University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation at Gateford Park, Gateford, Worksop, Nottinghamshire NGR: SK 573 821

Tim Higgins

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Gateford Park, Gateford Worksop Nottinghamshire

NGR: SK 573 821

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For: Land Improvement Holdings Ltd

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Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at Gateford Park, Gateford, Worksop, Nottinghamshire by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between 7th-20th May. The site lies on the edge of modern settlement in an area containing cropmarks that possibly indicates former activity. A geophysical survey of the site identified linear and discrete features, possibly enclosure ditches and other features associated with an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement.

Due to the planting of a new crop the original plan to excavate 20 trenches over four areas was modified, with the approval of Nottinghamshire County Council, to prevent significant damage to the crop in two of the fields. Consequently, 13 trenches were excavated on the western and eastern parts of the site. All but three of the thirteen trenches contained archaeological features, many of which contained Romano-British pottery dating from the 2nd century AD. These were mostly linear features probably representing enclosure ditches and gullies, most likely associated with the outlying enclosures of a Romano-British farm or settlement

The site archive will be held by ULAS under the temporary accession number GFW 2013 until a suitable storage space is allocated for its deposition in Nottinghamshire.

1. Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on land North of Gateford Park, Gateford, Worksop Nottinghamshire (SK 573 821).

The fieldwork was in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The fieldwork was intended to provide a record of any buried archaeological remains which will be impacted on by the development to address the requirements of the Planning Authority.

The site lies on arable fields on the north side of Gateford Park Worksop and a geophysical survey carried out prior to the evaluation had identified possible Iron Age or Romano-British features.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

Gateford Park lies on the northern fringes of Worksop, Nottinghamshire (Figure 1) close to the border with Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Worksop itself lies at northern edge of Sherwood Forest in north Nottinghamshire.

The application area consists of four fields, broadly triangular or rectangular in shape that lie to the south of woodland and other fields. The site is bordered to the south by roads and modern housing (Figure 2). The site is currently used for agriculture and has been drilled and seeded with new potato crop.

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (Solid Drift) Sheet 113 shows that the underlying geology is likely to be Edlington Formation mudstone. The total area of the site is *c.*37.5ha (92 acres) and the land lies at a height of 34m OD in the east rising to the west to 61m OD. With the land undulating and falling considerably to the east there may be some colluvial soil build-up and this may have given good preservation of any underlying remains in some areas.

Figure 1: Site location plan 1:25000

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3. Archaeological and Historical background

A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the area (Hunt 2007). The site lies in an area that has been undeveloped until fairly recently and the fields within the site itself are likely to have been unchanged since at least the post-medieval period. The area does not appear on the enclosure map of 1797 and appears to fall outside the enclosed area. This may simply mean that the area was enclosed at a later date, or that it was never enclosed and may have been waste

ground, which would fit in with the description of the 'common and waste grounds' mentioned in the enclosure award. It may have also have been forested, as the area seems to be surrounded by strips of what appear to be ancient woodland.

The application area itself contains two recorded archaeological sites. The first is a findspot of a Neolithic stone axe (**L4766**), recorded as being found at grid reference SK 58100 82300, placing it within field 4 of the application area. This was discovered in 1962 and currently resides in Worksop Museum (Cummins and Moore 1973, 254; 408).

There is also a group of enclosures (**M8737**), tentatively dated to the Iron Age, centred on NGR SK 57700 82400, within field 3. These were discovered as cropmarks via aerial photography. These form a cluster of enclosures, and are irregular in plan. Three enclosures are rectangular, one having a double ditch, and are from 0.12ha to 0.15ha in area. Two are quadrant shaped and are 0.1ha and 0.2ha in area. A lane 6m to 9m in width, presumably the footpath running through the site has an enclosure of 0.15ha on its north side.

Between 200-300m to the north east of the application area and 200m to the south east are a further three groups of cropmark features (**M8738-8740**). These are presumably part of the same field system and include linear ditch like features, further enclosures and a series of circular features that may be ring barrows. A further enclosure of unknown date (**M4780**), has been identified at SK 58000 81500, *c.*600m south of the application area.

Several Roman coins of emperors Nero and Domitian (**L5396**) were discovered in the grounds of Gateford Hall, 600 south-west of the application area.

The south east corner of field 1 also contained a lodge, visible on the early maps that had been demolished by the 1980s. Remains of this may also be discovered during any groundworks.

The desk-based assessment concluded that the potential for the site to contain archaeological remains would be high.

- *Fieldwalking Survey*

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken in 2013. This only produced a very low level of finds - ten worked flints (include two Neolithic lithic arrowheads) and post-medieval and modern pottery sherds, along with modern brick. These are likely to have resulted from manuring spreads being added to the fields. (Speed 2013).

- *Geophysical Survey*

The geophysical survey undertaken in 2013 found a number of rectilinear ditched features probably related to former field systems some of which correlate with the cropmarks (Figure 2; Smalley 2013). The enclosures include a double ditched rectangular enclosure in field 4 and suggest a later prehistoric origin (Smalley 2013, 6). Three thermoremanent features were also identified possibly related to former kilns or hearths.

A number of other features were evident throughout the survey area interpreted as possible cut features of archaeological origin. Other anomalies are likely to relate to modern debris and agricultural features.

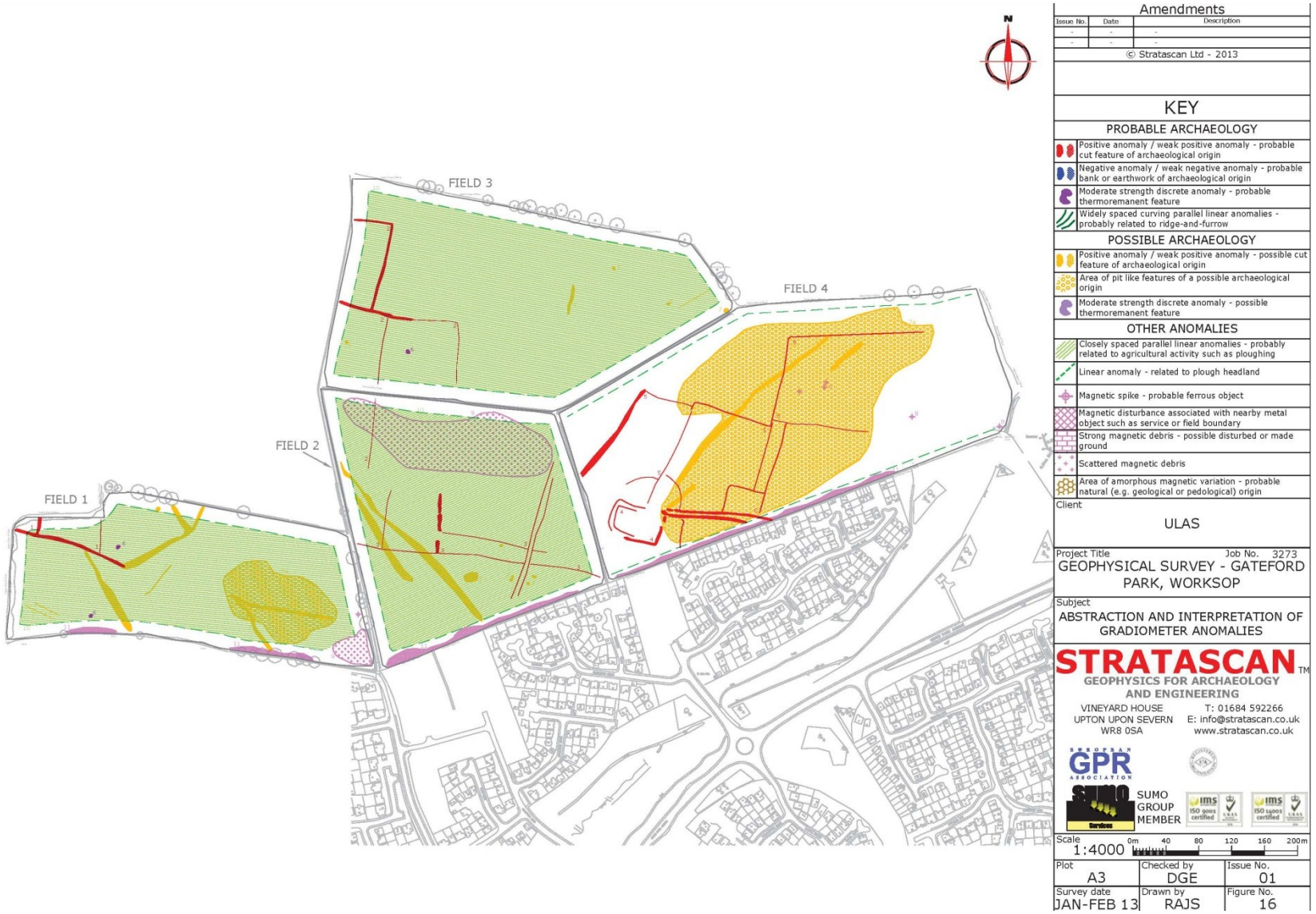

Figure 2: The Development area and the Results of the Geophysical Survey (From Smalley 2013, Fig. 16)

4. Aims and Objectives

The aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits. In particular these would target the anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed development
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits within the southern area of the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

The archaeological evaluation has the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

- *Iron Age (Willis 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

The cropmarks and geophysical anomalies of rectilinear enclosures are likely to be evidence of Iron Age settlement. Information on the sequence and chronology of settlements may be recovered and palaeoenvironmental evidence could provide information on agricultural practices and land use. Artefacts can provide evidence for evidence for craft industry and exchange across broad landscape areas

- *The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

The enclosures may continue in use into the Roman period and there are Roman finds in the vicinity of the development site. The evaluations may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy

5. Methodology

The Brief requested trial trenching targeting the anomalies located during the geophysical survey and blank areas. Originally 20, 30m x 1.8m trenches totaling *c*. 1080 sq m. was planned. However due to site constraints, the total number of evaluation trenches was reduced to 13 (*c.* 624 sq m) looking at geophysical anomalies located in fields 1 and 4. Trenches 12 to 18 that targeted the geophysical anomalies located in fields 2 and 3 were not excavated (Figure 3).

The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision by a JCB backhoe excavator fitted with 1.6m wide ditching bucket. Layers of soil were removed until either the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed substratum was reached, or to a maximum safe depth given the specific site conditions.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeology was observed. Archaeological remains were recorded and sample excavation was undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains. Bulk soil samples were taken as appropriate in order to evaluate the environmental potential of the site. Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by square brackets e.g. [09], while those that are fills are indicated by round brackets e.g. (07).

The trenches were located using a Topcon Hiper Pro GPS+ RTK System attached to a Topcon FC-100 controller. The data was processed using Topcon Tools GPS+ Post Processing Software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.15 design software.

All the work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct (2010) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2010).*

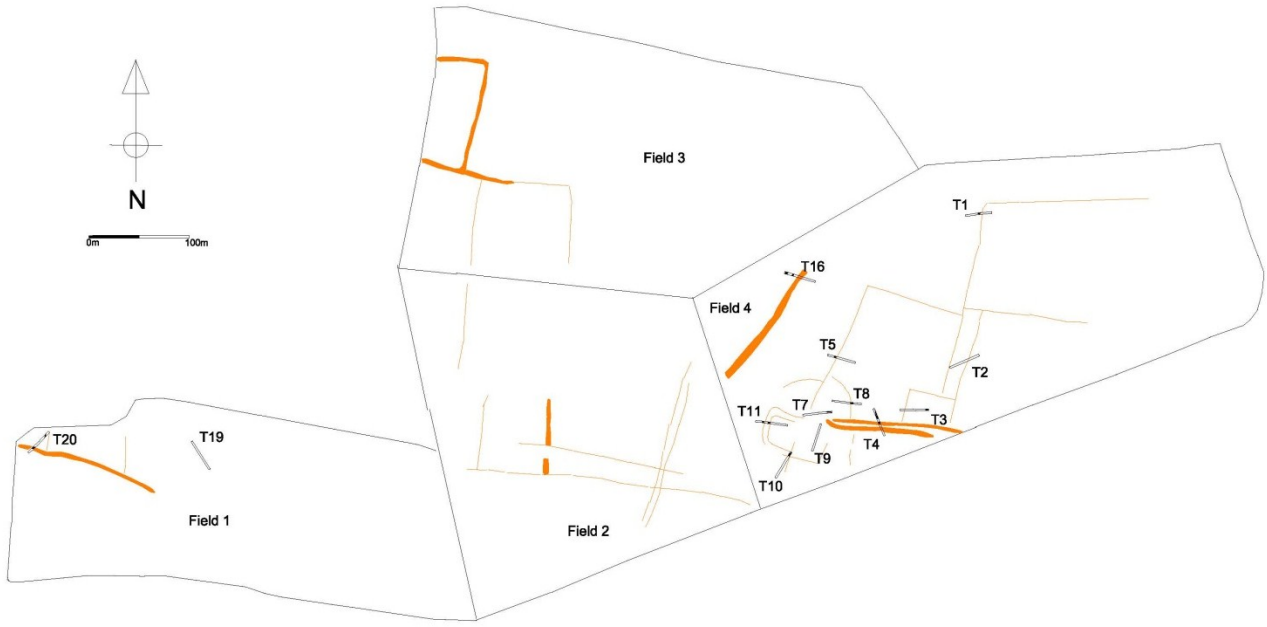

Figure 3: Evaluation trench location plan of field 4 overlain on the geophysical anomalies.

6. Results

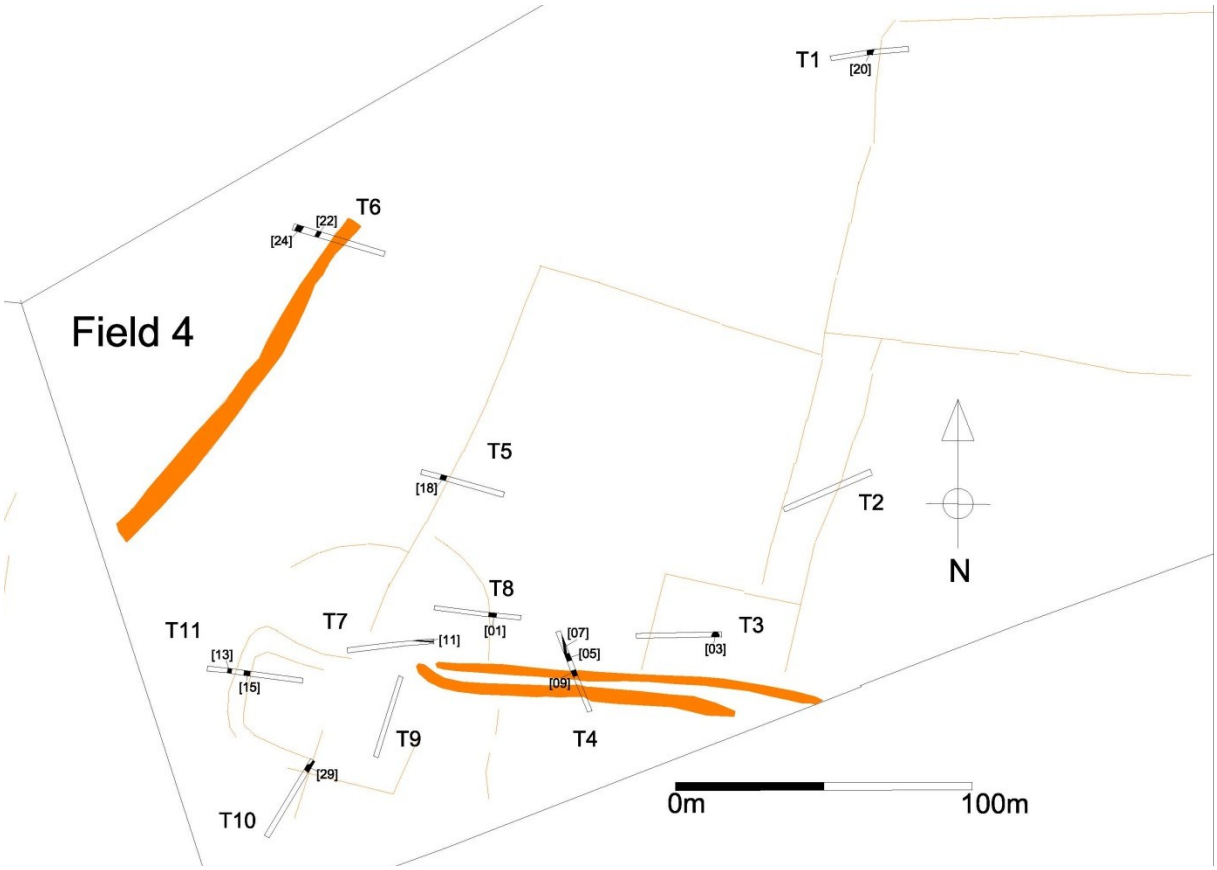

Figure 4: Evaluation trench plan of field 4 with geophysical anomalies and excavated features

Trench 1 Field 4

Topsoil: Dark brown yellow-brown slightly sandy-silt with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: Brown silty-clay with occasional rounded pebble

Natural sub-stratum: Orange-brown sands and gravels

Features: [20], (21) a ditch feature

Orientation: NW-SE		**Length:** 26m		**Width:** 1.6m		
Interval	**NW 0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.10m	-	-	0.10m	-	-
Top of Natural	0.40m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.35m

This trench contained a single, medium size ditch [20], running north to south located towards the western side of the trench (Figure 4). The width of the feature was approximately 1.5m and the excavated section measured 0.69m deep. Both sides of the ditch had 45^{o} sloping sides and the base had a narrow rounded point. The fill (21) consisted of brown sandy-clay with a few water worn rounded pebbles and contained no artefacts (Figures 5-6).

This ditch lies on the same alignment as a linear geophysical feature that might represent an enclosure ditch.

Figure 5: Trench 1 Ditch [20], (21)

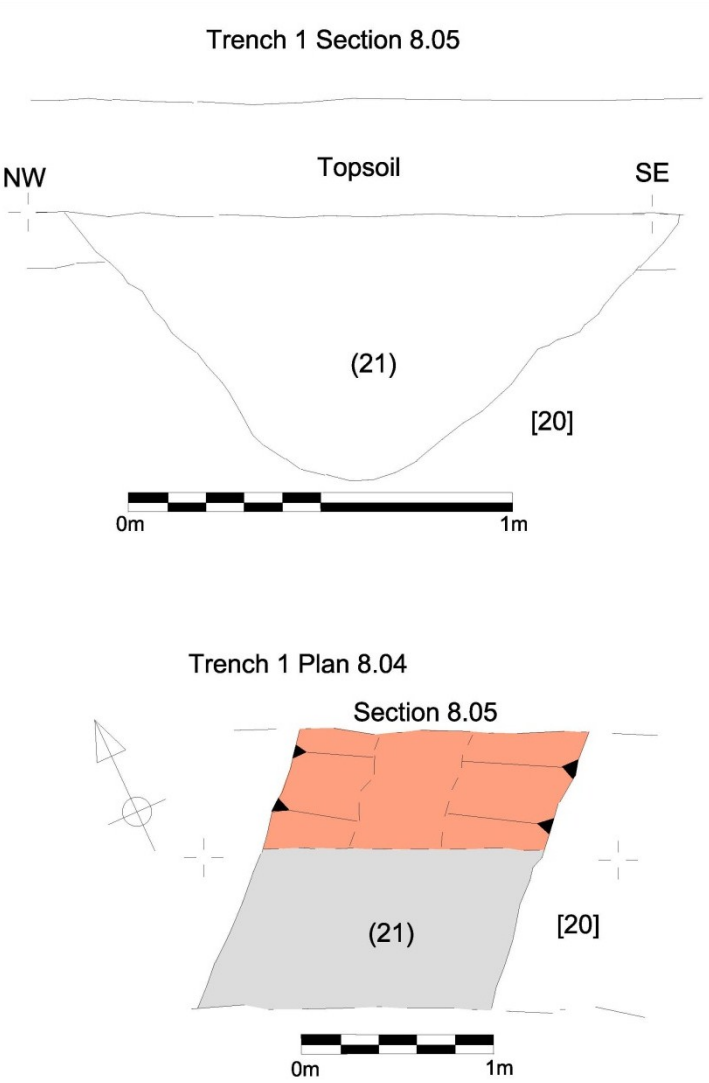

Figure 6: Trench 1 Section 8.05 and Plan 8.04

Trench 2 Field 4

Topsoil: Dark yellow-brown, slightly sandy-silt with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: Brown silty-clay with occasional rounded pebble

Natural sub-stratum: Orange-brown sands and gravels

Features: possible animal burrow

Orientation: W-E		**Length**: 30m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m W**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m E**
Topsoil depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.45m

Trench 2 contained only a natural feature located towards the western side of the trench. No other features were observed within this trench (Figure 4).

Trench 3 Field 4

Topsoil: Dark yellow-brown, slightly sandy-silt with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: Brown silty-clay with occasional rounded pebble

Natural sub-stratum: Reddish Orange-brown sands and gravels

Features: [03], (04) Terminus of Linear feature

Width: 1.6m			**Length**: 30m				
Interval	**0m E**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m W**
Topsoil Depth	0.290m	0.36m	0.36m	0.27m	0.30m	0.28m	0.29m
Subsoil Depth	0.08m	-	-	0.09	0.09m	0.08m	0.06m
Top of Natural	0.37m	0.36m	0.36m	0.36m	0.39m	0.36m	0.25m
Base of Trench	0.41m	0.44m	0.39m	0.40m	0.40m	0.37m	0.42m

At the eastern end of the trench was a large linear feature [03] running northwards across the trench (Figure 4). The feature measured 1.80m by wide and 0.40m deep and was regular in shape but narrowing at its northern end suggesting a possible butt-end of a ditch. The feature had 45^{o} sloping sides that break gently in to a broad undulating base.

The fill (04) comprised pale yellow silty-sand with a rare small pebble and was sterile with no artefacts found (Figures 7-8). No other features were observed within this trench.

Figure 7: Trench 3 Ditch [03], (04)

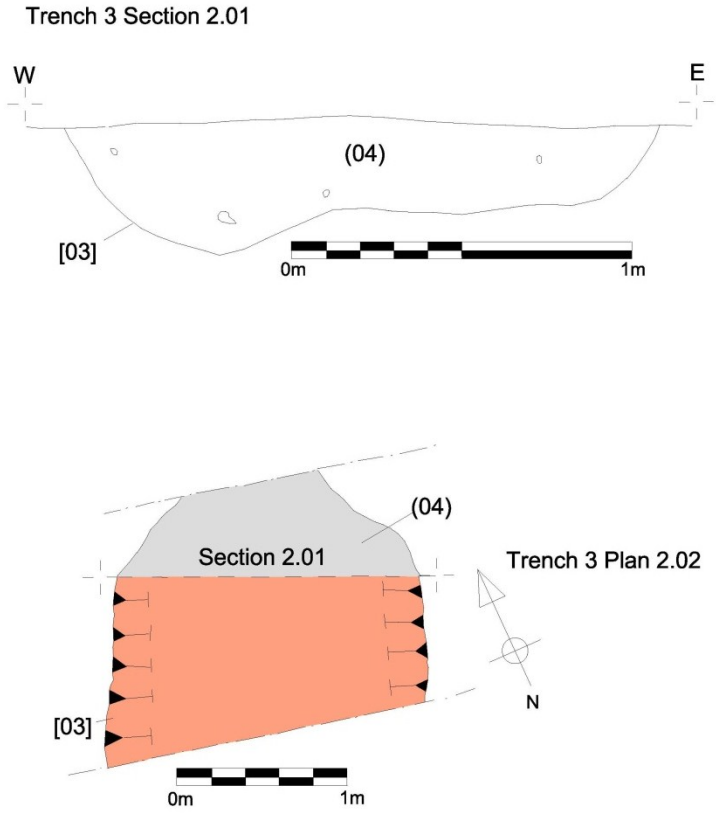

Figure 8: Trench 3 Section 2.01, Plan 2.02

Trench 4 Field 4

Topsoil: Dark yellow-brown slightly sandy-silt with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: no subsoil

Natural sub-stratum: Brown-red sands and gravels

Features: [05], (06); [07], (08); [09], (10) Ditches and gully

Orientation: N-S		**Length**: 30m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.20m	0.26m	0.30m	0.25m	0.24m	0.20m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.26m	0.20m	0.26m	0.30m	0.25m	0.24m	0.20m
Base of Trench	0.30m	0.38m	0.40m	0.34m	0.30m	0.26m	0.32m

This trench contained three features that comprised two ditches and gulley (Figure 4). A ditch, approximately 1.86m wide and 0.60m deep [09] ran across the trench from north-east to south-west. The north-west side of the ditch had 45^{o} slope but the south-east side much steeper and the base was broad and rounded (Figs 9-10). The fill (10) was a mid-red-brown sandy-silt mixed with an occasional small round pebbles. The fill contained no artefacts.

Figure 9: Trench 4 Ditch [09], (10)

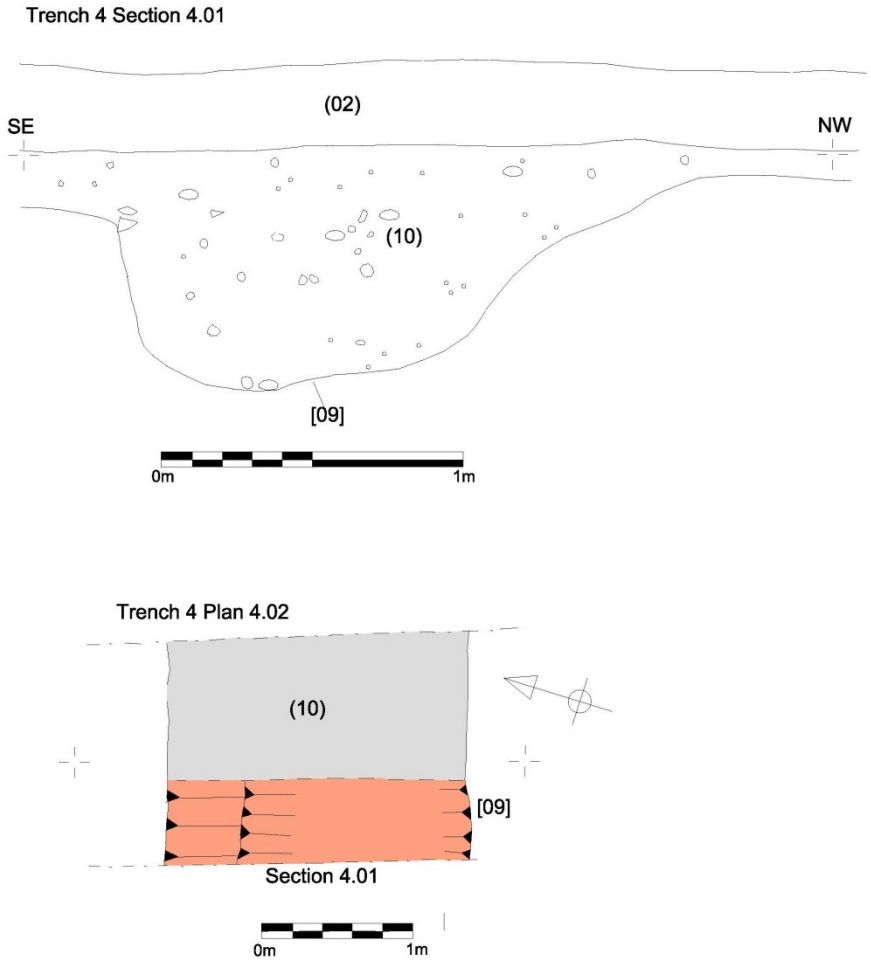

Figure 10: Trench 4 Section 4.01, Plan 4.02

Further north was a second ditch [05] orientated north-east to south-west, and measuring 2.4m wide and 0.74m deep. This wide ditch had gradual sloping sides that break gentle into broad undulating base. The fill (06) comprised red brown sandy-silt mixed with frequent medium and large rounded pebbles (Figures 11 and 12). No artefacts were found with this ditch fill.

These two parallel ditch features [05] and [09] are thought to be part of double ditch enclosure detected during the geophysical survey. In addition to the double ditches a narrow gully [07] was found running north to south into ditch [05]. The gully feature measured 6.5m long, 0.70m wide and had an excavated depth of 0.05m. The excavated section revealed a profile which had shallow gradual sloping sides with a narrow rounded base. The fill (08) comprised red brown sandy-silt mixed with small rounded pebbles (Figure 12). This gully feature suggests that internal enclosure features may survive but are perhaps heavily truncated.

Figure 11: Trench 4 Ditch [05], (06)

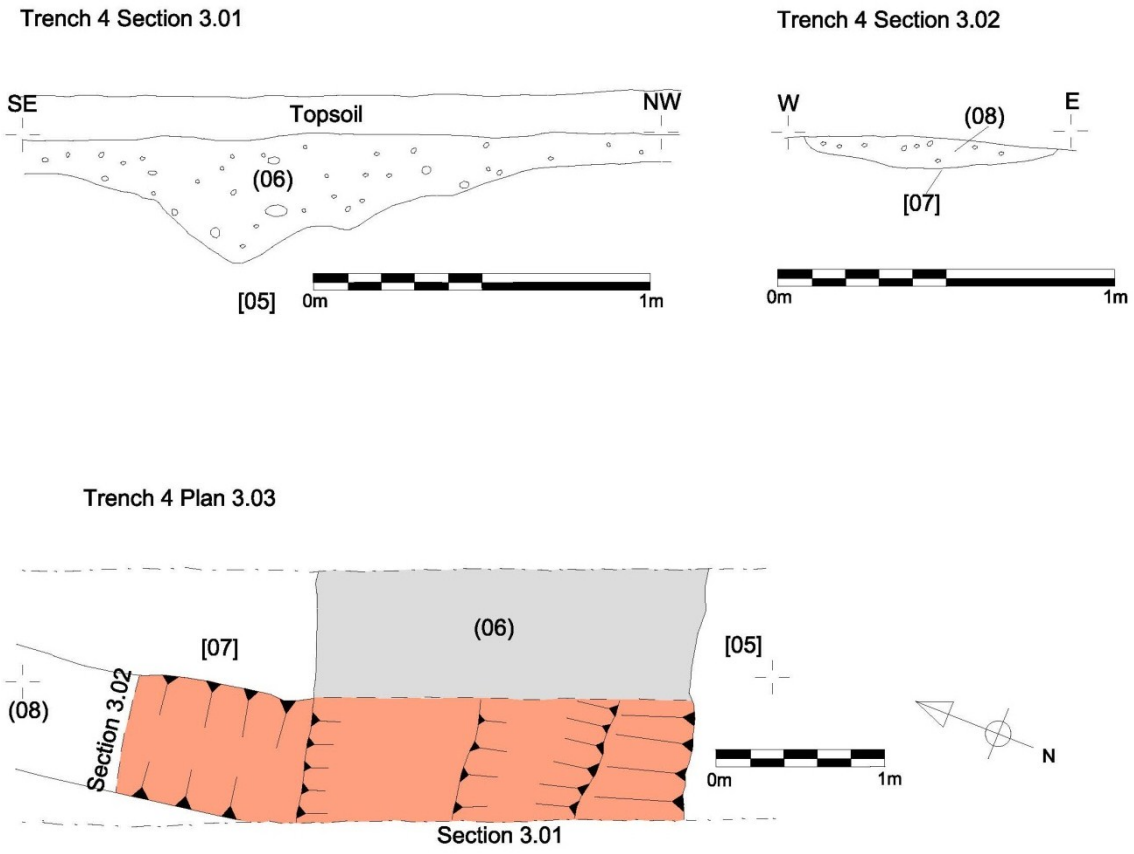

Figure 12: Trench 4 Sections 3.01 and 3.02 and plan 3.03

Trench 5 Field 4

Topsoil: Mid grey-brown sandy-silt mixed with sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: Orange-brown sand mixed with sub-rounded stones

Natural sub-stratum: Yellow orange sands and gravels

Features: [18], (19) Ditch

Orientation: NW-SE		**Length**: 30m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.30m	0.31m	0.30m	0.32m	0.30m	0.29m
Subsoil Depth	-	0.10m	0.10m	0.15m	0.13m	0.09	0.08m
Top of Natural	0.32m	0.40m	0.41m	0.45m	0.45m	0.39m	0.37m
Base of Trench	0.43m	0.43m	0.42m	0.45m	0.46m	0.41m	0.37m

Trench 5 targeted a possible single north - south geophysical anomaly and a ditch [18] was found at the western end of the trench matching the location and orientation of the geophysical feature (Figure 4). The excavated section revealed a 2.20m wide and 0.80m deep ditch with 45^{o} sloping sides and a wide rounded base. The fill (19) comprised pale yellowish-brown silty-sand mixed with small rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal fleck. No artefacts were found in this feature.

Figure 13: Trench 5 Ditch [18], (19)

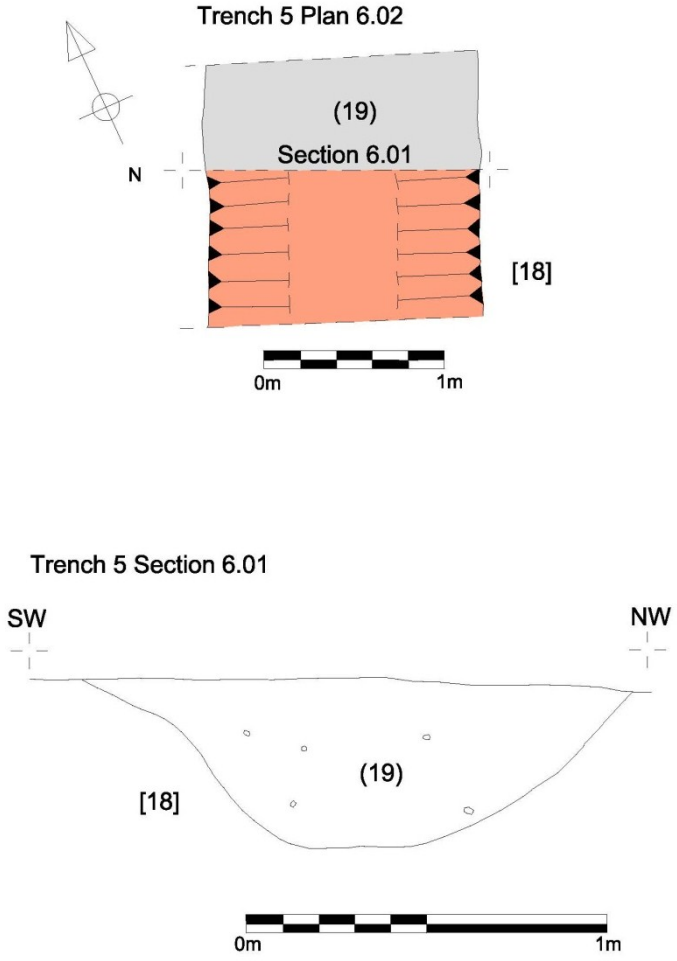

Figure 14: Trench 6 Plan 6.02 Section 6.01

Trench 6 Field 4

Topsoil: Dark brown sandy-silt clay with very occasional sub-rounded pebble

Subsoil: Pale brown sandy-silty-clay mixed with the occasional pebble

Natural sub-stratum: Pale orange sands and gravels

Features: [22], (23); [24], (25) Ditch and gully

Orientation: NW-SE		**Length**: 31m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.35m	0.20m
Subsoil Depth	0.40m	0.30m	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.70m	-colluvium	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.35m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.70m	0.60m	0.30m	0.35m	0.30m	0.40m	0.35m

This trench was located in the north-west corner of the field 4 and targeted a single wide geophysical linear feature orientated north-east to south-west (Figure 4). A wide linear ditch [24] was found at the western end of the trench that approximately matches the location of the geophysical feature. The ditch measured 2.58m wide and 0.48m deep and had 45^{o} sloping sides with a very broad, flat base (Figure 15). The fill (25) comprised pale brown sandy-silt clay mixed with occasional small round pebble and charcoal fleck. The feature contained no artefacts.

The ditch was sealed by a layer of colluvium at the western of the trench. A gully feature [22] was found cutting the colluvium four meters to the east of ditch [24] and on the same alignment. This shallow gully measured 1.05m wide and 0.18m deep and had gradual sloping sides and flat base (Figure 15). It contained pale brown silty-sand fill (23) mixed with rounded pebbles but contained no artefacts.

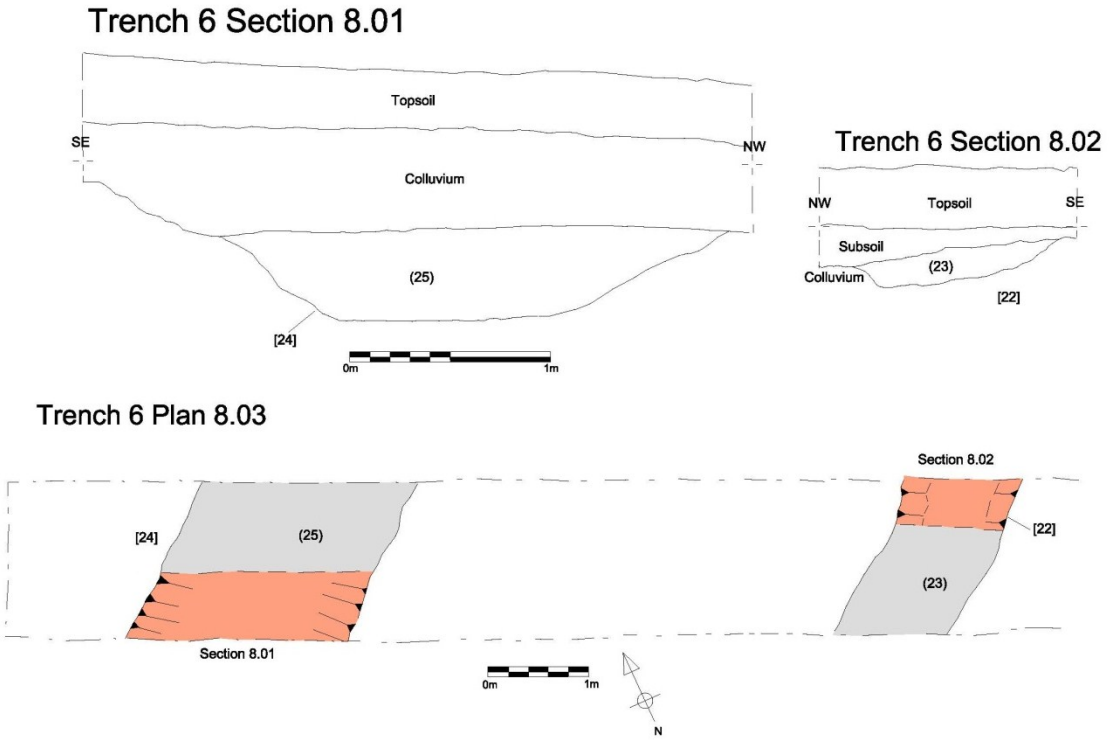

Figure 15: Trench 6 Section 8.01 and 8.02 and Plan 8.03

Trench 7 Field 4

Topsoil: Grey brown sandy-silt with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: no subsoil

Natural sub-stratum: Brown-red sands and gravels

Features: [11], (12) gully

Orientation: SW-NE		**Length**: 30m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.20m	0.20m	0.29m	0.26m	0.32m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.20m	0.20m	0.29m	0.26m	0.32m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.33m	0.29m	0.26m	0.30m	0.30m	0.35m	0.33m

Trench 7 contained a single narrow gully feature [11] running east to west at the eastern end of the trench (Figure 4). The gully measured 4.40m long, 0.70m wide and 0.11m deep. This shallow feature had gradual sloping sides and a flat base (Figures 16-17). The fill (12) comprised red-brown sandy-silt with occasional pebbles. This single gully suggests that there is some potential for internal features to survive within the enclosures, but that they are likely to be heavily truncated.

Figure 16: Trench 7 Gully [11], (12)

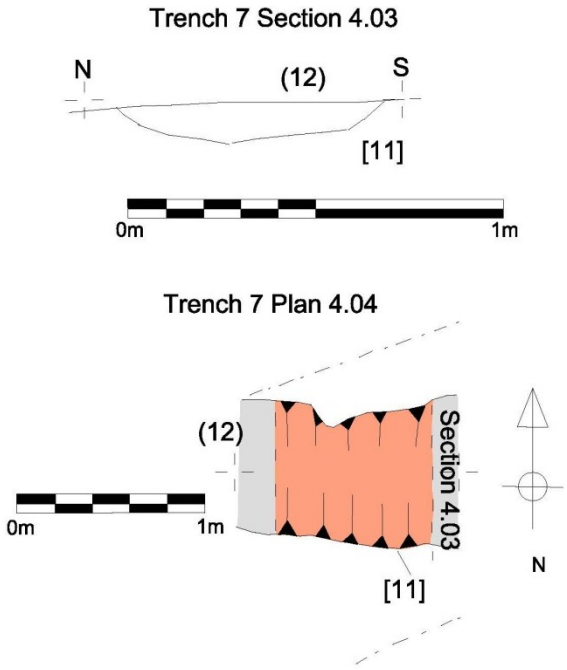

Figure 17: Trench 7 Section 4.03 Plan 4.04

Trench 8 Field 4

Topsoil: Grey-brown sandy-silt with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: Brown sandy-silt

Natural sub-stratum: Orange-yellow brow sands and gravels

Features: [01], (02) Ditch

Orientation: E-W			**Length**: 30m		**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.28m	0.30m	0.31m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	0.11m	0.08m	0.07m	0.11m
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.41m	0.36m	0.37m	0.42m
Base of Trench	0.38m	0.42m	0.43m	0.45m	0.38m	0.40m	0.46m

This trench targeted a curving linear geophysical feature and a ditch [01] was found at the eastern end of the trench which corresponds with that feature (Figure 4). The ditch measured 2.20m wide and had excavated depth of 0.80m. The sides were fairly steep at 45^{o} and the base was rounded (Figure 18). The fill (02) comprised pale yellowish-brown silty-sand with rounded pebbles. The fill of this ditch contained a single sherd of Roman pottery.

Figure 18: Trench 8 Ditch [01], (02)

Trench 9 Field 4

Topsoil: Dark grey-brown slightly sandy-silt clay with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: no subsoil

Natural sub-stratum: Dark red brown sands and gravels

Features: no features

Orientation: SW-NE		**Length**: 29m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.45m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m

This trench targeted the interior of an enclosure (Figure 4) and no features were observed within it.

Trench 10 Field 4

Topsoil: Dark brown lightly sandy-silt clay with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: Brown silty-sandy clay

Natural sub-stratum: Yellow-brown sands lay and gravels with dark red brown clay

Features: [29], (28) Ditch

Orientation: SW-NE		**Length**: 30m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	-	0.10m	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.40m	0.30m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.50m

Trench 10 was excavated over what was thought to be the corner or junction between geophysical linear features and a corner of a ditch [29] was revealed at the eastern end of this trench (Figure 4). Ditch [29] was had sharp right angle turn to it and measured 1.80m wide and 0.40m deep with undulating sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 19). The fill (28) consisted of yellowish-brown silty-sand with pebbles and charcoal flecks. The fill also contained a single sherd of Roman pottery.

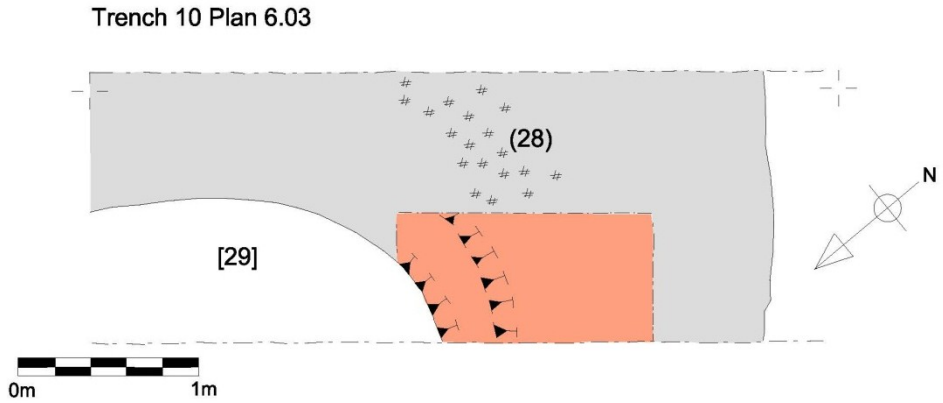

Figure 19: Trench 10 Plan 6.03 Ditch [27], (28)

Trench 11 Field 4

Topsoil: Dark grey silty-sand with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: no subsoil

Natural sub-stratum: Pale orange-brown sands and gravels

Features: [13], (14); [15], (16) Ditches

Orientation: NW-SE		**Length**: 30m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.40m	0.20m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.40m	0.20m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.40m	0.40m	0.30m

Trench 11 targeted a small double ditched enclosure located on the western edge of Field 4 (Figure 4). Two ditches were found towards the western edge of the trench that appears to correspond with the geophysical features. Ditch [13] had very steep, sloping sides that break sharply into a narrow point at the base. The ditch measured 1.45m wide and 0.65m deep (Figures 20 - 21). The fill (14) comprised pale yellow-brown silty-sand with occasional pebbles.

A second larger ditch [15] was found approximately 6m to the east which measured 2.00m wide and 0.80m deep. This ditch had steep 45^{o} sloping sides with a rounded base (Figures 22-23). The ditch had a primary fill (16) of grey-yellow silty-sand mixed with charcoal flecks and containing Roman pottery sherds. Overlying this was a second fill (17) comprising pale yellow-brown silty-sand with occasional pebbles.

Figure 20: Trench 11 Ditch [15], (16), (17)

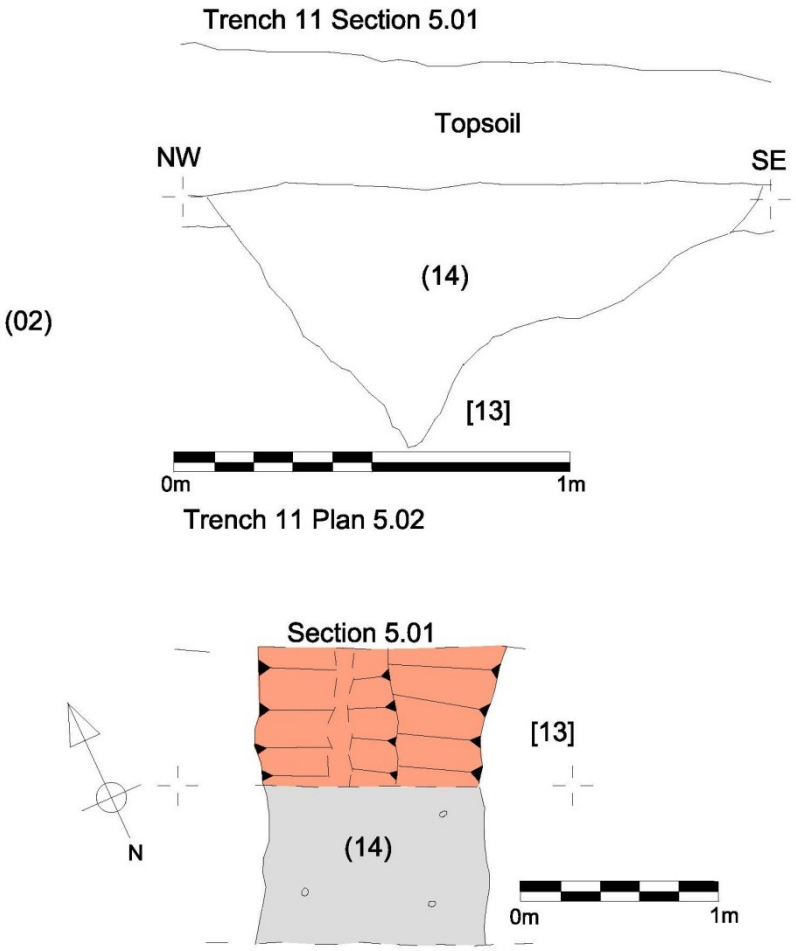

Figure 21: Trench 11 Section5.01 Plan 5.02

Figure 22: Trench 11Ditch [13], (14)

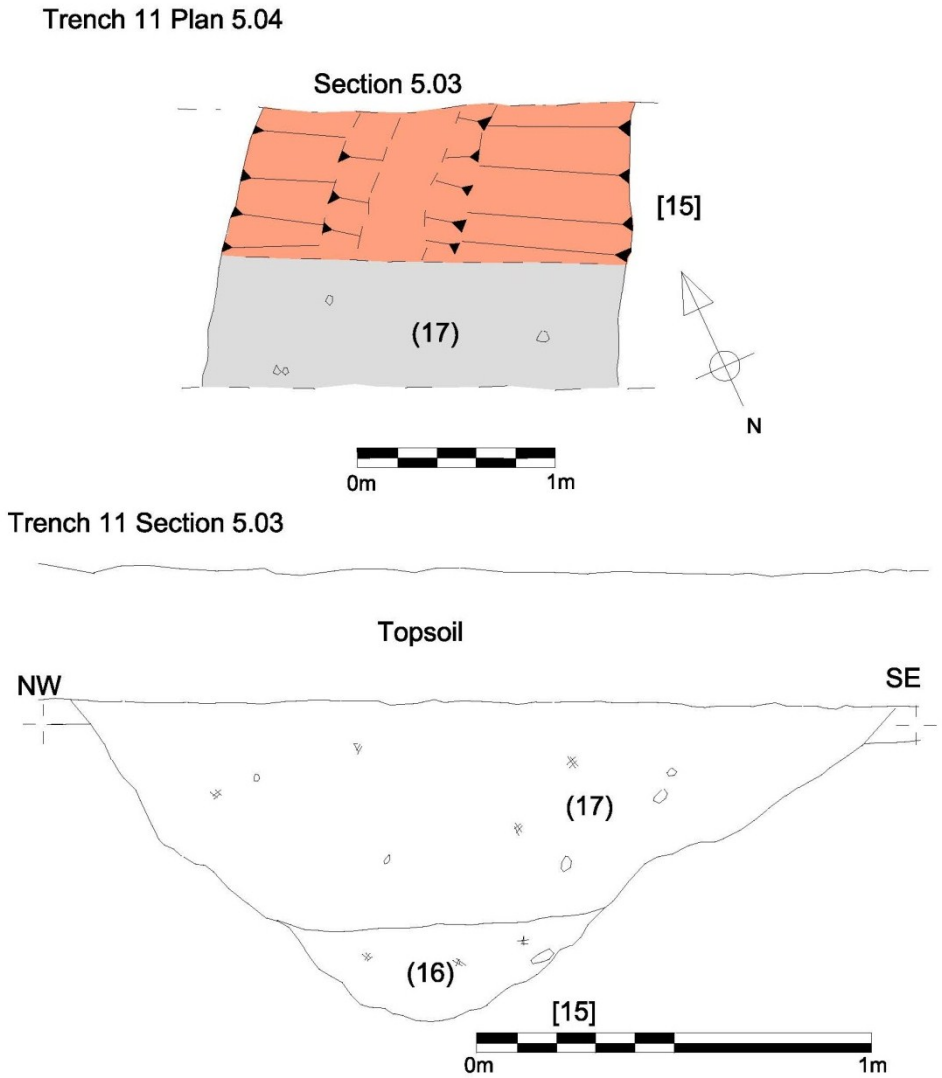

Figure 23: Trench 11 Plan 5.04 Section 5.03

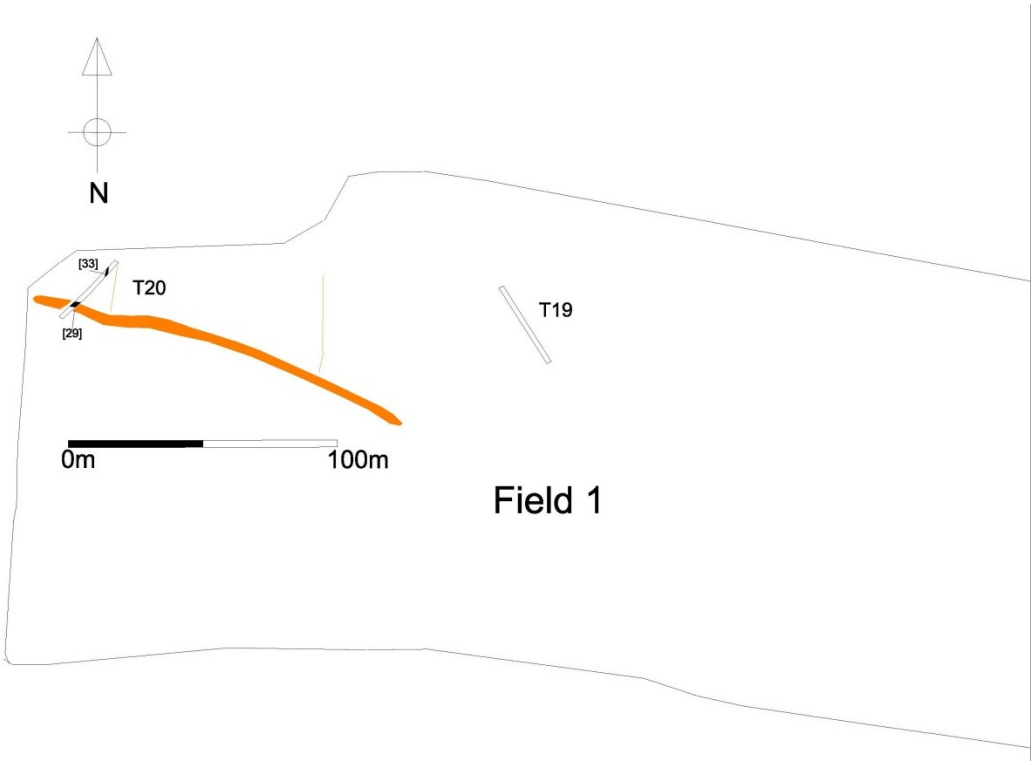

Figure 24: Evaluation trench location plan of field 1 overlain on the geophysical anomalies.

Trench 19 Field 1

Topsoil: Dark brown lightly sandy-silt clay with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: no subsoil

Natural sub-stratum: Pale red brown sands and pale yellowish-brown silt sands and gravel

Features: No features

Orientation: N-S			**Length**: 33m		**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.20m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.30m	0.40m	0.35m	0.35m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m

Trench 19 was located on the western side of the development within field 1 (Figure 24). No man made features were observed within this trench although changes in natural substratum were noted.

Trench 20m Field 1

Topsoil: Light greyish-brown sandy-silt with very occasional sub-rounded stones

Subsoil: Light brown sandy-silt

Natural sub-stratum: Brown-red sands and gravels

Features: [29], (30); [33], (34) Ditches

Orientation: NE-SW		**Length**: 30m			**Width**: 1.6m		
Interval	**0m NW**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m SE**
Topsoil Depth	0.33m	0.300m	0.30m	0.33m	0.34m	0.24m	0.27m
Subsoil Depth	-	0.10m	-	0.09m	-	0.08m	0.10m
Top of Natural	0.33m	0.40m	0.30m	0.42m	0.34m	0.32m	0.37m
Base of Trench	0.43m	0.44m	0.42m	0.44m	0.37m	0.55m	0.61m

This trench targeted geophysical linear features that suggested a possible enclosure (Figure 24). A large ditch [29] was exposed at the western end of the trench running north-west to south-east direction that matched one of the geophysical anomalies (Figures 25-6). The ditch measured 2.50m wide and had a depth of 0.80m with steep 45^{o} slightly convex sides and a rounded base. The ditch contained a primary fill (31) that comprised orange-brown sand with occasional pebbles. Overlying this was a second fill (30) which consisted of pale yellowish-brown silty-sand. This fill was very mixed with sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone, suggesting possible domestic refuse disposal.

Towards the eastern end of the trench a second smaller ditch [33] was found corresponding with the second geophysical anomaly. The ditch was orientated in a north to south direction and measured 0.70m wide and 0.49m deep (Figure 27). The narrow, shallow feature had steep sloping sides and an uneven base. It contained a pale yellow-brown sand and silt fill. A single Roman pottery sherd was found within the feature.

Figure 25: Trench 20 Ditch [29], (30), (31)

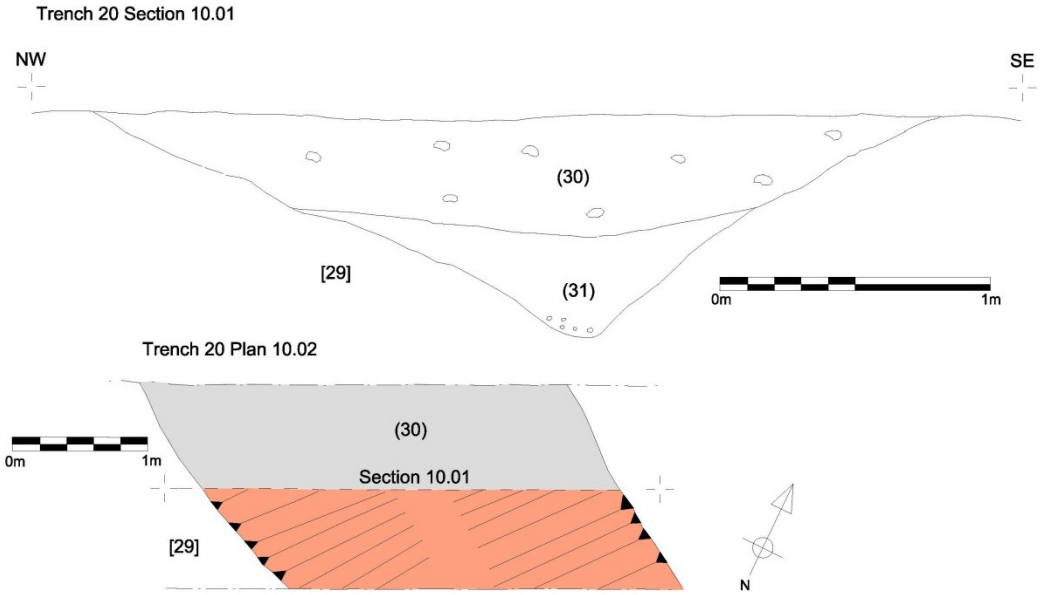

Figure 26: Trench 20 Section 10.01 Plan 10.02

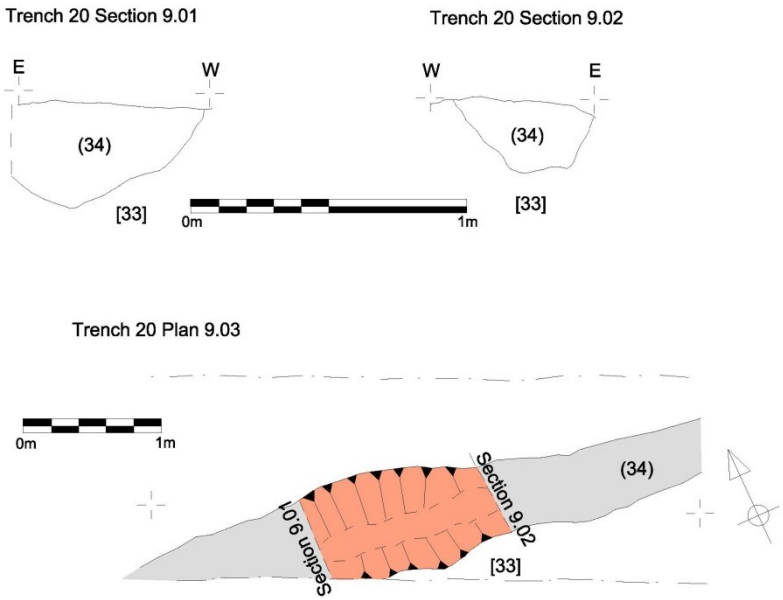

Figure 27: Trench 30 Section 9.01 and 9.02 Plan 9.03

7. The Roman Pottery - *Elizabeth Johnson*

Assemblage Size and Condition

An assemblage comprising 74 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 2.329kg with an EVEs value of 1.525, was retrieved from the excavations. The average sherd weight of 31.5g suggests very good levels of preservation. Three fragments of ceramic building material weighing 79g were also recovered.

Methodology

The pottery was examined in hand specimen using a binocular microscope at x15 magnification and classified using the Derbyshire fabric series summarised in the table below (Leary 2001). In addition, a single colour-coated ware vessel of unknown source was simply categorised as "C" for colour-coat as no other suitable code was available.

Table 1: Summary of Derbyshire fabric series (after Leary 2001, 97-99).

Fabric:	**Description:**
BS: Black sandy wares	
BSA2:	Dark grey to black throughout. Wheel made.
BSB1:	Brown sandy ware with small amount of shelly inclusions.
CT: Shelly wares	
CTA1:	Oxidised shell-gritted ware. Orange with buff core. Possibly handmade.
CTB1:	Dark grey-black. Shell with sparse quartz.
CTB2:	Dark grey to buff shelly ware with moderate quartz and sparse argillaceous inclusions.
GR: Grey wares	
GRB1:	Miscellaneous grey fabrics with moderate quantities of medium-sized quartz.
GRB2:	Grey ware with quartz and shell inclusions.

Quantification was by sherd count, weight (grams) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rim values). Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed. The dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record. A summary is given in the ceramic building material and pottery catalogues below.

Ceramic Building Material catalogue

Context	**Form**	**Frags**	**Weight (g)**
28	Misc	2	71
30	Misc	1	8
	Total	**3**	**79**

Pottery Catalogue

Cut	**Cont**	**Fabric**	**Form**	**Ves part**	**Sherds**	**Weight (g)**	**Diam**	**EVEs**	**Dating**
1	2	BSB1	Jar	Base	2	7			1st-early2ndC
1	2	BSA2	Jar	Base	1	68			1st-early2ndC
15	16	CTA1	Jar	Body	2	15			1st-early 2ndC
15	16	CTB1	Jar	Body	2	32			1st-early 2ndC
27	28	GRB1	Jar	Body	2	18			Late 1st-2ndC
27	28	C	Beaker	Base	1	19			mid-late 2ndC
29	30	GRB2	Jar	Rim	52	1842	20	1.00	Late 1st-2ndC?
29	30	GRB1	Jar	Rim	1	85	13	0.525	Late 1st-2ndC
29	30	GRB1	Jar	Base	6	154			Late 1st-2ndC
29	30	GRB1	Jar	Body	4	83			Late 1st-2ndC
33	34	CTB2	Misc	Body	1	6			1st-early 2ndC
				Total	**74**	**2329**			

Results

Trench 8
Three sherds (75g) were recovered from ditch [1] (2), comprising two black sandy ware jars dating to the 1st or early 2nd centuries. The BSB1 sherds are small and abraded. The ditch is possibly curvilinear and the pottery could date within the 1st century indicating an early feature.

Trench 10
Three sherds (37g) of pottery were recovered from an enclosure ditch [29] (28), comprising a grey ware jar and a colour-coated ware beaker base. The colour-coated ware could not be identified to a particular source, but the form is a globular bag shaped form, suggesting a mid-late 2nd century date. There are only traces left of an orange-brown colour coat on the outer surfaces. Two fragments of ceramic building material (71g) were also recovered from (28).

Trench 11
Four sherds (47g) of pottery were found in ditch [15] (16) comprising two shelly ware jars, both most likely dating within the 1st century or early 2nd century. The shell has disappeared from all the sherds, leaving only vesicles in their place. This ditch is also probably an enclosure ditch.

Trench 20
Sixty-three sherds (2.164kg) of pottery were recovered from a ditch [29] (30). The ditch is part of a field system located on the western side of the site away from the other three trenches from which pottery was recovered. All four of the vessels are grey wares, with one large jar represented by 52 sherds (1.842kg). This jar is a lid-seated vessel with a pulley wheel rim in the GRB2 fabric, most likely dating to the late 1st or 2nd centuries. The remaining 11 sherds represent three further grey ware jars, all in the GRB1 fabric. One body sherd shows an incised groove as decoration. One small fragment of ceramic building material (8g) was also found in (30).

Finally, one abraded sherd (6g) of shelly ware was recovered from ditch [33] (34). This ditch is part of the same field system as [29] (30) above.

Discussion

The majority of the pottery was recovered from a single fill, (30), which accounts for 85.1% of the total sherds and 92.9% of the total weight. The presence of one large vessel in (30) is the reason for the average sherd weight of 31.5g for the assemblage, however, even discounting this, a recalculated sherd weight of 22.1g still indicates very good levels of preservation overall, even though some surfaces are abraded.

Overall, there is nothing here to suggest a date after the 2nd century, with the early black sandy and shelly fabrics possibly dating within the 1st century. The assemblage is very conservative, with the colour-coated ware beaker the only vessel possibly from a non-local source. This again is indicative of an earlier rather than later Roman date. The pulley wheel rimmed lid-seated jar is an interesting form and a search for parallels might be useful to refine dating and possibly a production source.

8. The Animal Bone - *Jennifer Browning*

Introduction

The bones were recovered during an evaluation at Gateford Park in north Nottinghamshire. The site lies on the northern fringes of Worksop, close to the border with Yorkshire and Derbyshire. A geophysical survey had previously highlighted a number of linear features located in four separate areas, which were interpreted as possible Iron Age/Romano-British field systems or animal corral enclosures. Twenty trenches were excavated during the evaluation and the majority contained ditches or gullies, reflecting the results of the geophysical survey. No additional settlement features such as pits or postholes were identified.

The archaeology represents the outlying enclosures of a Romano-British settlement. The trenching indicates that the focus of the settlement is likely to be under a modern housing development to the south. However, evidence suggests another possible concentration of features on the east of the site in field 1. The animal bones recovered during hand-excavation were recovered from a ditch in Trench 20 in this location; context 30, cut 29. The bones were assessed to evaluate preservation and variety and therefore provide an indication of the faunal potential, should the site progress to excavation.

The natural subsoil on the site largely consisted of an acidic sand, with patches of clay. The site has been used for the cultivation of potatoes, which had contributed to the erosion of the features.

The Assemblage

The current sample consists of 11 fragments from a ditch fill; context 29. The assemblage was fragmented, illustrated by the fact that both old and modern breakage was observed. (Table 2). Surface condition was assessed as 'fair', indicating the bone surfaces were 'solid in places but flaky or powdery on up to 49% of specimen' and 'poor', 'surface flaky or powdery over 50% of specimen', following Harland et al (2003). One specimen, a cattle tibia, was particularly abraded. Bones of sheep/goat and horse were identified, in addition to cattle. No modifications, such as gnawing, butchery or pathologies, were observed.

Table 2: The animal bones recovered from the site (number in brackets refers to total number of fragments recovered)

Context	Cut	Feature	Number	Bone	Taxa	Condition	Notes
30			1	tibia	cattle	poor	Extremely abraded surface. Distal fused.
30			1	Lm1 or Lm2	Sheep/goat	fair	In wear
30			1	Lm3	Sheep/goat	fair	In wear (on all three pillars)
30			1	Um1 or um 2	Sheep/goat	fair	
30			1 (5)	pelvis	horse	fair	5 fragments from acetabulum
30			1 (2)	molar	cattle	poor	2 fragments
Total			6 (11)				

Archaeological Context and Potential

This small sample has provided an indication of the type of faunal material that may be recovered, should the site progress to excavation. Cattle, sheep/goat and horse were identified in the assemblage. Fragmentation was common and some specimens exhibited extensive

exfoliation, almost certainly because of the acidic and abrasive nature of the subsoil. The prevalence of teeth probably also reflects poor bone survival and it is likely that preservation factors may limit the potential of the assemblage as, for example, juvenile or small bones are less likely to survive. However the rarity of such sites increases the importance of the material and the recovery of faunal assemblages is likely to be a research priority. Rural Romano-British sites appear rare in Nottinghamshire; a review of the faunal evidence for the Roman period lists five sites with faunal remains (Albarella and Pirnie 2008), four of which are in south Nottinghamshire. Excavation in Raymoth Lane, Worksop has produced faunal remains from the Iron Age and Roman periods (Kitch 2004) and it is therefore this assemblage that would provide useful comparisons.

9. Discussion

The evaluation at Gateford Park, Worksop confirms the evidence from the geophysical results carried out prior to this stage of work, which identified linear and discrete features that appeared to be most likely late prehistoric or Romano-British in origin.

Most of the anomalies identified on the survey that were targeted were confirmed by the trenching, particularly the ditches in Trenches 1, 6, 10, 11 and 20 which match up with the large and small enclosures on the survey (Figures 3 and 4).

Trench 4 also confirms some of the features on the survey that suggest a double ditched enclosure. Some additional smaller, shallow linear features were found in trenches 4 and 7 that were not located during the survey which suggest perhaps some internal activity does survive although this is likely to be truncated. In general where tested, the results of the geophysical survey appear to provide an accurate picture of the archaeology on the site and this is also likely to be the case in the two fields that were not able to be excavated.

Ditches and gullies were identified and excavated in ten of the thirteen trenches, with pottery exclusively Romano-British in date. Most of the material suggests a 1st - 2nd century AD date with nothing later than the 2nd century. However, one early sherd from a curvilinear ditch in trench 8 could suggest an earlier 1st century feature.

The features are most likely to represent enclosure ditches and drainage gullies. Possible domestic refused dumped in ditch [29] in Trench 20 suggests that there could be settlement activity nearby although no evidence was recovered for post-holes and or other features that may be interpreted as being structural.

The evidence from the trenching would suggest that the archaeological activity is largely focussed throughout the western sides of fields 1 and 4. Trench 19 in field 1 was negative, which may suggest that the archaeology is more concentrated on the north-west corner of that field. It seems likely that the features in Fields 2 and 3 would produce similar results.

These features appear to represent the outlying agricultural ditches of a Romano-British settlement, with the settlement focus possibly further to the south.

10. Archive and Publication

The site archive will be held by ULAS under the temporary accession number GFW 2013 until a suitable storage space in allocated for its deposition in Nottinghamshire.

The content of the paper archive consists of:

1 Unbound A4 copy of this report

13 A4 Trench recording sheets

1 A4 Context summary sheet

36 A5 Context Sheets

1 A4 Photo record sheet

1 A4 Drawing Record

1 A2 and 8 A3Plan and section drawing sheets

Black and white contact print Black and white picture negatives

A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of digital photos

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project under the code. Oasis is an online index to grey literature reports.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in suitable publication in due course.

11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author, assisted by Leon Hunt and Roy Poulter. Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project. The pottery was identified by Elizabeth Johnson and animal bone by Jennifer Browning.

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