fill	post-hole			
118	118	118	cut	post-hole			
119	118	118	fill	post-hole			
120	120	120	cut	post-hole			
121	120	120	fill	post-hole			
122	122	122	cut	ditch			
123	122	122	fill	ditch			
124	122	122	fill	ditch			
125	126	126	fill	pit			
126	126	126	cut	pit			
127	128	128	fill	pit			
128	128	128	cut	pit			
129	129	129	cut	post-hole			
130	129	129	fill	post-hole			
131	132	132	fill	post-hole			
132	132	132	cut	post-hole			
133	133	133	cut	furrow			
134	133	133	fill	furrow			
135	136	136	fill	pit			
136	136	136	cut	pit			
137	138	138	fill	pit			
138	138	138	cut	pit			
139	139	139	cut	pit			
140	139	139	fill	pit			
141	141	141	cut	pit			
142	141	141	fill	pit			
143	144	144	fill	cremation			
144	144	144	cut	cremation			
145	145	145	cut	cremation			
146	145	145	fill	cremation			
147	145	145	fill	cremation			
148	149	149	fill	cremation			
149	149	149	cut	cremation			
150	151	151	fill	cremation			
151	151	151	cut	cremation			
152	152	152	cut	cremation			

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
153	152	152	fill	cremation	Y		Y
154	149	149	fill	cremation			
155	145	145	fill	cremation			
156	151	151	fill	cremation	Y		
157	151	151	fill	cremation			
158	159	159	fill	post-hole			
159	159	159	cut	post-hole			
160	159	159	fill	post-hole			
161	162	162	fill	pit			
162	162	162	cut	pit			
163	163	163	cut	pit			
164	163	163	fill	pit			
165	165	165	cut	pit			
166	165	165	fill	pit			
167	167	167	cut	pit			
168	167	167	fill	pit			
169	169	169	cut	pit			
170	169	169	fill	pit			
171	171	171	cut	pit			
172	171	171	fill	pit			
173	173	173	cut	pit			
174	173	173	fill	pit			
175	175	175	cut	pit			
176	175	175	fill	pit			
177	177	177	cut	pit			
178	177	177	fill	pit			
179	180	180	fill	post-hole			
180	180	180	cut	post-hole			
181	181	181	cut	pit			
182	181	181	fill	pit			
183	183	183	cut	pit			
184	183	183	fill	pit			
185	186	186	fill	post-hole			
186	186	186	cut	post-hole			
187	187	187	cut	pit			
188	187	187	fill	pit			
189	189	189	cut	pit			
190	189	189	fill	pit			Y
191	191	191	cut	pit			
192	191	191	fill	pit			
193	193	193	cut	pit			
194	193	193	fill	pit			
195	196	196	fill	gully			
196	196	196	cut	gully			
197	197	197	cut	post-hole			
198	197	197	fill	post-hole			
199	196	196	fill	gully			
200	200	200	cut	pit			
201	200	200	fill	pit			
202	202	202	cut	post-hole			
203	202	202	fill	post-hole			
204	196a	196a	fill	gully			
205	196a	196a	fill	gully			
206	196a	196a	fill	gully			
207	196	196	fill	gully			

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
208	196	196	fill	gully			
209	209	209	cut	pit			
210	209	209	fill	pit			
211	196	196	fill	gully			
212	196	196	fill	gully			
213	196	196	fill	gully			
214	215	215	fill	ditch			
215	215	215	cut	ditch			
216	216	216	cut	gully			
217	216	216	fill	gully			
218	219	219	fill	pit			
219	219	219	cut	pit			
220	220	220	cut	pit			
221	220	220	fill	pit			
222	223	223	fill	pit			
223	223	223	cut	pit			
224	225	225	fill	post-hole			
225	225	225	cut	post-hole			
226	227	227	fill	post-hole			
227	227	227	cut	post-hole			
228	227	227	fill	pit			
229	229	229	cut	pit			
230	229	229	fill	pit			
231	231	231	cut	post-hole			
232	231	231	fill	post-hole			
233	234	234	fill	post-hole			
234	234	234	cut	post-hole			
235	236	236	fill	gully			
236	236	236	cut	gully			
237	238	238	fill	pit			
238	238	238	cut	pit			
239	240	240	fill	post-hole			
240	240	240	cut	post-hole			
241	242	242	fill	post-hole			
242	242	242	cut	post-hole			
243	244	244	fill	post-hole			
244	244	244	cut	post-hole			
245	246	246	fill	post-hole			
246	246	246	cut	post-hole			
247	248	248	fill	post-hole			
248	248	248	cut	post-hole			
249	250	250	fill	post-hole			
250	250	250	cut	post-hole			
251	215	215	fill	ditch			
252	252	252	cut	gully			
253	252	252	fill	gully	Y		
254	254	254	cut	ditch			
255	254	254	fill	ditch	Y	Y	
256	256	256	cut	ditch			
257	256	256	fill	pit			
258	258	258	cut	pit			
259	258	258	fill	pit	Y		
260	260	260	cut	pit			
261	260	260	fill	pit			
262	262	262	cut	ditch			

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
263	262	262	fill	ditch			
264	264	264	cut	ditch			
265	264	264	fill	ditch			
266	266	266	cut	ditch			
267	266	266	fill	ditch	Y		
268	254	254	fill	ditch			
269	271	271	fill	pit	Y	Y	
270	271	271	fill	pit			
271	271	271	cut	pit			
272	274	274	fill	ditch	Y	Y	
273	274	274	fill	ditch	Y		
274	274	274	cut	ditch			
275	274	274	fill	pit			
276	274	274	fill	pit	Y	Y	
277	277	277	cut	beam-slot			
278	277	277	fill	beam-slot			
279	279	279	cut	beam-slot			
280	280	280	cut	beam-slot			
281	281	281	cut	ditch			
282	280	280	fill	beam-slot			
283	283	283	cut	beam-slot	Y		
284	283	283	fill	beam-slot			
285	285	285	cut	post-hole			
286	285	285	fill	post-hole			
287	287	287	cut	pit			
288	287	287	fill	pit	Y		
289	289	289	cut	pit			
290	289	289	fill	pit			
291	291	291	cut	ditch			
292	291	291	fill	ditch	Y		
293	293	293	cut	ditch			
294	293	293	fill	ditch			
295	296	296	fill	beam-slot			
296	296	296	cut	beam-slot			
297	298	298	fill	beam-slot			
298	298	298	cut	beam-slot			
299	277	277	fill	beam-slot			
300	277	277	fill	beam-slot			
301	277	277	fill	beam-slot			
302	277	277	fill	beam-slot			
303	304	304	fill	post-hole			
304	304	304	cut	post-hole			
305	281	281	fill	post-hole			
306	307	307	fill	gully			
307	307	307	cut	gully			
308	309	309	fill	pit			
309	309	309	cut	pit			
310	311	311	fill	gully			
311	311	311	cut	gully			
312	313	313	fill				
313	313	313	cut				
314	314	314	cut	UNUSED			
315	314	314	fill	UNUSED			
316	316	316	cut	ditch			
317	316	316	fill	ditch	Y		

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
318	318	318	cut	ditch			
319	318	318	fill	ditch	y		
320	320	320	cut	ditch			
321	320	320	fill	ditch	Y		
322	322	322	cut	sondage			
323	322	322	fill	beam-slot			
324	322	322	fill	ditch			
325	326	326	fill	gully			
326	326	326	cut	gully			
327	328	328	fill	ditch	Y		
328	328	328	cut	ditch			
329	330	330	fill	ditch			
330	330	330	cut	ditch			
331	331	331	cut	ditch			
332	331	331	fill	ditch			
333	333	333	cut	ditch			
334	333	333	fill	ditch			
335	331	331	fill	ditch			
336	336	336	cut	gully			
337	336	336	fill	gully			
338	328	328	fill	ditch	Y		
339	339	339	cut	ditch			
340	339	339	fill	ditch			
341	341	341	cut	beam-slot			
342	341	341	fill	beam-slot			
343	344	344	fill	gully			
344	343	343	fill	gully	Y		
345	346	346	fill	ditch			
346	346	346	cut	ditch			
347	347	347	cut	ditch			
348	347	347	fill	ditch	Y		
349	347	347	fill	ditch			
350	347	347	fill	ditch			
351	347	347	fill	ditch			
352	353	353	fill	ditch	Y		
353	353	353	cut	ditch			
354	355	355	fill	ditch	Y		
355	355	355	cut	ditch			
356	356	356	cut	ditch			
357	356	356	fill	ditch	Y		
358	344	344	fill	ditch			
359	359	359	cut	ditch			
360	359	359	fill	ditch			
361	361	361	cut	pit			
362	361	361	cut	pit			
363	363	363	cut	ditch			
364	363	363	fill	ditch			
365	365	365	cut	ditch			
366	365	365	fill	ditch			
367	367	367	cut	ditch			
368	367	367	fill	ditch			
369	369	369	cut	ditch			
370	369	369	fill	ditch			
371	371	371	cut	ditch			
372	371	371	fill	ditch			

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
373	373	373	cut	ditch			
374	373	373	fill	ditch	Y		
375	375	375	cut	ditch			
376	375	375	fill	ditch			
377	377	377	cut	pit			
378	377	377	fill	pit	Y		
379	377	377	fill	pit			
380	380	380	cut	ditch			
381	380	380	fill	ditch			
382	382	382	cut	ditch			
383	382	382	fill	ditch			
384	384	384	cut	gully			
385	384	384	fill	gully	Y		
386	274	274	fill	pit			
387	387	387	cut	beam-slot			
388	387	387	fill	beam-slot	Y		
389	389	389	cut	ditch			
390	389	389	fill	ditch	Y		
391	392	392	fill	post-hole			
392	392	392	cut	post-hole			
393	393	393	cut	ditch			
394	393	393	fill	ditch			
395	395	395	cut	gully			
396	395	395	fill	gully	Y		
397	398	398	fill	gully			
398	398	398	cut	gully			
399	400	400	fill	gully			
400	400	400	cut	gully			
401	387	387	fill	gully			
402	N/A	403	fill	stake hole			
403	403	403	cut	ditch			
404	403	403	fill	ditch	Y		
405	403	403	fill	ditch	Y		
406	406	406	cut	ditch			
407	406	406	fill	ditch	Y		
408	409	409	fill	ditch	Y		
409	409	409	cut	ditch			
410	410	410	cut	pit			
411	410	410	fill	pit	Y		
412	412	412	cut	ditch			
413	412	412	fill	ditch			
414	414	414	cut	ditch			
415	414	414	fill	ditch			
416	416	416	cut	pit			
417	416	416	fill	pit			
418	418	418	cut	pit			
419	418	418	fill	pit			
420	420	420	cut	ditch			
421	420	420	fill	ditch			
422	422	422	cut	ditch			
423	422	422	fill	ditch			
424	425	425	fill	ditch	Y		
425	425	425	cut	ditch			
426	426	426	cut	ditch			
427	426	426	fill	ditch			

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
428	422	422	fill	ditch	Y		
429	429	429	cut	ditch			
430	429	429	fill	ditch			
431	431	431	cut	post-hole			
432	431	431	fill	post-hole			
433	433	433	cut	post-hole			
434	433	433	fill	post-hole			
435	435	435	cut	post-hole			
436	436	436	cut	post-hole			
437	437	437	cut	post-hole			
438	437	437	fill	post-hole			
439	439	439	cut	post-hole			
440	439	439	fill	post-hole			
441	441	441	cut	ditch			
442	441	441	fill	ditch			
443	443	443	cut	ditch			
444	443	443	fill	ditch			
445	425	425	fill	ditch			
446	446	446	cut	ditch			
447	422	422	fill	ditch	y		
448	446	446	fill	ditch			
449	449	449	cut	ditch			
450	449	449	fill	ditch			
451	449	449	fill	ditch	Y		
452	452	452	cut	gully			
453	452	452	fill	gully			
454	455	455	fill	gully			
455	455	455	cut	gully			
456	457	457	fill	gully			
457	457	457	cut	gully			
458	458	458	cut	pit			
459	458	458	fill	pit	y		
460	460	460	cut	gully			
461	460	460	fill	gully			
462	462	462	cut	gully			
463	462	462	fill	gully			
464	465	465	fill	gully			
465	465	465	cut	gully			
466	465	465	fill	ditch			
467	466	466	fill	ditch	Y		
468	469	469	fill	gully			
469	469	469	cut	gully			
470	471	471	fill	gully			
471	471	471	cut	gully			
472	472	472	cut	gully			
473	472	472	fill	gully			
474	474	474	cut	beam-slot			
475	474	474	fill	beam-slot			
476	476	476	cut	beam-slot			
477	476	476	fill	beam-slot			
478	458	458	fill	pit			
479	459	459	fill	pit	Y		
480	480	480	cut	post-hole			
481	480	480	fill	post-hole			
482	483	483	fill	gully			

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
483	483	483	cut	gully			
484	485	485	fill	gully	Y		
485	485	485	cut	gully			
486	486	486	cut	gully			
487	486	486	fill	gully			
488	488	488	cut	ditch			
489	488	488	fill	ditch			
490	490	490	cut	ditch			
491	490	490	fill	ditch			
492	492	492	cut	ditch			
493	492	492	fill	ditch			
494	494	494	cut	ditch			
495	495	495	cut	ditch			
496	496	496	cut	ditch			
497	496	496	fill	ditch			
498	498	498	cut	gully			
499	498	498	fill	gully			
500	501	501	fill	gully			
501	501	501	cut	gully			
502	502	502	cut	droveway			
503	503	503	cut	ditch			
504	503	503	fill	ditch			
505	505	505	cut	gully			
506	505	505	fill	gully	Y		
507	507	507	cut	pit			
508	507	507	fill	pit			
509	509	509	cut	ditch			
510	509	509	fill	ditch			
511	511	511	cut	pit			
512	511	511	fill	post-hole			
513	513	513	cut	post-hole			
514	513	513	fill	post-hole			
515	516	516	fill	ditch	Y		
516	516	516	cut	ditch			
517	517	517	cut	post-hole			
518	517	517	fill	post-hole			
519	519	519	cut	ditch			
520	519	519	fill	ditch			
521	522	522	fill	pit			
522	522	522	cut	pit			
523	523	523	fill	pit			
524	523	523	fill	pit	Y		
525	525	525	cut	pit			
526	525	525	fill	pit			
527	527	527	cut	gully			
528	527	527	fill	gully			
529	529	529	cut	ditch			
530	529	529	fill	ditch	Y		
531	531	531	cut	post-hole			
532	531	531	fill	post-hole			
533	534	534	fill	gully	Y		
534	534	534	cut	gully			
535	536	536	fill	gully	Y		
536	536	536	cut	gully			
537	537	537	cut	ditch			

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
538	537	537	fill	ditch	Y		
539	539	539	cut	ditch			
540	539	539	fill	ditch			
541	541	541	cut	pit			
542	541	541	fill	pit			
543	544	544	fill	pit			
544	544	544	cut	pit			
545	545	545	cut	gully			
546	545	545	fill	gully	Y		
547	547	547	cut	ditch			
548	547	547	fill	ditch			
549	549	549	cut	ditch			
550	549	549	fill	ditch			
551	552	552	fill	ditch	Y		
552	552	552	cut	ditch	Y		
553	553	553	fill	ditch			
554	553	553	fill	ditch			
555	553	553	cut	ditch			
556	556	556	cut	ditch			
557	556	556	fill	ditch			
558	556	556	fill	ditch			
559	559	559	cut	ditch			
560	559	559	fill	ditch	Y		
561	559	559	fill	ditch	Y		
562	553	553	fill	ditch			
563	563	563	cut	ditch			
564	563	563	fill	ditch	Y		
565	563	563	fill	ditch			
566	553	553	fill	ditch			
567	553	553	fill	ditch			
568	553	553	fill	ditch			
569	569	569	cut	ditch			
570	569	569	fill	ditch			
571	569	569	fill	ditch			
572	573	573	fill	ditch	Y		
573	573	573	cut	ditch			
574	574	574	cut	ditch			
575	574	574	fill	ditch			
576	576	576	cut	post-hole			
577	576	576	fill	post-hole			
578	578	578	fill	ditch			
579	578	578	fill	ditch			
580	580	580	cut	ditch			
581	580	580	fill	ditch			
582	580	580	fill	ditch	Y		
583	580	580	fill	ditch	Y		
584	584	584	cut	ditch			
585	584	584	fill	ditch			
586	586	586	cut	ditch			
587	586	586	fill	ditch			
588	588	588	cut	ditch			
589	588	588	fill	ditch			
590	591	591	fill	ditch	Y		
591	591	591	cut	ditch			
592	592	592	cut	post-hole			

Context No.	Cut No.	Feature No.	cut/fill/layer	Description	Pottery	CBM	FLINT
593	592	592	fill	post-hole			
594	594	594	cut	gully			
595	594	594	fill	gully			
596	596	596	cut	pit			
597	598	598	fill	post-hole			
598	598	598	cut	post-hole			
599	599	599	cut	ditch			
600	599	599	fill	ditch			
601	599	599	fill	ditch			
602	599	599	fill	ditch			
603	603	603	cut	ditch			
604	603	603	fill	ditch	Y		
605	606	606	fill	gully			
606	606	606	cut	gully			
607	608	608	fill	ditch			
608	608	608	cut	ditch			
609	608	608	fill	ditch			
610	610	610	cut	ditch			
611	610	610	fill	ditch			
612	612	612	cut	gully			
613	612	612	fill	gully			
614	614	614	cut	ditch			
615	614	614	fill	ditch	Y		
616	616	616	cut	gully			
617	616	616	fill	gully			
618	619	619	fill	ditch	Y		
619	619	619	cut	ditch			
620	620	620	cut	ditch			
621	620	620	fill	ditch			
622	620	620	fill	ditch	Y		
623	614	614	fill	ditch			
624	624	624	cut	ditch			
625	624	624	fill	ditch			
626	624	624	fill	ditch			

Appendix 2 Animal Bone Tables

Table 8: Preservation within the assemblage based on numbers of specimens (after Harland et al (2003))

Context/Preservation	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
123	2			2
153		1	2	3
252			5	5
269		2	1	3
272			4	4
283		1		1
305		1		1
321		3	3	6
332	7	17	1	25
343	16		1	17
357			4	4
370			12	12
378			1	1
385		1	10	11
405			10	10
515		2	37	39
533		1		1
561		3		3
564	1			1
582		17		17
Total	26	49	91	166

Table 9: Distribution of taxa within the assemblage (by context)

	cattle	horse	pig	sheep/goat	large mml	medium mml	indeterminate	Total
123				2				2
153					1	2		3
252							5	5
269	3							3
272	1	1			2			4
283	1							1
305	1							1
321					3		3	6
332	6			2	2	3	12	25
343	4			1	6	5	1	17
357	3						1	4
370	12							12
378	1							1
385	4	2			5			11
405		1			9			10
515	1				38			39
533	1							1
561							3	3
564		1						1
582	1		1		15			17
Total	39	5	1	5	81	10	25	166

Table 10: Distribution of identified elements

	12	26	27	28	30	33	34	35	37	37	38	40	51	53	56	58
<i>cattle</i>	3	9	2	3	5	2	3	7	0	8	5	5	5	3	4	2
1st phalanx		3	1	1	1	6	4	3	12	1	4		1	1		1
2nd phalanx						1										
3rd phalanx						1										
atlas																1
calcaneum							1									
horncore											4					
humerus													1			
metacarpal							1							1		
metapodial					1		2									
molar		2	1			2			1	1						
premolar		1														
radius						1										
scapula				1												
tooth frags								3	11							
<i>horse</i>				1							2	1			1	
cheek tooth			1									1				
femur																1
pelvis											1					
tarsal											1					
<i>pig</i>																1
maxilla																1
<i>sheep/goat</i>	2					2	1									
femur	1					1										
molar						1										
radius							1									
tibia	1															
Total	2	3	2	1	1	8	5	3	12	1	6	1	1	1	1	2

Table 11: Cattle epiphyses

Cattle Elements	Age (months)	Fused	Unfused
Scapula D	7-8	1	0
1st Phal P	13-15	1	0
Humerus D	15-18	1	0
Radius P	15-18	1	0
2nd Phal P	18	1	0
Calcaneum P	36-42		1
Cervical vertebra		1	0

Table 12: Sheep epiphyses

Sheep Elements	Age (months)	Fused	Unfused
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Radius P	10	1	0
Tibia D	18-24	1	0
Femur D	36-42	2	0
Tibia P	36-42	1	0

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas

