



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services



An Archaeological field evaluation at  
Rogues Lane, Cottesmore, Rutland  
(SK 9054 1392)

Wayne Jarvis

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**An Archaeological field evaluation at  
Rogues Lane, Cottesmore, Rutland**

**Wayne Jarvis**

*for*

Wardle Evans Ltd.

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:**



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# **An Archaeological field evaluation at Rogues Lane, Cottesmore, Rutland (SK 9054 1392)**

Wayne Jarvis

## **Summary**

*An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Rogues Lane, Cottesmore, Rutland (SK 9054 1392). The work was in advance of the proposed development of the site for new housing. Thirteen trenches were excavated targeting the proposed house plots and access road. A series of features were identified, in both the western and eastern areas of site. The features included ditches, gullies, pits and a post-hole. Pottery and other material, including a kiln bar and a glass bead, of early Roman date were recovered from the features. The evidence indicates domestic and perhaps industrial activity in the mid-1st to 2nd century AD. Some residual flint was also recovered from the features and unstratified from the ploughsoil.*

*The archive for this work will be deposited with Rutland Museum with accession number OAKRM2014.51.*

## **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Wardle Evans Ltd. to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Rogues Lane, Cottesmore, Rutland (SK 9054 1392). This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The site lies on the eastern outskirts of the village within the designated Conservation Area. Residential development is proposed on the site.

## **Site Location, Details and Geology**

The site is located at the north-east edge of the village of Cottesmore, Rutland. The site lies within a designated Conservation Area. It comprises an enclosed field, encompassing an area of *c.* 4.1 hectares. The site is currently under an arable crop, and is bordered on two sides by strips of woodland. The soil is heavy and has been drained on various occasions, with stone, ceramic, and pea-grit land drains, and mole drains all being present.

The site lies at a height of *c.* 130m aOD, on relatively undulating land with a general fall off to the south. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of the application area is likely to consist of Grantham Formation Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 172 to 176 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, indicating a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. The superficial deposits are mid-Pleistocene Diamicton till <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 26th March 2014).



Figure 1: Location Map. Location of site indicated.

1:50 000 (Landranger) ©Crown Copyright. Licence No. 100021186.

## Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment for the site has been undertaken (Browning 2014). The available evidence suggests that in the medieval and post-medieval periods the site was immediately outside the settlement core, in an area used for agriculture. Traces of ridge and furrow, indicating medieval strip farming have been noted on the land. Map evidence indicates that the land was divided into several fields at the time of Enclosure. The fields were amalgamated prior to the 1st edition OS map to form a single large area flanked by a strip of woodland (The Rookery) on its northern and eastern sides. Cottesmore Hall was located west of the site and it is likely that this change was associated with the Hall. The land-use and arrangement appears to have remained broadly unchanged since this time.

The desk-based assessment concluded that “there is sparse evidence for known prehistoric and Roman archaeology in the vicinity of the site. Saxon activity is known from Lilac Farm to the north-west. The potential for survival of archaeology from these earlier periods within the development area is therefore largely unknown” (ibid. p.21).

## Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

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

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

### Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2010). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS.

The WSI asked for 13 by 1.8m trenches (c. 234 sq. m.), targeting the proposed house footprints, and the proposed new road line (Fig. 2). These trenches were nominally 10m long.

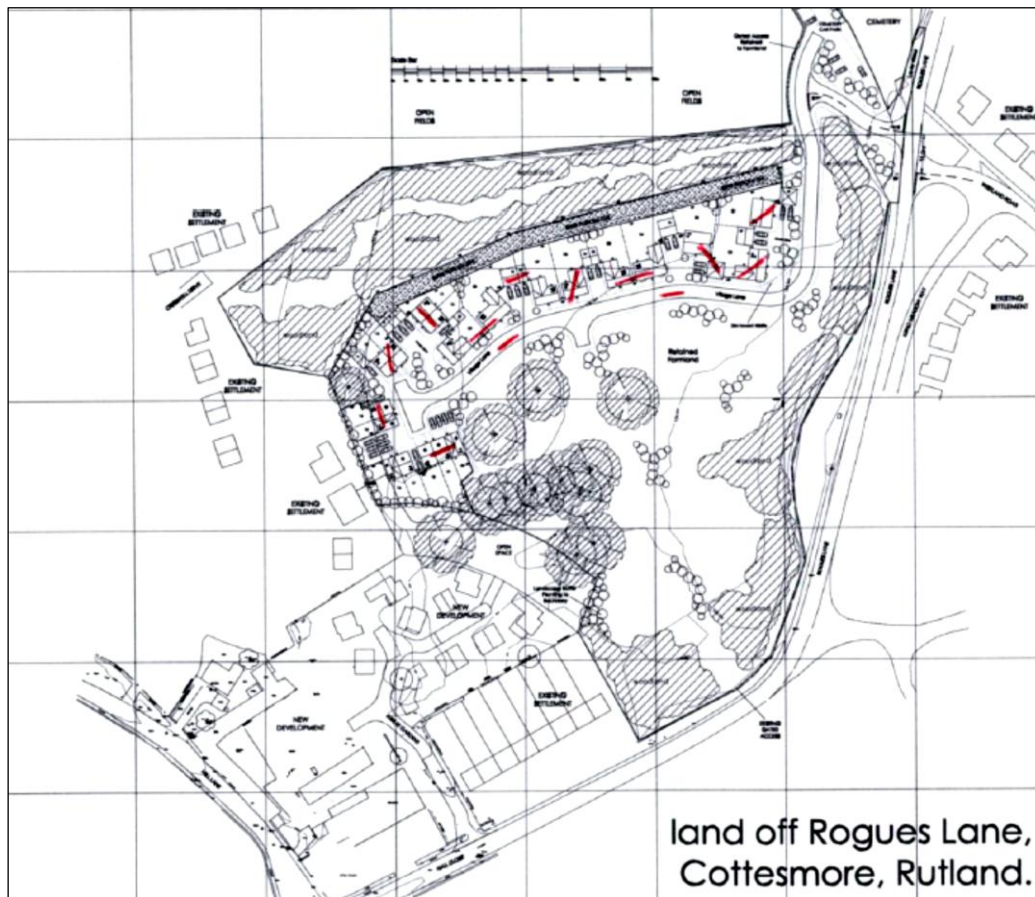


Figure 2: Client plan showing site location, proposed development and WSI trench layout.



Plate 1: Site area, looking south-west from entrance gate (April 2014).

## Results (Table 1)

The trenches were set out as in the WSI, targeting the proposed house footprints, and the proposed new road line (Figs. 2-3). The trenches were excavated by a 360 excavator machine with a ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After excavation and recording the trenches were backfilled.

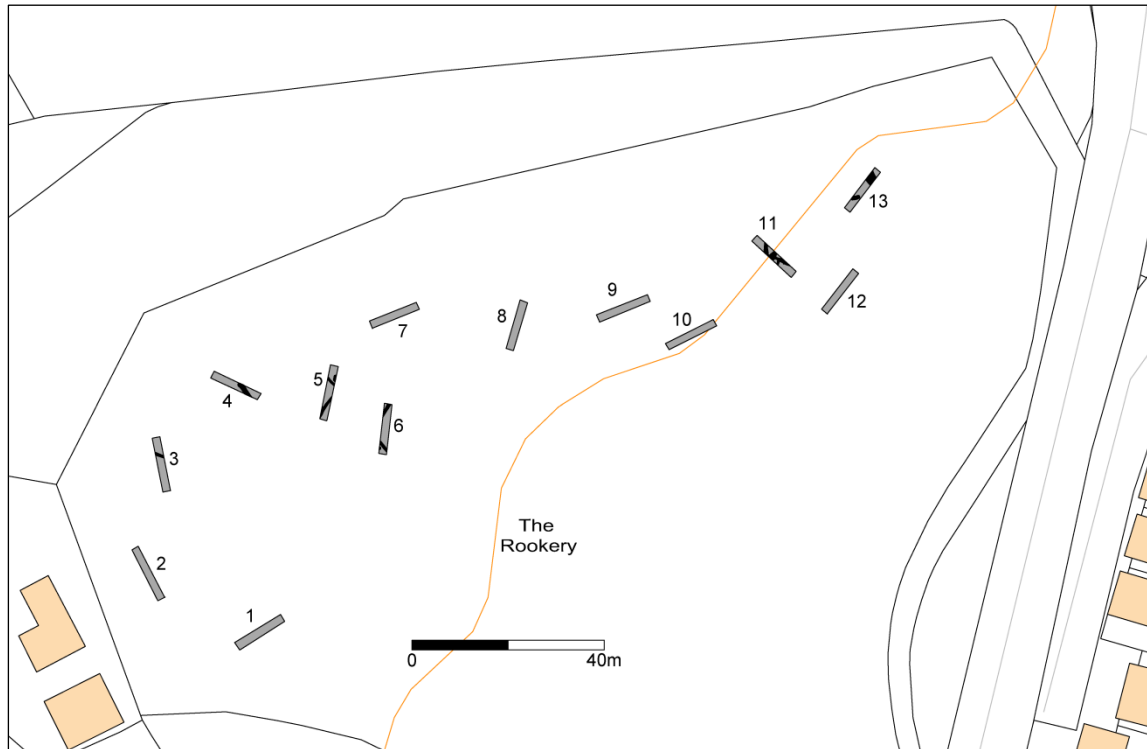


Figure 3: Plan showing evaluation trench locations, and general plan of features.



Topsoil consisted of a dark brown silty clay with rare rounded gravels and stone chips. It measured mostly *c.*0.22m in depth (Table 1). The subsoil cover consisted of a mid-orangey brown silty clay with rare gravel. The subsoil, which sealed the archaeological features, was between 0.15m and 0.24m deep. Under this lay the natural sub-stratum, which was very variable, including a stony grey clay, orange sandy clay patches, and occasional pockets of loose rock.

**Table 1: Trench Results**

Trench No.	Length m (x1.7m width)	Depth to archaeology (min, m)	Depth to natural (min, m)	Depth of topsoil (min, m)	Orientation (approx.)	Notes (Contexts etc.) Cut numbers in square brackets; fills in round brackets
1	11.2	--	0.45	0.2	NE-SW	
2	11.8	--	0.35	0.22	N-S	
3	11.4	0.6	0.39	0.16	N-S	(1) [2] & stone LD*
4	10.7	0.42	0.42	0.26	NW-SE	(3) [4] & ?furrow
5	11.4	0.48	0.45	0.22	N-S	(5) [6] (7) [8] (11) [12] & LD
6	10.4	0.4	0.4	0.23	N-S	[9] (10) (13) [14] (15) [16] LDs
7	10.5	--	0.41	0.22	NE-SW	LD
8	10.5	--	0.36	0.19	NE-SW	LDs
9	11.4	--	0.37	0.22	NE-SW	LDs
10	11.1	--	0.46	0.22	NE-SW	LDs
11	11.1	0.35	0.36	0.2	NW-SE	(29) [30] (31) [32] (33) [34] (35) & LD
12	10.6	--	0.46	0.23	NE-SW	LD & Nat Feat
13	10.4	0.28	0.33	0.2	NE-SW	(17) [18] (19) (20) [21] (22) [23] [24] (25) (26)

\*LD = Land Drain

### *Negative Trenches*

Trenches 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 were negative of archaeological features. A possible north-west to south-east linear feature was excavated in Trench 12, but this was not convincing and did not produce any cultural material.

### *Trench 3*

(Figs. 2, 4, Plate 2, Contexts (1) [2])

Trench 3 exposed an east-west linear feature [2]. The feature was more than 1.7m long, 0.34m wide and with a depth of just 0.12m, and with a moderately steep profile and concave base. The fill (1) was an orangey brown sandy clay with rare small stones. No pottery was recovered, but animal bone fragments were retrieved and the feature was considered to be a gully rather than of agricultural origin.



Plate 2: Trench 3, gully [2] looking west

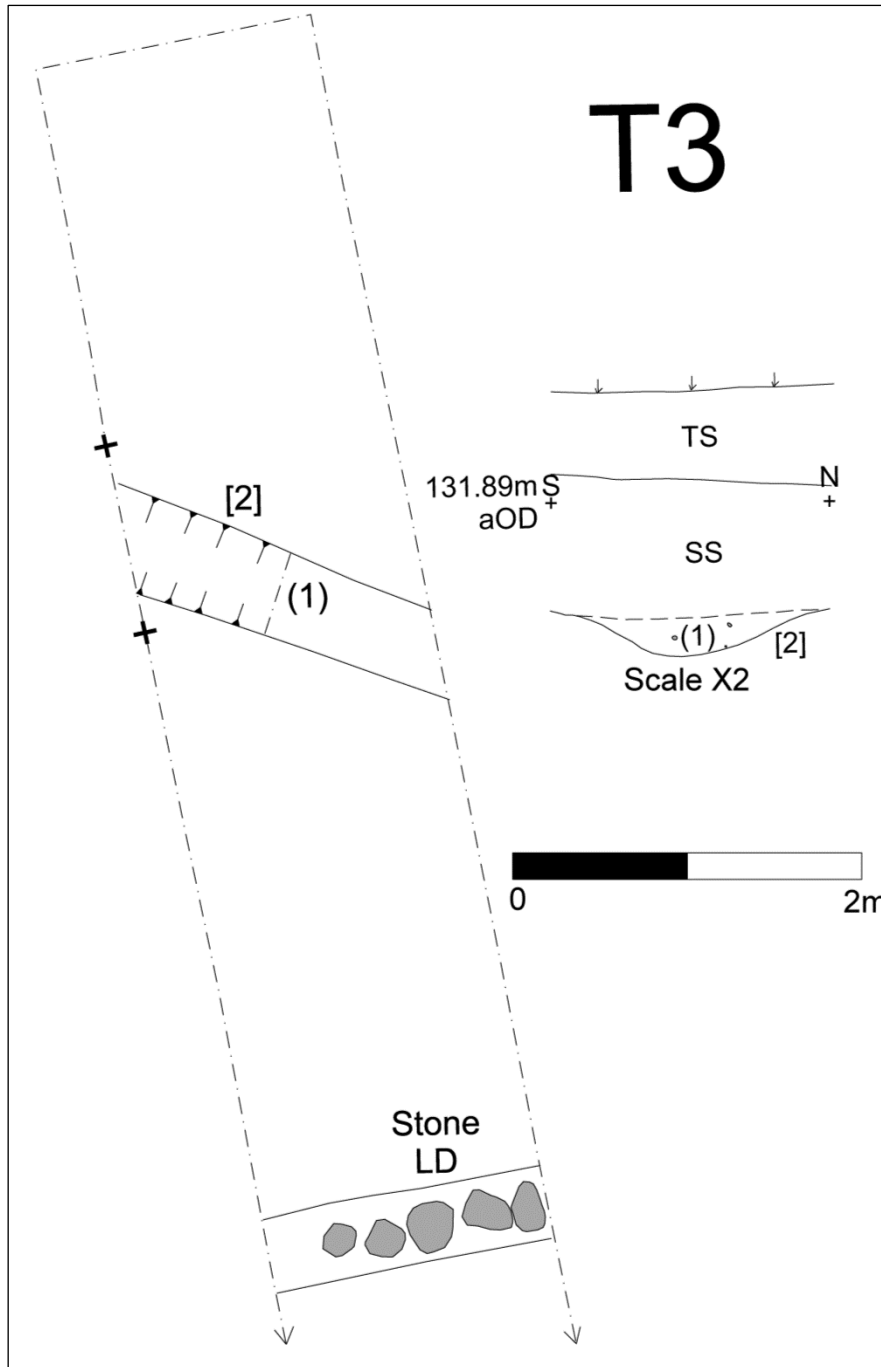


Figure 4: Trench 3 feature [2].

#### ***Trench 4***

(Figs. 2, 5, Plate 3, Contexts (3) [4])

In Trench 4 was a north-south linear feature [4]. This measured over 3.8m in length, 0.8m in width and with a depth of 0.23m. The profile was quite steep, with a concave base, and the feature had a probable butt end within the trench. The fill (3) was an orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stones. No finds were recovered from this feature. Unstratified flint was recovered from the ploughsoil during machining.

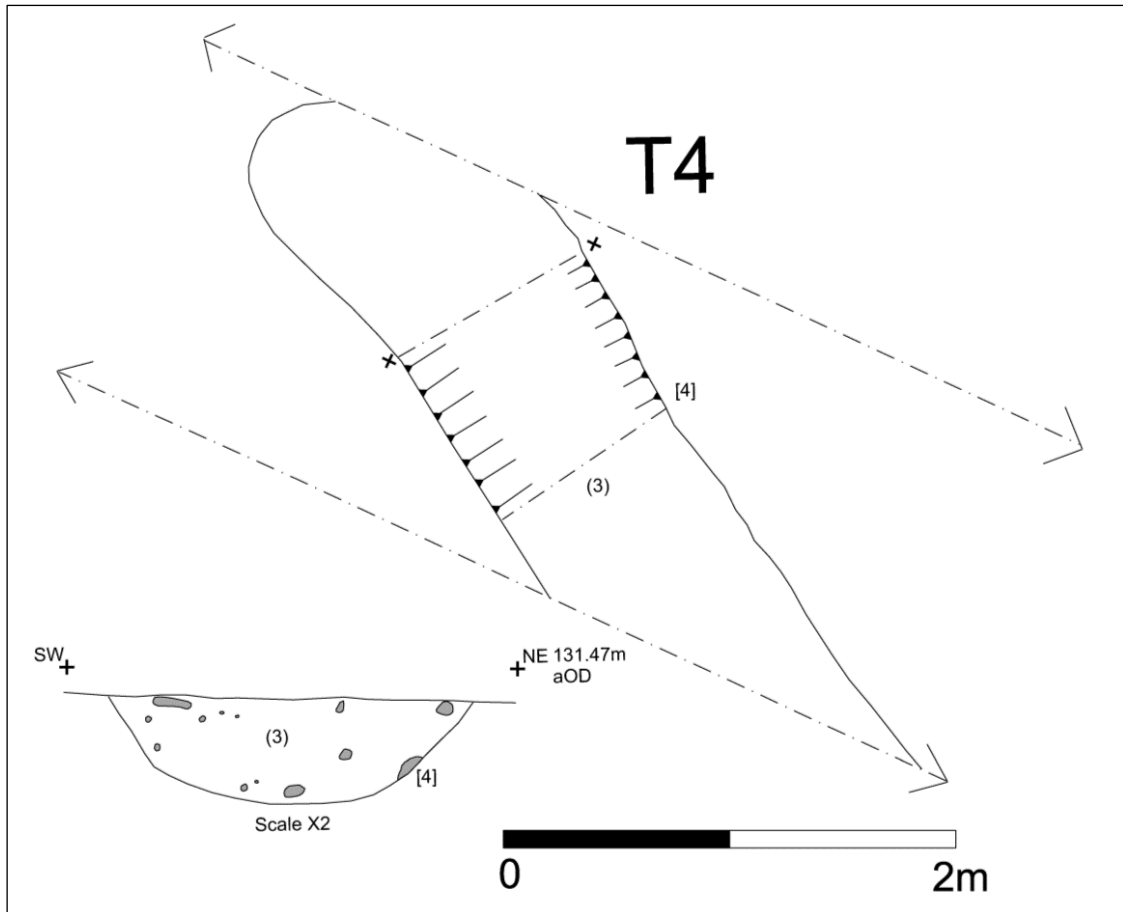


Figure 5: Trench 4 feature [4].



Plate 3: Trench 4, feature [4] looking north-west.

### ***Trench 5***

(Figs. 2, 6, Plates 4-6, Contexts (5) [6] (7) [8] (11) [12])

A north-south linear feature was observed in the south half of Trench 5, [6]. This was over 4m long, 0.65m wide and with a depth of 0.3m. The profile was quite steep-sided with a slightly curved base. The fill (5) consisted of a slightly orangey brown silty-clay, with occasional stone fragments, from which six sherds of pottery of mid 1st to 2nd century date, and animal bone were recovered. Crossing the trench to the north was linear feature [8]. This was over 1.7m long, 0.56m wide and with a depth of 0.2m. The feature ran north-west to south-east, and had a curved profile. The fill (7) was an orangey brown silty clay with very rare small stones, and this produced a ?residual flint flake. Half a metre to the north was feature [12] a probable pit. This measured 1.3m north-south, more than 0.4m east-west and had a depth of 0.3m. The plan shape was probably oval, the sides were near vertical and the base was flat. The fill (11) was a slightly greeny orangey grey silty clay, with rare small limestone fragments and charcoal.

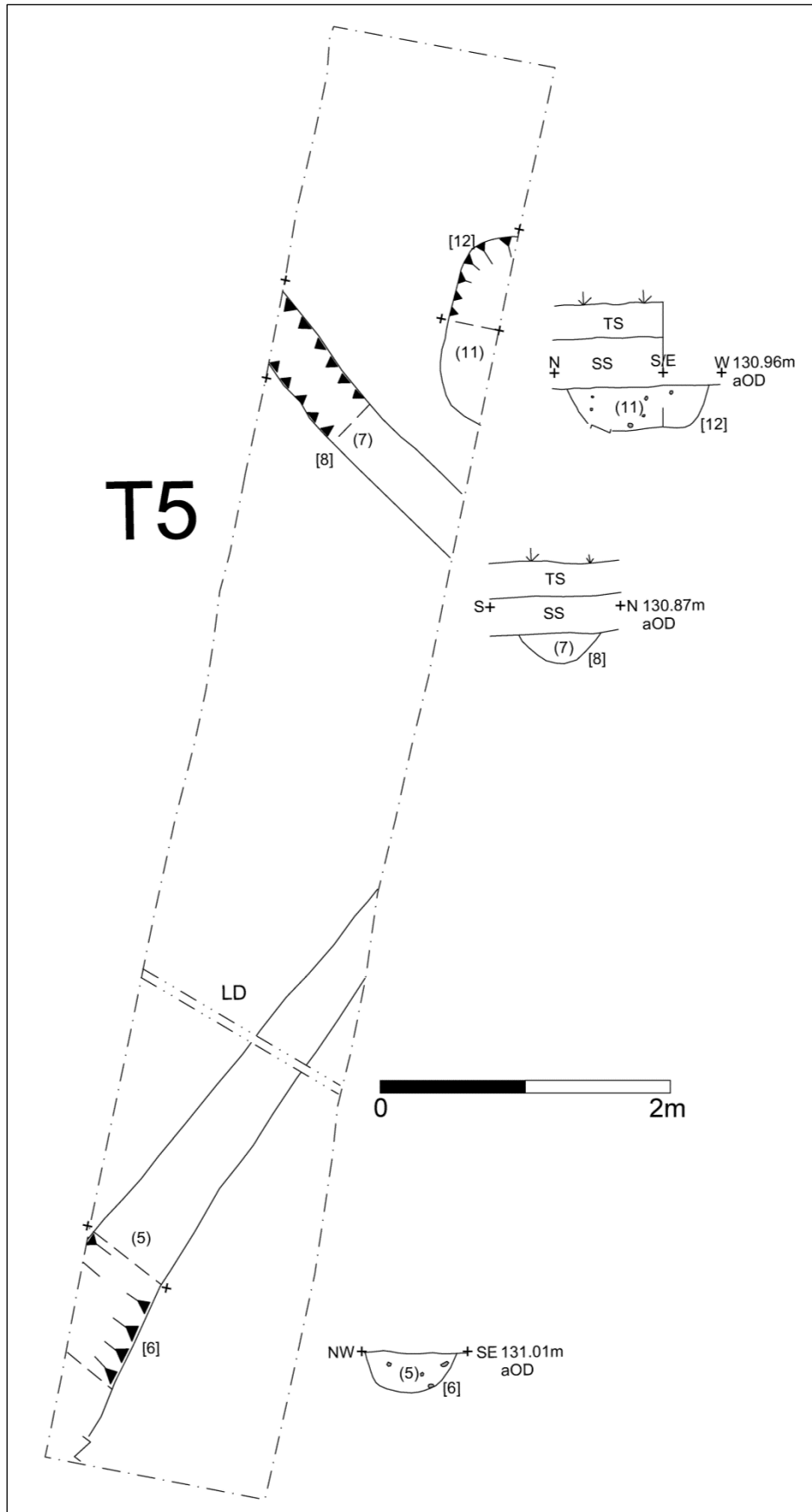


Figure 6: Trench 5 features [6] [8] [12].



Plate 4: Trench 5, feature [6] looking north.



Plate 5: Trench 5, feature [8] looking north-west.



Plate 6: Trench 5, feature [12] looking south-east.

### ***Trench 6***

(Figs. 2, 7, Plates 7-9, Contexts [9] (10) (13) [14] (15) [16])

Linear feature [9] ran along the north of Trench 6 in a north-east to south-west direction. This feature measured over 2.65m long, 0.55m wide and with a depth of 0.3m. The profile had steep sides and a concave base, and the fill (10) consisted of an orangey brown silty clay with rare charcoal. This produced four sherds of mid 1st to 2nd century pottery, and 15 fragments of animal bone. In the south of Trench 6 a further linear feature [16] was also observed. This was over 2m long, 0.5m wide and with a depth of 0.12m. The sides were quite steep and the base curved. The fill (15) was a yellowy brown sandy clay with rare stones. Just to the south again was pit or possible post-hole [14]. This was 0.6m in diameter, with a depth of 0.22m, steep-sided and with a concave base. The fill (13) was a mid brown sandy clay with frequent burnt stones. Unstratified flint was recovered from the ploughsoil during machining of this trench.



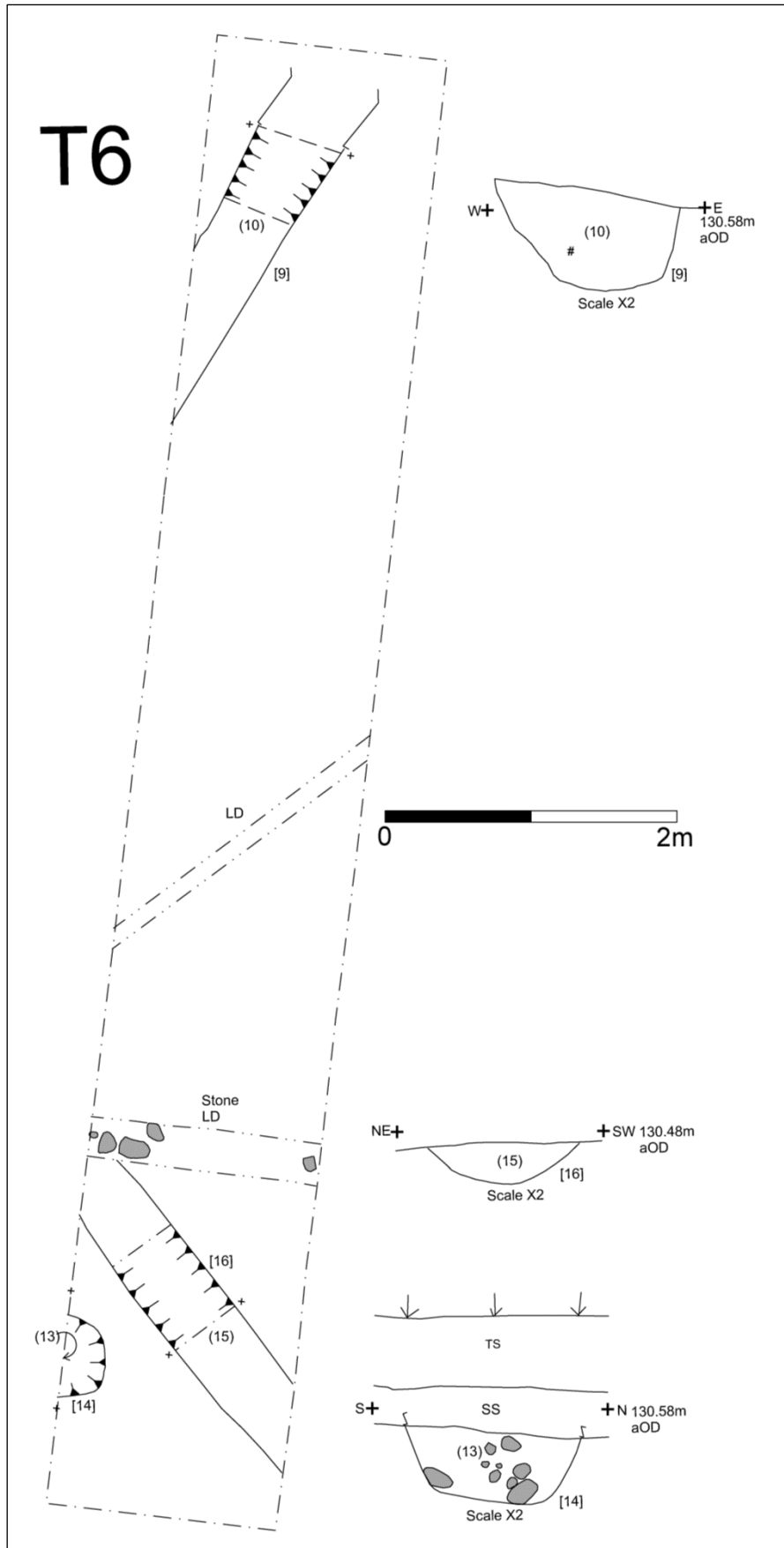


Figure 7: Trench 6 features [9] [14] [16].



Plate 7: Trench 6, feature [9] looking north-east.



Plate 8: Trench 6, feature [14] looking west.



Plate 9: Trench 6, feature [16] looking south-east.

### ***Trench 11***

(Figs. 2, 8, Plates 10-12, Contexts (29) [30] (31) [32] (33) [34] (35))

A series of features were exposed in Trench 11. Running north-south was linear feature [30], measuring over in 2.2m length, 0.65m wide and 0.21m deep. The sides were quite steep, the base uneven but largely concave. The fill (29) was an orangey grey silty clay with frequent limestone fragments and burnt stones. This produced a fragment of a kiln bar and fired clay fragments, suggesting pottery manufacture in the vicinity. Just to the south was feature [32], a probable north-east to south-west ditch. This was over 1.7m long, 1.1m wide and 0.34m deep. The fill (31) was an orangey grey silty clay with occasional stones, A sherd of mid 1st to 2nd century pottery, and animal bone (cattle molar) were recovered. Fill (35) to the south may have been the continuation of this feature for 3m to the south-east. This produced a single flint flake. To the west of this was [34] a north-east to south-west gully seen for 0.9m in length, with a width of 0.35m and 0.07m deep. The fill (33) was a mixed grey brown silty clay which produced a further piece of struck flint.

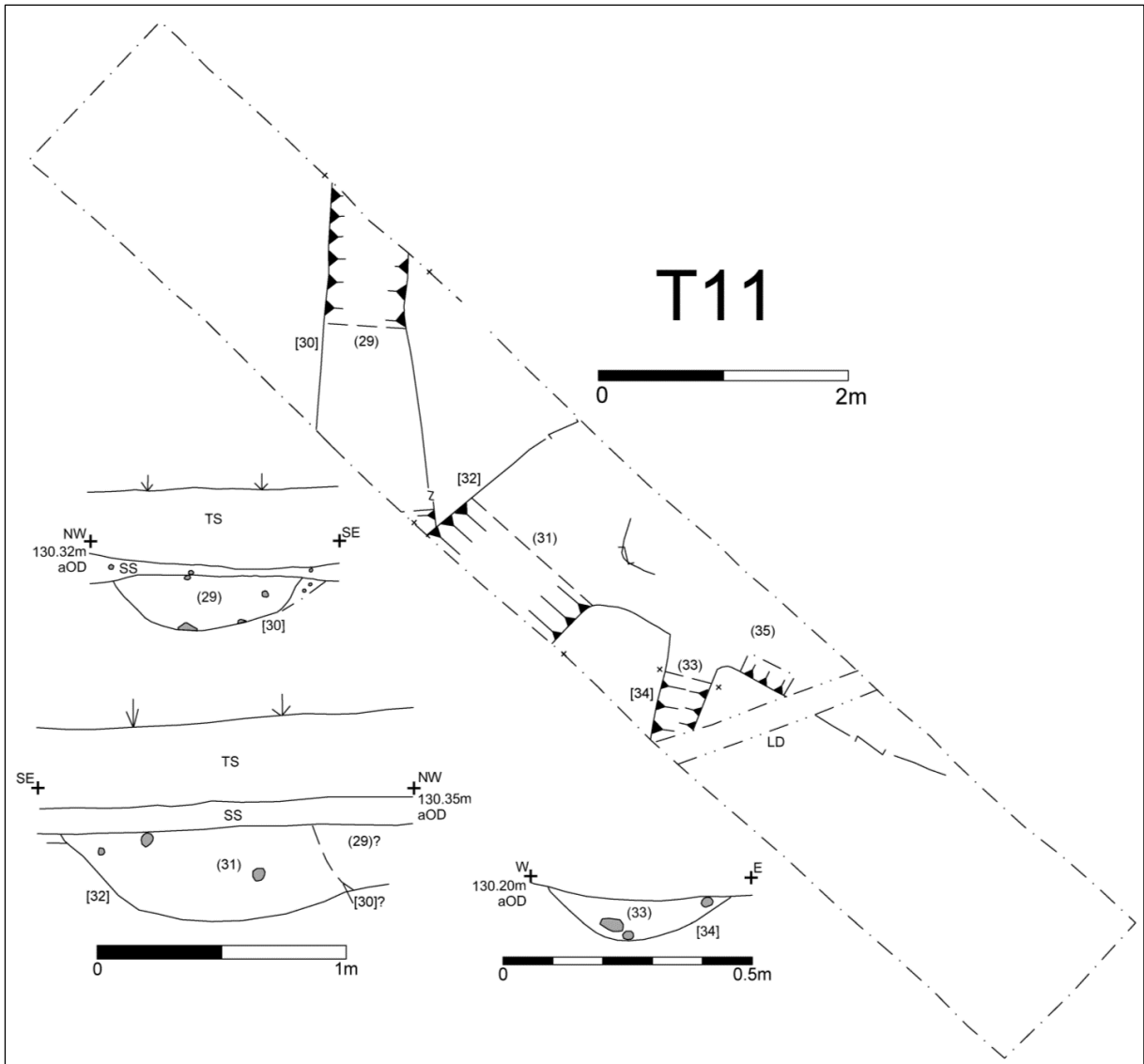


Figure 8: Trench 11 features [30] [32] [34].



Plate 10: Trench 11, feature [30] looking north-east.



Plate 11: Trench 11, feature [32] looking south-west.



Plate 12: Trench 11, feature [34] looking north-east.

### ***Trench 13***

(Figs. 2, 9, Plates 13, 14, Contexts (17) [18] (19) (20) [21] (22) [23] [24] (25) (26))

In the east of Trench 13 was north-west to south-east ditch [24], fills (25) (26). This was over 1.7m long, 1.9m wide and with a depth of 0.8m. The profile was quite steep with a narrow curved base. The ditch contained two fills, primary fill (25) and secondary fill (26). Fill (25) was a dark yellowish grey silty clay, with occasional rounded gravels. This did not produce any finds. Secondary fill (26) was a dark orangey grey silty clay with occasional gravel and common charcoal flecks. This produced four sherds of pottery with a TPQ of the 2nd century, and a flat-sided fragment of fired clay. Animal bone from this fill included a sheep/goat tibia and a further long bone fragment. To the south-west were features [18] [21] [23] and [28]. These looked like a single feature before excavation, but afterward the base was revealed to have a small east-west berm, probably indicating a series of recuts. Gully [21], the more southerly feature was more than 1.7m long, 0.55m wide and 0.1m deep. It had steepish sides and a concave base. The fill (20) was a very dark grey to black silty clay with rare gravels. Gully [23] was more than 1.55m long, 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep. The fill of this (22) was a mixed grey to yellowy brown clay loam with some burnt stone and burnt clay. Both fills were sealed by fill (19), a mixed grey brown silty clay with moderate gravels. This produced eight sherds of mid 1st to 2nd century pottery. The west section through this sequence indicated two further recuts, [18] and [28]. Pit [18] was 0.6m across and 0.26m deep. It had steep sides and a concave base, and a single fill (17). This was an orangey grey silty clay with occasional burnt stones. This produced eight sherds of early Roman pottery including a near complete miniature grey ware jar, and a fragment of a glass bead.

Environmental material indicates crop processing activity in the vicinity. Feature [18] could be seen to cut a further feature, probable gully [28] (27). This was 0.3m wide and 0.12m deep. The fill was a yellowy brown sandy clay with occasional gravels.

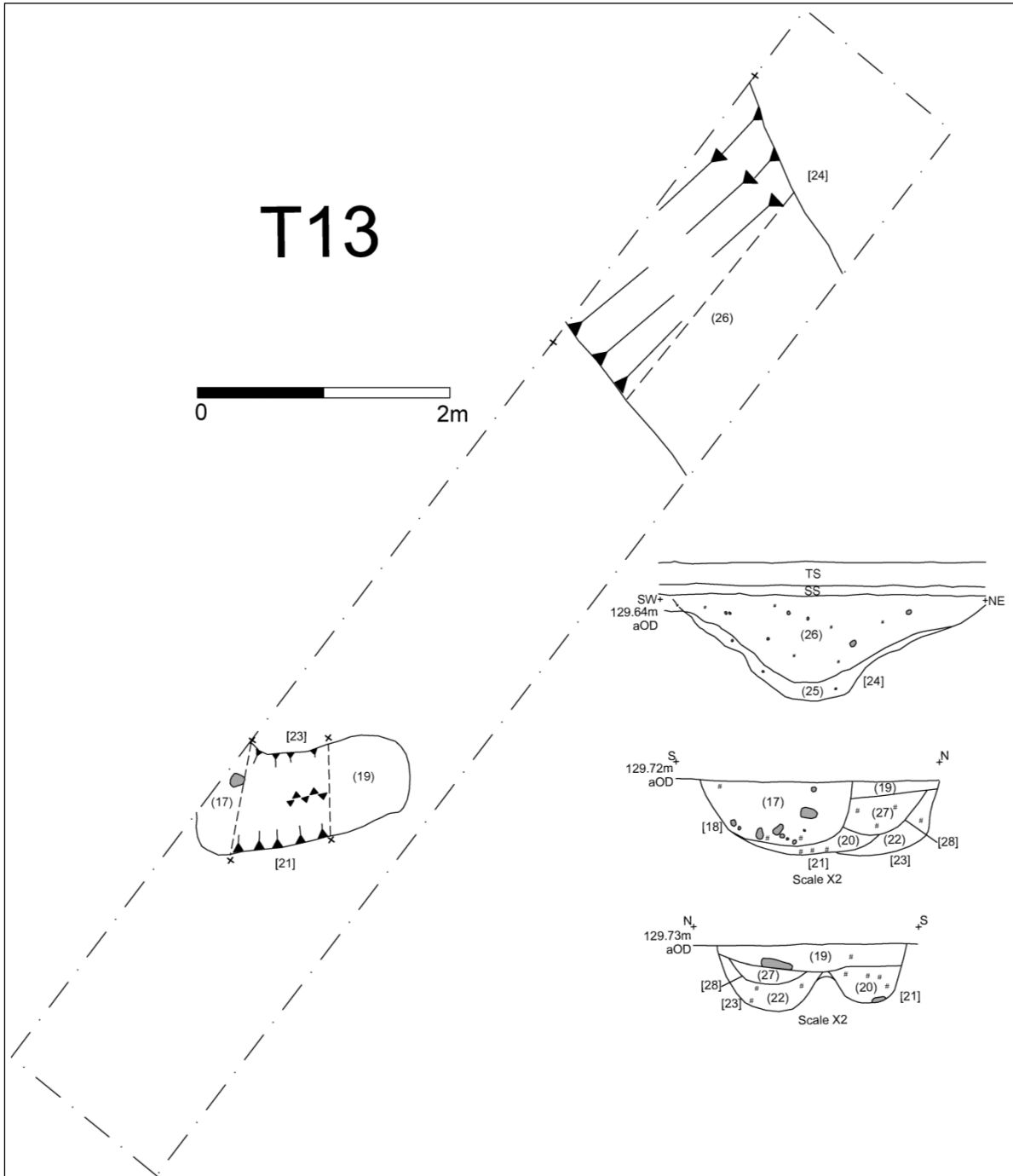


Figure 9: Trench 13 features [18] [21] [23] [24] [28].



Plate 13: Trench 13, feature [24] looking south-west.



Plate 14: Trench 13, features [21] [23] looking east.



## Conclusion

A series of features were identified during the evaluation, and stratified pottery and other material was also recovered. These features include ditches, gullies, pits and a post-hole. The features were spread across the proposed site area, with perhaps two concentrations of activity in the east and west areas. The dating evidence indicates that this activity is of an early Roman, mid- 1st to 2nd century date. The presence of a kiln bar fragment and the concentration of burnt material in features in the east area suggest industrial activity in the vicinity. Some residual prehistoric struck flint was also recovered.

## Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Wardle Evans Ltd. for their co-operation with this project. The project was monitored on behalf of the Planning Authority by Richard Clark. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the fieldwork was carried out by the author with assistance from Nathan Flavell also of ULAS. I am also grateful to Nicholas Cooper and Rachel Small of ULAS for the finds and environmental work.

## Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

### *OASIS data entry*

Project Name	Rogues Lane, Cottesmore
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	P. Clay
Project Supervisor	W Jarvis
Previous/Future work	Evaluation
Current Land Use	Arable (under crop)
Development Type	New Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Requirement
Site Co ordinates	SK 9054 1392
Start/end dates of field work	25/06 – 01/07/2014
Archive Recipient	Rutland Museum
Study Area	4.1ha

## Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Rutland Museum with accession number OAKRM2014.51

The archive consists of the following:

13 Trench recording sheets

2 Photo Record sheets. Other site indices (1 context index sheet, 20 A5 context sheets, 1 drawing index and drawing record sheet, 1 small finds Index sheet, 1 sample index sheet, 1 survey sheet, 5 A3 permagraph drawing sheets)

1 Unbound copy of this report

1 Contact sheet of digital photographs

1 CD digital photographs

1 Set B&W contact sheets

1 Set B&W negatives

## APPENDICES

### Context Index

Context	Cut	Area	Description
1	2	T3	Gully Fill
2	2	T3	Gully Cut
3	4	T4	Ditch Fill
4	4	T4	Ditch Cut
5	6	T5	Ditch Fill
6	6	T5	Ditch Cut
7	8	T5	Gully Fill
8	8	T5	Gully Cut
9	9	T6	Gully Cut
10	9	T6	Gully Fill
11	12	T5	Pit? Fill
12	12	T5	Pit? Cut
13	14	T6	Pit Fill
14	14	T6	Pit Cut
15	16	T6	Gully Fill
16	16	T6	Gully Cut
17	18	T13	Pit Fill
18	18	T13	Pit Cut
19	21	T13	Gully Cut
20	21	T13	Gully Fill
21	21	T13	Gully Cut
22	23	T13	Gully Fill
23	23	T13	Gully Cut
24	24	T13	Ditch Cut
25	24	T13	Ditch Fill
26	24	T13	Ditch Fill
27	28	T13	Gully Fill
28	28	T13	Gully Cut
29	30	T11	Gully Fill
30	30	T11	Gully Cut
31	32	T11	Ditch Fill
32	32	T11	Ditch Cut
33	34	T11	Gully Fill
34	34	T11	Gully Cut
35	32?	T11	Ditch Fill

## The Roman Pottery and Miscellaneous Finds by *Nicholas J. Cooper*

### *Introduction*

A total of 32 sherds of early Roman pottery weighing 230g with an average sherd weight of 7g was recovered from six contexts and broadly dates to the second half of the 1st century and probably as late as the middle of the 2nd century. Of note was the occurrence of a near complete miniature grey ware jar from (17) [18], a bulk sample from which also produced a glass bead fragment. Also of note and indicating pottery manufacture in the vicinity was the occurrence of a kiln bar from (29).

### *The Roman Pottery*

The Roman was classified using the Leicestershire Roman pottery form and fabric series (Pollard 1994, 110-114) and quantified by sherd count and weight. The full quantified record is presented below (Table 2).

Table 2 Roman Pottery from Cottesmore

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Sherds	Weight	Date
5		CG1A	jar	base	6	30	M1st-2nd
10		CG1A	misc	body	4	4	M1st-2nd
17	18	GW3	jar	miniature	4	60	2nd
17	18	CG3B	jar	body	3	61	2nd
17	18	GW12	misc	base	1	10	2nd
19		GT3	jar	base	8	30	M1st-2nd
26	24	CG3B	jar	Bourne	1	22	M1st-2nd
26	24	GW12	jar	necked	1	7	2nd
26	24	GT3	misc	body	3	5	M1st-2nd
31		CG1A	misc	body	1	1	M1st-2nd
<b>Total</b>					<b>32</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Av.Sh 7g</b>

The assemblage comprises generally abraded examples of wares typical of the Early Roman sites in Rutland, such as Empingham (Cooper 2000, 74, Phases 1 and 2) including early shell-tempered wares (CG1A) and grog-tempered wares (GT3), whilst the occurrence of fully Romanised grey ware fabrics such as the miniature jar (GW3), jars in GW12 and fabrics similar to products of the Bourne-Greetham industry (CG3B) would suggest occupation extending into the middle decades of the second century.

### *Roman Kiln Furniture and Fired Clay*

A short, broken length of a cigar-shaped kiln bar (120mm, 275g) was recovered from (29) alongside seven small vitrified fragments of fired clay (30g), reduced to a mid-grey colour and suggestive of kiln lining. Another flat sided fragment of fired clay in a fabric similar to grey ware potting clay (25g) was recovered from (26). The kiln bar probably derives from a non-specialist kiln typical of the southern Corieltavian territory during the 1st and 2nd century, evolving from the Late La Tene 'Belgic' kilns of the Nene and Ouse Valleys which comprised a circular firing chamber with a portable floor support of clay on which rested tapering kiln bars arranged like the spokes of a wheel (Swan 1984, 122).

### **Glass Bead**

A fragment of a colourless glass annular bead (Sf1) (diameter 11mm) of Roman date was recovered from (17) [18] similar to an example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 32, fig.33.549).

### Prehistoric Flint

Struck flint flakes were recovered residually from contexts (7), (10), (31), (33), (35) and unstratified from Trench 4 and 6.

### *The Animal Bone* by Rachel Small

A small number of animal bones were collected from six contexts, these were analysed in their entirety (Table 3, below). The bones were generally of good preservation; no root etching was visible, and slight weathering was only seen on specimens from contexts (10) and (26). Most specimens were small unidentifiable fragments. A portion of sheep/goat tibia was identified as well as two cattle teeth (adult molars), and two cattle foot bones (metatarsal and tarsal). Cut marks were present on the metatarsal and this probably a result of skinning the animal (Lauwerier 1988). A cut mark was also seen on the shaft of a medium mammal long bone, which probably occurred during defleshing. Two unidentifiable fragments were burnt; this may have been during the process of rubbish disposal (Reitz and Wing 2008: 132). If further work is carried out at the site there is certainly potential for detailed analysis of the animal bones found.

Table 3: Animal Bone Results

Context	Number of fragments	Element	Taxon	Description
3	8	Long bone fragment	Large mammal	
3	6	Unidentifiable	Unidentifiable	Probably large mammal.
3	1	Unidentifiable	Unidentifiable	Burnt.
5	2	Metatarsal	Cattle	Proximal articulation and shaft - two pieces which articulate. Cut marks near the proximal articulation on the ventral surface.
5	1	Tarsal	Cattle	Approximately half.
5	9	Unidentifiable	Unidentifiable	
5	1	Long bone fragment	Medium mammal	
10	1	Molar	Cattle	First/second maxillary molar.
10	13	Unidentifiable	Unidentifiable	Weathered.
10	1	Long bone fragment	Medium mammal	Cut mark present on shaft.
11	1	Unidentifiable	Unidentifiable	Burnt.
26	1	Tibia	Sheep/goat	Distal portion of the shaft. Weathered.
26	1	Long bone fragment	Medium mammal	Weathered.
31	1	Molar	Cattle	First/second maxillary molar.

### *The Charred Plant Remains* by Wayne Jarvis and Rachel Small

#### *Introduction*

During the archaeological evaluation at Rogues Lane, Cottesmore a soil sample was taken for the recovery of plant and other remains in order to assess the potential preservation of evidence about past environment, food production and consumption at the site and possible dating evidence. The sample dates from the mid-1st to 2nd Century AD.

#### *Materials and Methods*

The sample from pit [18] context fill (17) was fully processed, as this feature was charcoal rich and had produced dating evidence. The soil from the sample was wet-sieved in a sieving tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation through a 0.30mm mesh

sieve. The residue in the tank mesh was air dried sorted for all finds. The flotation fraction (flot) was air dried and scanned under a stereomicroscope at magnifications between 10x and 40x. Morphological criteria were used for the identification of plant species, based on modern reference material and seed identification manuals (e.g. Berggren 1981; Anderberg 1994; Cappers *et al.* 2006). Plant names follow Stace (1997).

Table 4: Charred Plant Remains Results

Sample	Context	Cut	Feature Type	Volume in litres	ChGr	ChSe	Ch and ChFl
1	17	18	Pit	10	2	1	xx

ChGr=charred grains; ChSe=charred seeds; Ch and ChFl=charcoal and charcoal flecks; x=present; x?=poss. intrusive; xx=occasional.

Rootlets were present and uncharred seeds in low numbers were also recovered from the sample; this is intrusive modern material. Small flecks of charcoal and larger pieces (up to 230mm in length) were present in low numbers. Two charred cereal grains were found; they were warped and abraded and identification to species could not be made. One *Rumex sp.* was identified, a weed of cultivated land (Jones et al 2004: 65). This evidence suggests that processing and consumption of cultivated cereals occurred near to/on site. Sorting of the residue from the sample also produced further pottery and a fragment of a glass bead. If further excavation is carried out at Cottesmore bulk sampling of soil is highly recommended and a more detailed analysis of the charred plant remains to be made.

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