



University of  
**Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**



**An Archaeological field evaluation at  
New Lubbethorpe, Leicestershire  
(SK 531 017)**

Wayne Jarvis

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**An Archaeological field evaluation at  
New Lubbethorpe, Leicestershire**

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*for*

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**An Archaeological field evaluation at  
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**Summary**

*An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at New Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 531 017). The work was in advance of a proposed mixed use development. Ninety one trenches were excavated targeting the Phase 1 residential areas, local centre and school together with nine balancing ponds, and the proposed bridge works access road to the east. The majority of the proposed area proved negative. However, in the central area of the proposed site prehistoric activity was identified, including two probable middle Bronze Age cremations in urns along with further undated features, and there was also some Iron Age material in the vicinity. A few other features of probable natural or modern origin were also identified. Occasional residual flint finds were recovered from the ploughsoil. The flint artefacts were predominantly of Neolithic-Bronze Age date, although one piece is probably Lower Palaeolithic. A few sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered, perhaps indicating ploughed out features south of the Old House.*

*The archive for this work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number XA112.2011.*

**Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mather Jamie Ltd. to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at New Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 531 017). This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The site lies south of Leicester Forest East. The proposed site is a mixed use development.

**Site Location, Details and Geology**

The proposed Phase 1 development area is located in the parish of Lubbesthorpe. The site is located south of Leicester Forest East, to the east and north of Beggars Lane, and straddling both sides of Lubbesthorpe Bridle Road (SK 531 017 centre). Two areas required evaluation. One area comprised the location of the proposed bridge base over the M1 and access route from Lubbesthorpe Lane (Figure 2, Figure 3, hereinafter Area 1.1). Here, five 30m by 1.8m trenches were to be excavated targeting the ridge along which the access road runs. A second area to the west of this comprised the Phase 1 of the development east of Beggars Lane. A c. 2% sample of this c. 20ha area would be the equivalent of 79 trenches (30m by 1.8m, c. 4266 sq. m., Areas 1.2 to 1.6, Figure 2). These were to target areas of proposed development including residential areas, the local centre and primary school together with nine balancing ponds (BP). A provisional trench

plan was agreed with the Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Principal Planning Archaeologist, although the size and position indicated on the provisional trench plan would be varied due to unforeseen site constraints or the presence of archaeological deposits. The site area is currently predominantly under grass, with only a few fields of arable crop, and is bordered on all sides by further agricultural land.

The geology, according to the Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156, is likely to consist of alluvium and river gravels overlying boulder clay and Mercia Mudstone, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. The land falls north to south and varies between c.85m -101m OD.

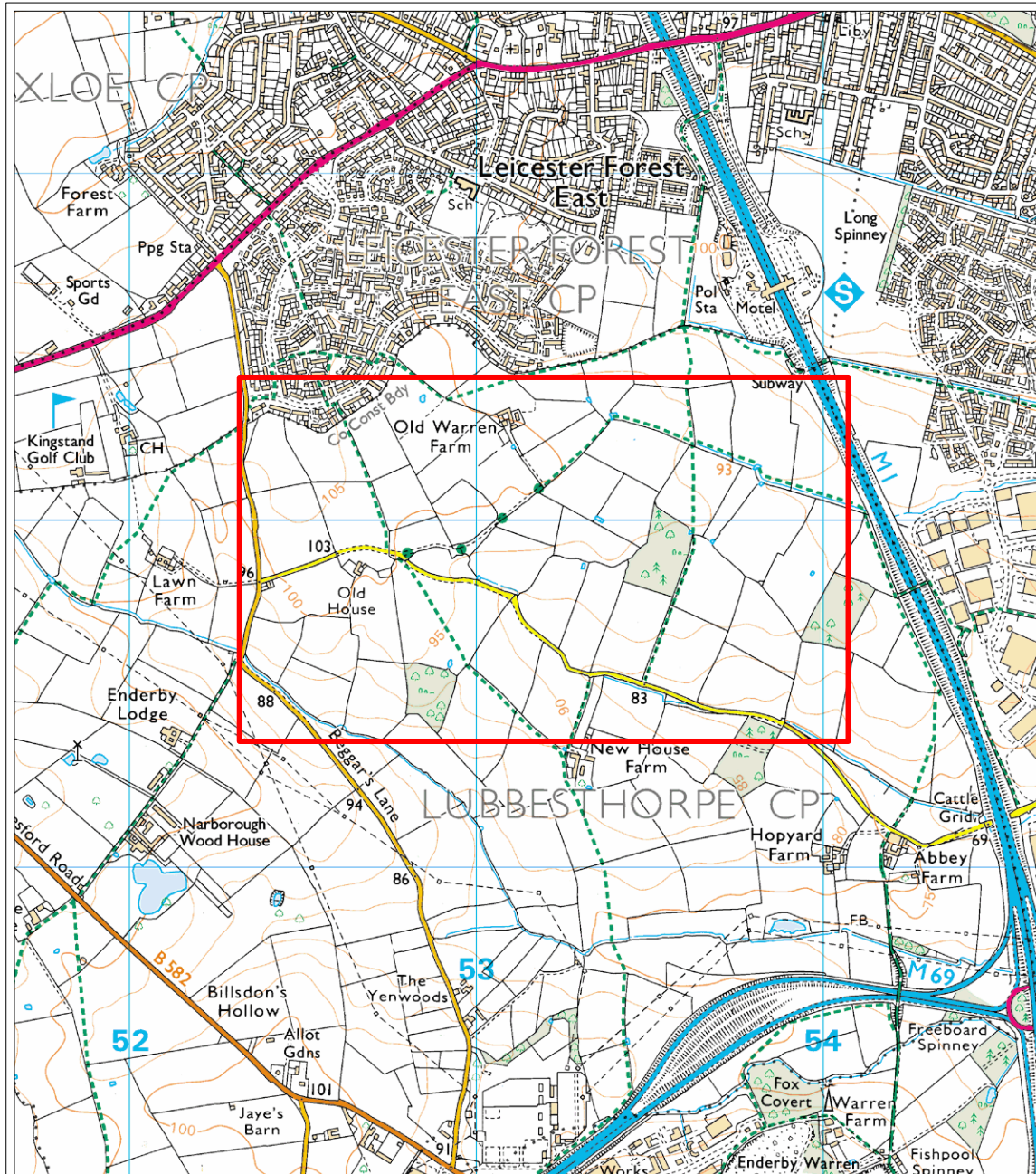


Figure 1: Location Map. Location of site indicated.  
1:50 000 (Landranger) ©Crown Copyright. Licence No. 100021186.

## Historical and Archaeological Background

An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Hunt 2008), geophysical surveys (Haddrell 2009; 2010), targeted trial trenching (Jarvis 2011) and an Environmental Statement have previously been prepared.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland shows that there are known archaeological sites within the application area itself. There are also many archaeological sites in the vicinity of the assessment area. The following details the sites within the assessment area and the more relevant sites in the vicinity;

**Prehistoric.** There are three prehistoric sites within the assessment area. A Middle Bronze Age palstave was discovered at a site close to the north-west corner of the assessment area (**MLE6268**). To the south of this, close to the site of the Old House, is a ring ditch cropmark, which most likely denotes the site of a Bronze Age barrow (**MLE218**). Sherds of Iron Age pottery were found during fieldwalking close to Abbey Farm (**MLE7386**). Iron Age coins have been found around 1km to the south-west of Area 1 (**MLE8487**, **MLE9080** & **MLE9081**). North of Fishpool Spinney an assemblage of prehistoric flint tools were found, including a blade and scraper (**MLE7375**) with a further scatter nearby (**MLE7376**). To the south-east of Fishpool Spinney a scatter of flint tools dated to the Early Neolithic to Bronze Age have been discovered (**MLE7378**). Close by is a group of Bronze Age pottery that may suggest an occupation site (**MLE6259**). Excavations at Grove Park, which lay around 500m to the east of Area 2, have revealed a large Iron Age occupation site (Clay 1992; Meek, et al 2004; **MLE79**, **MLE112**, **MLE113**). Neolithic finds were also discovered during these excavations (**MLE7123**).

**Roman.** Inspection during a watching brief on a pipeline trench within the medieval earthworks at Abbey Farm revealed Roman pottery and other possible occupation evidence (**MLE219**) (Field Archaeology Section Leicestershire Museums 1975). There are also several sites dated to the Romano-British period (c. AD 43-410) to the west of the assessment area. These include a late Roman crossbow brooch found just to the west of Beggars Lane (**MLE7716**), a coin hoard found around 800m to the west of Beggars Lane (**MLE16619**) and a large number of artefacts such as brooches, coins and a mortared floor, suggesting a high status building (**MLE5979**; Gossip 1997). Further evidence for Roman occupation in this area is also in evidence (**MLE8347** & **MLE8488**). Roman pottery and tile are also known from the area to the east of the assessment area (**MLE223** & **MLE7717**). Close to Fishpool Spinney, fieldwalking has revealed pottery and kiln bars dated to the Romano-British period (**MLE84**). In the northern part of the area, close to the M69 a Romano-British key tumbler (lock) has been found (**MLE9797**). Several Roman coins and other metal artefacts have been found in the Grove Park area (**MLE7686** & **MLE7684**).

**Anglo-Saxon.** Fieldwalking close to Abbey Farm has produced sherds of Early Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 410-650) pottery, which may be evidence of a settlement site (**MLE233**); further pottery from the Late Saxon period (c. AD 850-1066) was found nearby (**MLE234**).

**Medieval.** The most significant site within the assessment area is the Scheduled Monument of Lubbesthorpe deserted medieval village (DMV; **MLE216** and SM30274). This monument includes the remains of the medieval settlement and part of the adjacent field systems at Abbey Farm. The remains consist of earthworks and other buried features. These features represent the gradual contraction in size of the medieval village



and its eventual abandonment. Several building platforms in the shape of low sub-rectangular mounds are visible to the south of the Lubbethorpe Bridle Road, along with boundaries and trackways. To the east and west of the settlement are the strips of heavy medieval ploughing known as ridge and furrow. These appear to run north to south and are divided into groups by larger parallel ditches. There are also up to five terraced rectilinear enclosures or paddocks to the immediate south of the stream, which were once visible on aerial photographs but have more recently been obscured by soil tipping. These deposits have also covered further building platforms and a pond. Archaeological work to the north and north-east of Abbey Farm in advance of pipeline construction revealed evidence of medieval settlement in the form of stone building foundations and post-holes. The evaluations also yielded pottery dated to the 13th and 16th centuries (Jarrett 1982). A geophysical survey carried out in 2007 revealed evidence of further archaeological features including trackways, enclosures and a possible boundary ditch (**MLE16845** & **MLE16846**). Further anomalies were located south of Hopyard Farm, although these may be associated with the construction of the M69 (**MLE16847**; Chester 2007). A large fishpond, most likely of medieval origin is located east of the Old House at SK 529 019 (**MLE222**). A fishpond is mentioned in this area in 1295 and in 1348. A few hundred metres to the west of this area is a medieval rabbit warren (**MLE221**), which is also a Scheduled Monument (SM30239). During stripping for the M69 a scatter of medieval pottery was found (**MLE6646**), with a lead seal matrix close by (**MLE9798**). The fishpond at Fishpool Spinney is believed to be medieval in date (**MLE82**). There is medieval fishpond within The Park (Area 2), which was once associated with the Enderby Hall estate (**MLE105**).

### ***Post-medieval***

The substantial remains of a 16th century house, with its own chapel, survive at Abbey Farm (see above; **MLE227**). The site of the kiln used to fire the Tudor style bricks used to build Abbey Farm may have been located by fieldwalking in 1992 (Liddle 1992) and by geophysical survey in 2007 (Chester 2007; **MLE231**).

### **Archaeological Objectives**

The archaeological evaluation had the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

*The Iron Age and Roman Periods (Taylor 2006; Willis 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

There are known Iron Age and Roman sites within the vicinity including enclosures and a Roman road. The evaluation may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

*The Medieval period (Vince 2006, Lewis 2006, Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012).*

The evaluation may contribute towards research into the origins and development of medieval settlement, landscape and society. Environmental evidence could provide information on local environmental conditions as well as settlement activity, craft, industry and land use. Artefacts can assist in the development of a type series within the region and provide evidence for evidence for craft, industry and exchange across broad landscape areas. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda



topics 7.1.2, 7.1.4, 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.3.1-7.3.5, 7.5.4, 7.6.1-2, 7.7.1-7.7.5 and Research Objective 7E - *Investigate the morphology of rural settlements.*

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS.

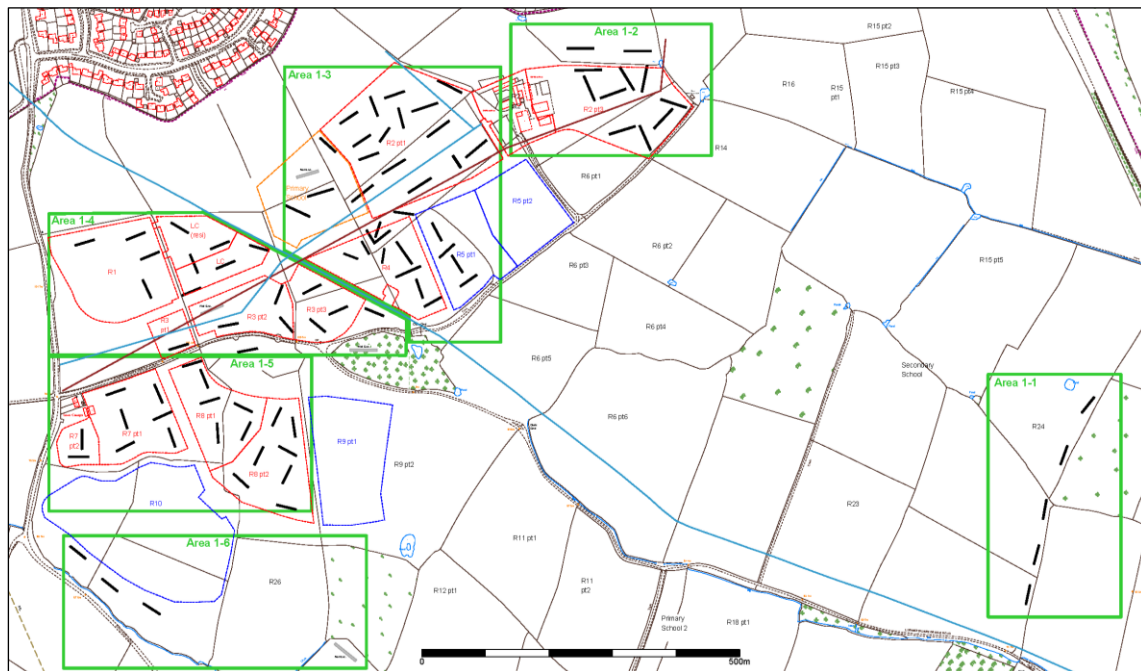


Figure 2: Site location plan, showing proposed development areas, evaluation areas (green) and general trench layout. Greyed trenches not excavated

### Results (Table 1)

The trenches and contexts are numbered continuing the sequence started during the 2011 evaluation (Jarvis 2011). Cut numbers are recorded in square brackets e.g. [166] while fills are in round brackets (167). They were located as proposed in the WSI where possible, targeting the M1 bridge base access route from Lubbesthorpe Lane (Figure 2,

Area 1.1, Trenches 76-80). Areas 1.2 to 1.6 to the west (comprising the Phase 1 development east of Beggars Lane) initially consisted of 79 trenches (Trenches 74-5, 81-165). These trenches targeted the proposed development residential areas, the local centre and primary school together with nine balancing ponds (BP). Four trenches on the original WSI plan could not be excavated due to access limitations (greyed in Figure 2). These consisted of the easternmost of the south balancing ponds (SK 5287 0138), the proposed primary school north field (SK 5277 0217), the Bridle Road copse (SK 5286 0189), and one trench in R3 Part 2 (at SK 5262 0196). Further trenches were added to the initial layout, infilling areas to assess the spread of features identified. These are detailed below (Area 1.3). All trenches were excavated by a JCB type excavator machine with a ditching bucket on the back-actor under archaeological supervision. After excavation and recording the trenches were backfilled.



Plate 1: Trenching works being carried out

**Area 1.1** (M1 bridge base access route from Lubbesthorpe Lane; Trenches 76-80) Figure 3

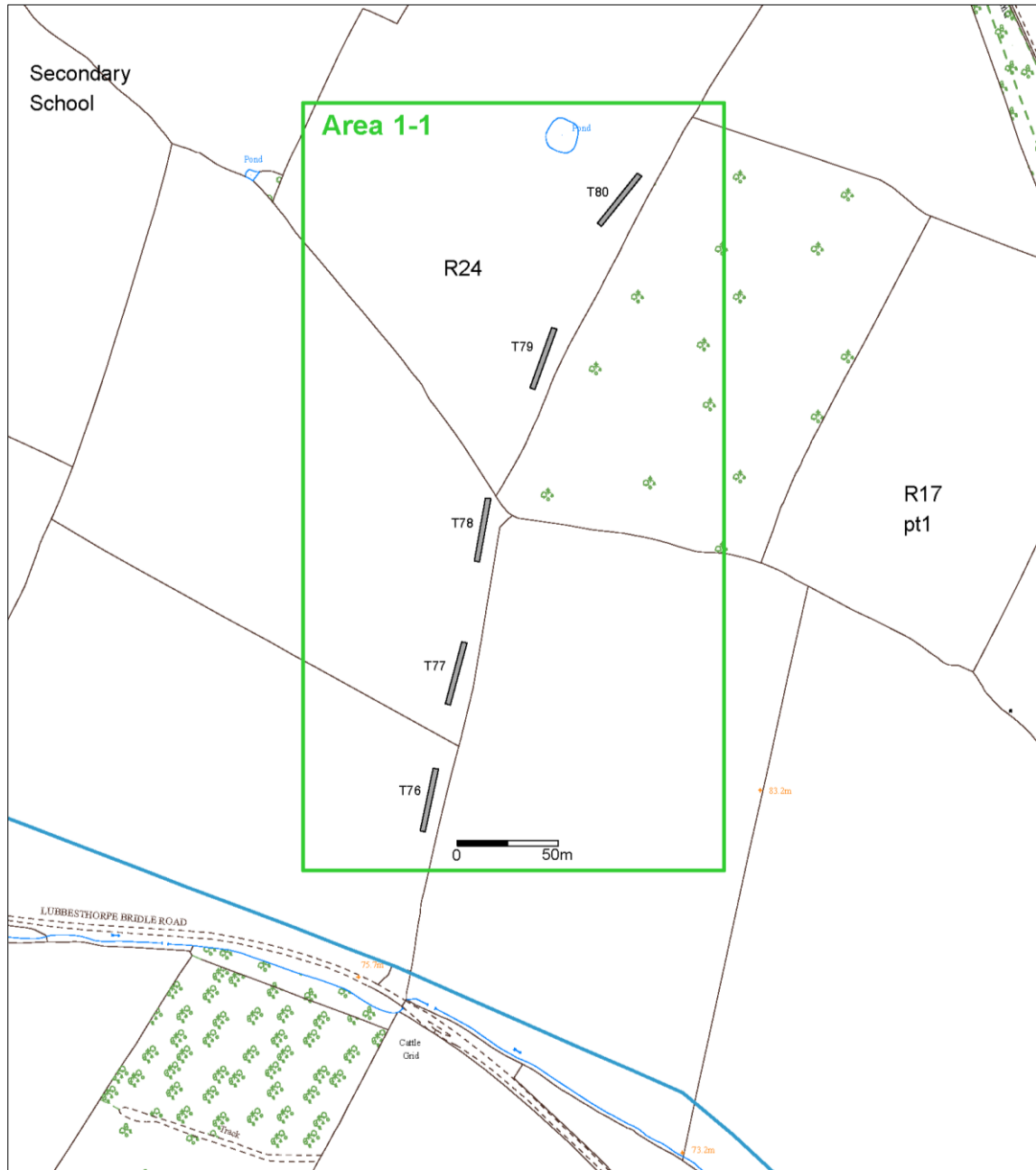


Figure 3: Evaluation Area 1.1

These trenches were all negative, and below the topsoil the subsoil was thin or absent. Natural deposits were recorded at a depth of between 0.18m and 0.5m. The topsoil was a sandy clay loam, the subsoil a red-brown sandy-clay and the natural substratum consisted of a red clay. No stray finds were recovered.

**Area 1.2** (R2 Part3; Trenches 144-154) Figure 4

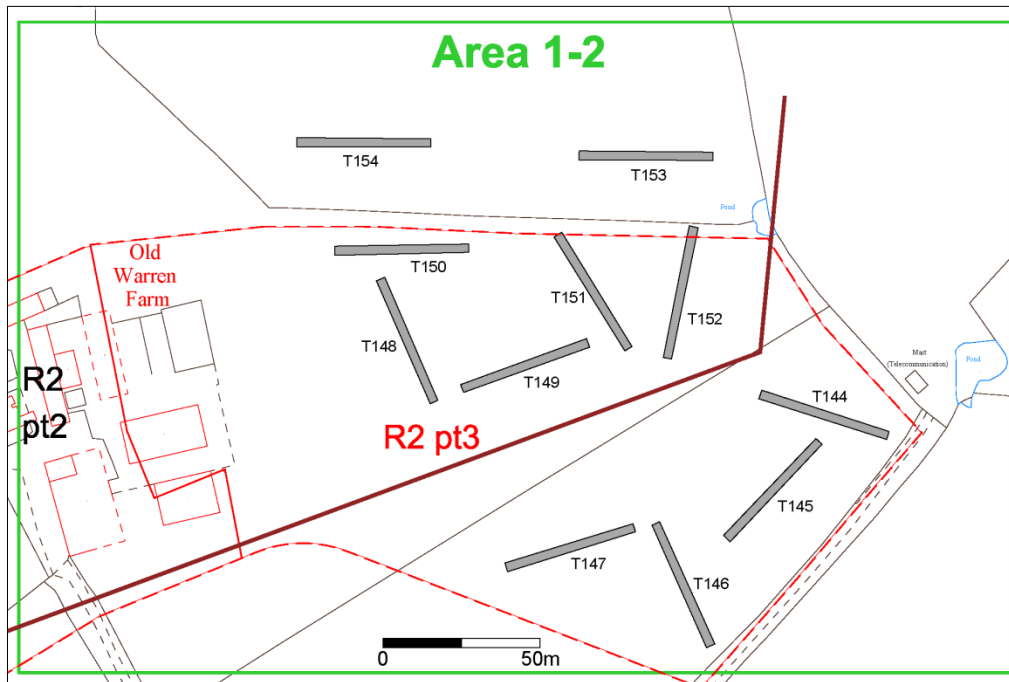


Figure 4: Evaluation Area 1.2

Area 1.2 was also a negative area, the trenches exposing a very thin sequence largely of topsoil directly onto the natural substratum. The depth to the natural substratum was between 0.21m and 0.44m. Faint east-west corrugations were observed in the field directly east of Old Warren farm, perhaps indicating ploughed out ridge and furrow field systems.



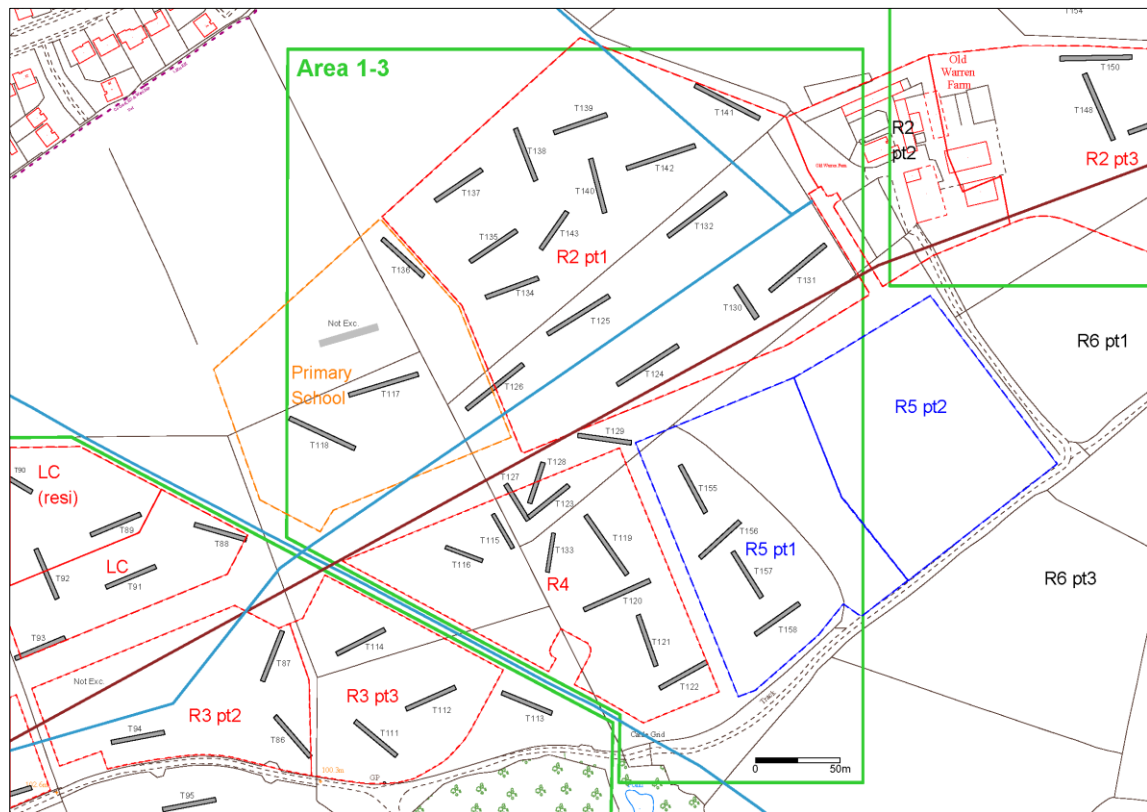
**Area 1.3** (Primary School, R2 Part 1, R4, R5 Part 1; Trenches 115-143, 155-8) Figure 5

Figure 5: Evaluation Area 1.3

These trenches were all shallow, having been plough eroded with topsoil often being immediately above the natural substratum. There was some variation in the substrata in this area with trenches exposing loose sandstone bedrock in places in the north area of R2 Part 1. While the majority of the trenches were negative, some archaeological features were identified.

Trench 123 exposed two urned cremations in small pits, contexts [166] (165) and [168] (167) (Figure 7 - Figure 9, Plate 2 - Plate 5). The features are probably of middle Bronze Age date. The cremations survived immediately below the topsoil and had clearly been plough-damaged. Both cremation urns were in shallow pits, [166] and [168]. Pit [166] was sub-circular, steep sided with a flat base, and measured 0.35m in diameter and with a depth 0.14m. Cremation pit [168] was circular, steep sided and also with a flat base, 0.4m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The fill around the urn in pit [166] context (165) was a dark grey-brown clayey-silt with frequent charcoal and burnt bone and occasional gravel. In pit [168] a separate fill within and outside the urn could be differentiated, although the outer deposit could have been re-deposited from plough action. Inside the urn was (167) a grey brown clayey-silt with much burnt bone and charcoal. Surrounding the urn was (171) a brown-grey silty-deposit also with much bone and charcoal.

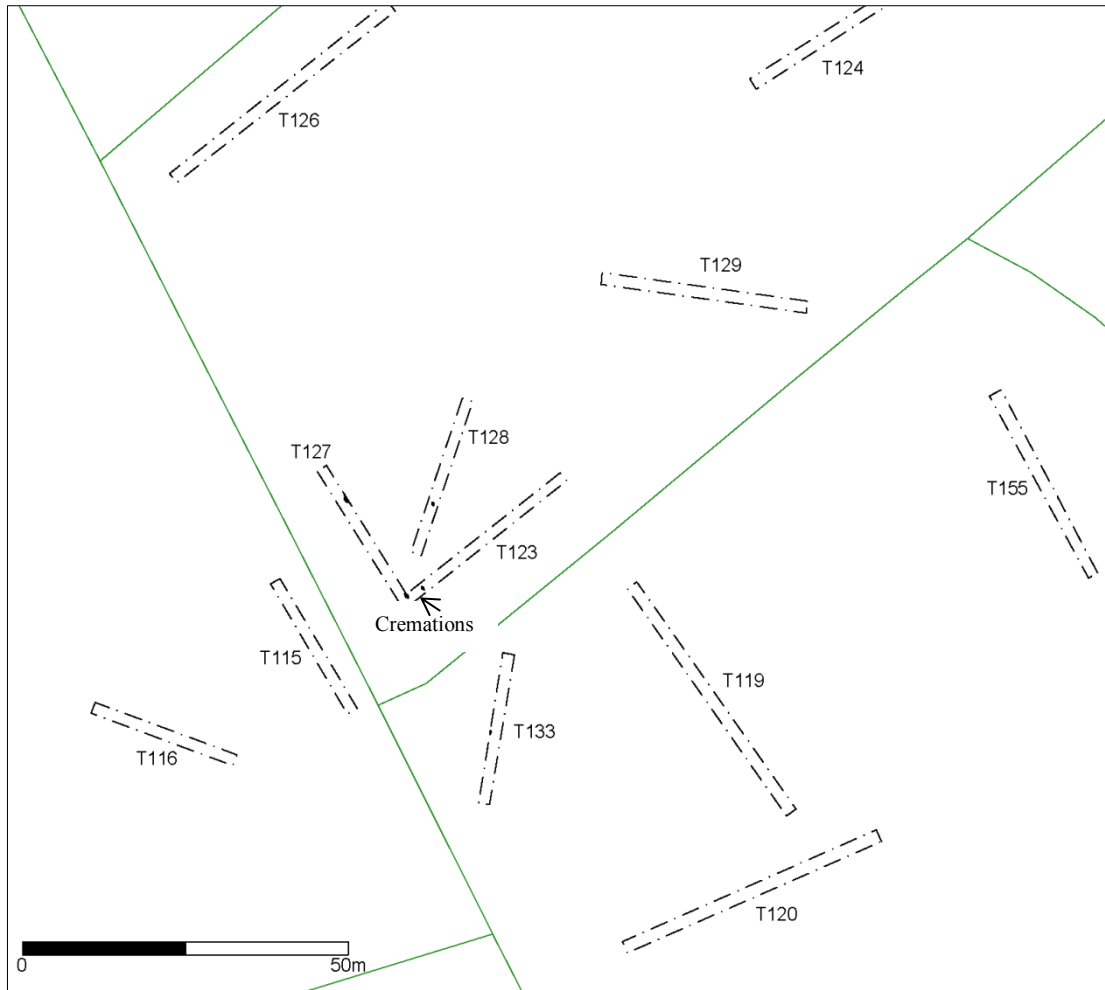


Figure 6: Location of cremations in relation to surrounding trenches.

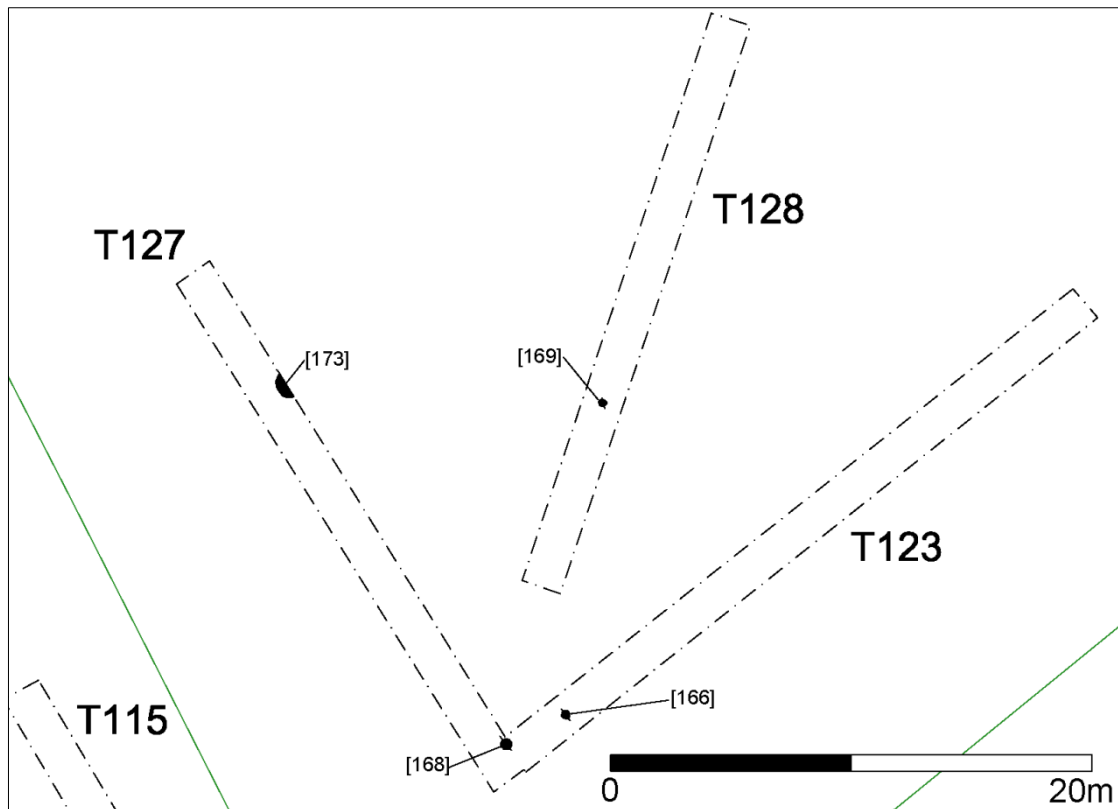


Figure 7: Cremations [166] and [168] and nearby trenches with features.

Trenches 127 and 128 were added near to the cremations and these both also exposed single features, pit [173] (174) and post-hole [169] (170) respectively (Figure 7, Figure 9, Plate 5 – Plate 6). Pit [173] (174) was probably circular, steep sided with a flat base, 1.1m diameter and 0.25m deep. It contained a fill (174) comprising a series of lenses of charcoal in a dark grey clayey-silt with occasional large charcoal chips. Although 16m from the cremations, these features are potentially associated with each other. Twelve metres to the east post-hole [169] (170) was sub-circular, fairly steep sided with a flattish base, and measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.25m deep. The fill (170) was a brownish grey sandy-silt with charcoal and occasional gravel. Trenches 129 and 133 were also added to the trench layout; Trench 129 was negative but Trench 133 contained a plough-disturbed charcoal lens (172) potentially indicating further archaeological deposits located to the south of the cremations.

Some 100m to the north Trenches 134 and 140 also produced prehistoric pottery. In Trench 134 an area of charcoal-rich sand contained a series of sherds of Iron Age pottery. The feature was not archaeological but was most likely the result of animal burrowing, however the concentration of material does indicate activity in the vicinity. Similarly, a sherd of probable middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from Trench 143. This sherd came from the top of another area of disturbance, a feature which was also unlikely to be of archaeological origin, being a very irregular linear band of pebbly sandy-clay. Between these two areas of finds a further trench was added, Trench 143, but this was negative. The extent of plough erosion is clear in this area, with little or no subsoil surviving, and the plough clearly having gone down into the natural substratum (Plate 9). Nevertheless the survival of what are normally relatively insubstantial features (the cremation pits), would suggest that any other earth-fast features may also survive. The distribution of prehistoric pottery is shown in Figure 10. Single flint pieces were



recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 125, 132 and 134. The piece from Trench 125 is a core potentially of Lower Palaeolithic date.

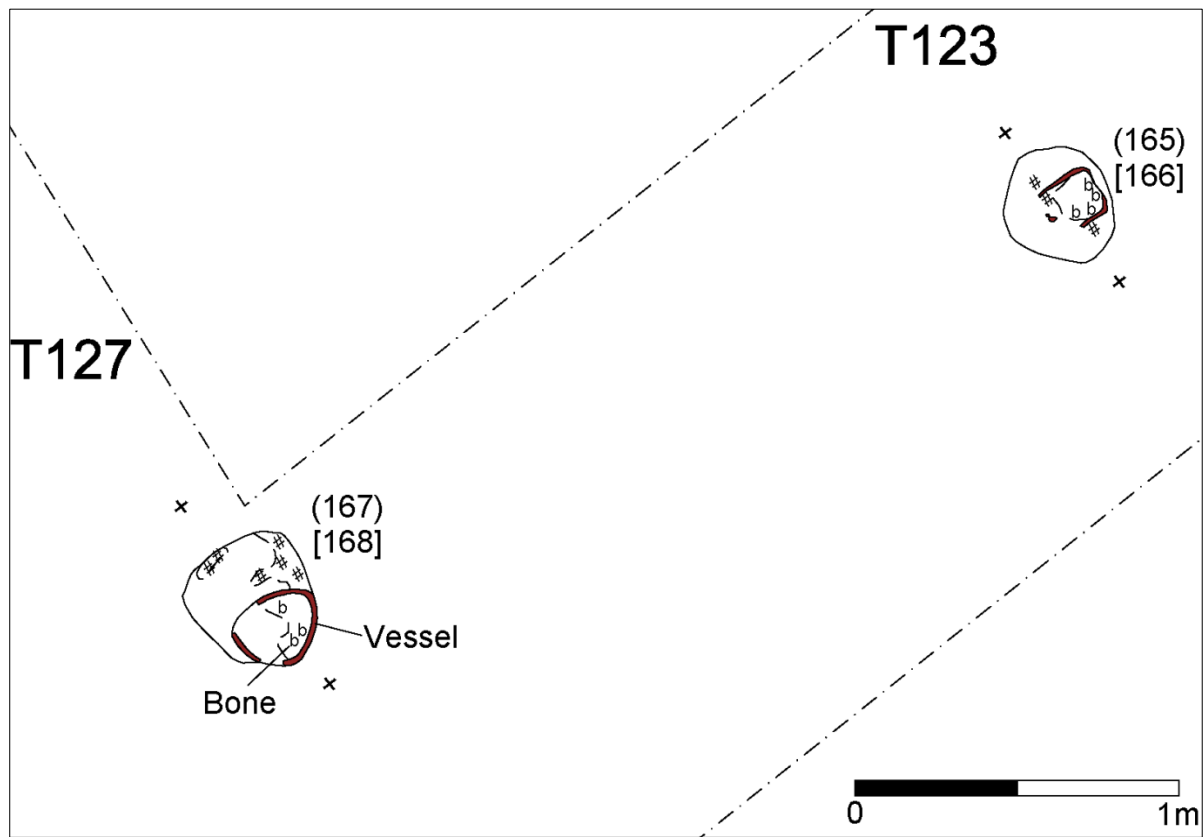


Figure 8: Cremations [166] and [168], pre-excavation.

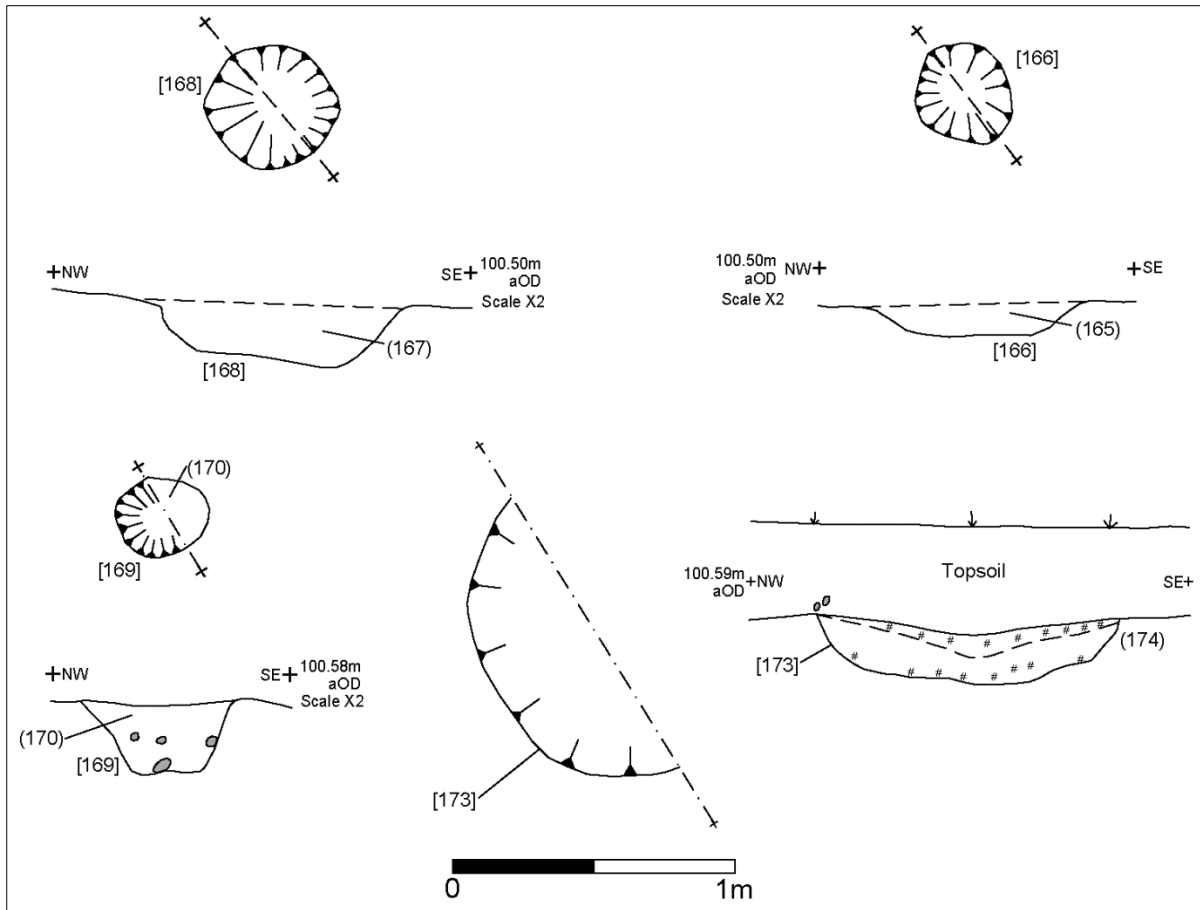


Figure 9: Cremations [166] and [168], and nearby features [169] and [173].



Plate 2: Cremation [166] prior to excavation.





Plate 3: Cremation [168] prior to excavation.



Plate 4: Cremation [166], continued, after exposing pottery vessel remains.





Plate 5: Post-hole [169], Trench 128, to north of cremations.



Plate 6: Pit [173], Trench 127, to north of cremations.

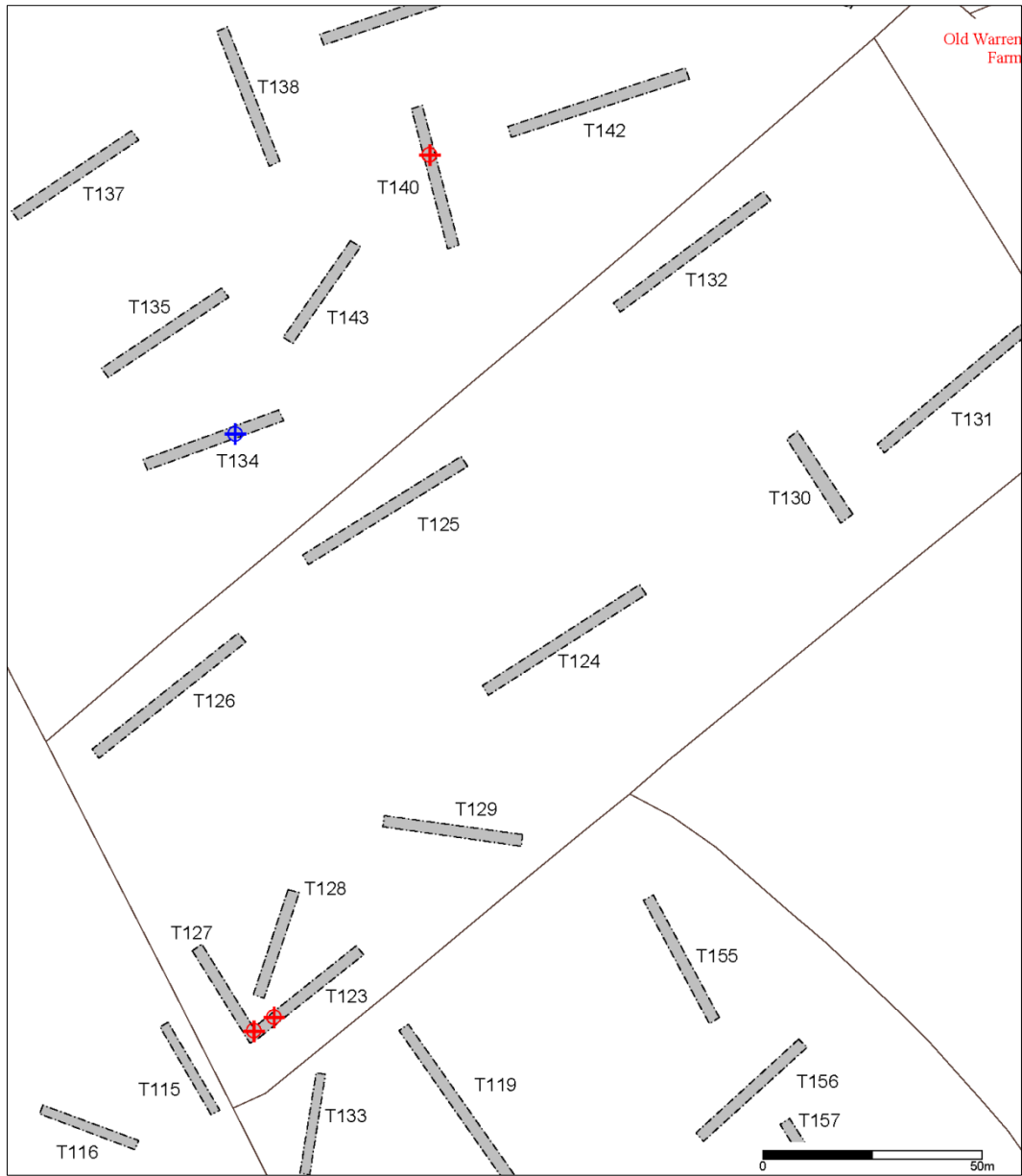


Figure 10: Distribution of prehistoric pottery.





Plate 7: Charcoal concentration with Iron Age pottery, Trench 134.



Plate 8: Trench 134, continued.





Plate 9: Plough scarring in Trench 133 to south of cremations.



**Area 1.4** (R1, Local Centres, R3 Parts 1-3, BP south of R3 Part 2; Trenches 81-95, 111-4) Figure 11

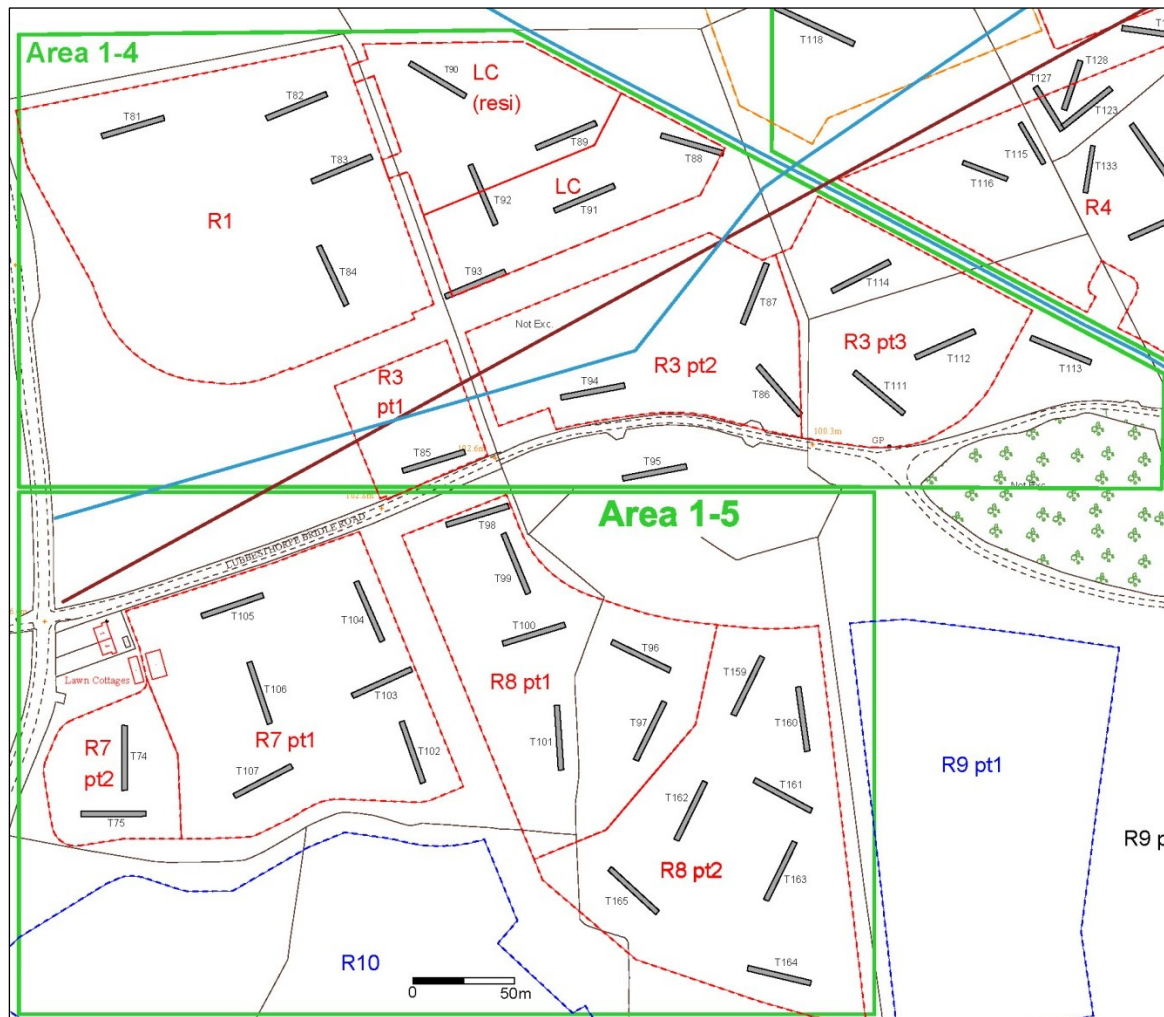


Figure 11: Evaluation Areas 1.4, 1.5

Area 1.4 was also a basically negative area. The majority of the trenches exposed only a very shallow subsoil below topsoil, again indicating deep ploughing in the past. The natural substratum was observed at depths of between 0.24m and 0.45m except in Trench 95 (BP trench). Trench 95 identified modern disturbance to a depth of up to 0.86m presumably from the now demolished Old House. To the west of this, no evidence of activity associated with a possible ring ditch cropmark (**MLE218**) recorded on the HER was observed. A flint core was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 82.

**Area 1.5** (R7 Parts 1-2, R8 Part 1, R8 Part 2; Trenches 74-5, 96-107, 159-165) Figure 11

Area 1.5 adjacent to Lawn Cottages consisted of 21 trenches. These were all negative. Again, little subsoil survived across the area due to ploughing with only the east of this area having a subsoil up to 0.4m in depth, and the natural substratum was exposed at depths of between 0.2m and 0.94m across the area. A possible feature in Trench 96 was excavated but the feature proved to be natural in origin, probably a tree throw pit. A secondary flint flake was recovered from this. Trenches to the south of this identified a probable colluvium up to 0.2m deep that produced occasional sherds of Roman pottery

(from Trenches 164, 165). The sherds are reasonably large, perhaps indicating ploughed out features in the vicinity. Unstratified flint was also recovered from trenches 161 and 165. Trenches 74-5 south of Lawn Cottages indicated some modern disturbance from demolished farm buildings at topsoil level.

**Area 1.6** (BPs south of R10; Trenches 108-10) Figure 12

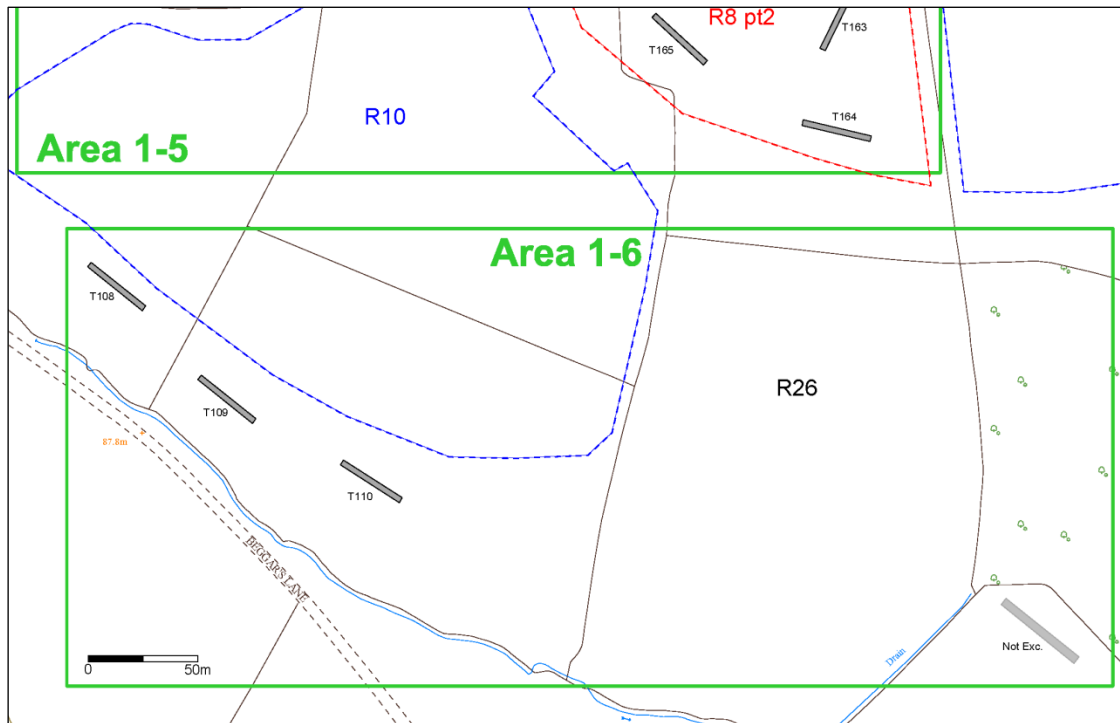


Figure 12: Evaluation Area 1.6

The proposed eastern balancing pond trench was not excavated (light grey on Figure 12), but this field had clear ridge and furrow aligned north-south. Trenches 108-110 were close to the brook and some alluviation was identified which was of a recent date. Several features were examined in Trenches 109-10, and occasional struck flint was recovered. This unstratified flint consisted of a core, two flakes and a shatter piece. Despite the presence of a low density of flint, most of the features were either natural or agricultural in origin, with deep plough scars visible and alluvial infilling of natural hollows being observed. In Trench 110 two shallow scoops were examined. Scoop [159] (160) measured 0.8m in diameter, and 0.08m in depth. This produced charcoal and showed evidence of burning but the feature was just below the modern alluvium and is considered also to be potentially modern. Adjacent to this was a further shallow scoop [161] (162) which was 0.9m in diameter, 0.1m deep, and contained only subsoil. This produced a secondary flint flake.

**The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery** by *Nicholas J. Cooper*

**Introduction**

A total of 142 sherds (1182g) of probable Bronze Age pottery and 11 sherds (160g) of Iron Age pottery were retrieved during the evaluation. The Bronze Age pottery

comprises the remains of two cremation urns from Trench 123 with another sherd from Trench 140, whilst the Iron Age pottery came from a single feature in Trench 134.

**Methodology**

The pottery has been analysed by form and fabric using the Leicestershire County Museums prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 2011, 62, Table 1), with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Groups Guidelines (PCRG 1997), and quantified by sherd count and weight. Where possible, vessel dimensions have been recorded. The assemblage is recorded on an MS Excel workbook which is presented below (Tables 1 and 2).

**The Middle Bronze Age Cremations**

The fragmentary remains of two thick-bodied vessels (15-20mm) were recovered; one a base of 130mm diameter from (165) [166], and the other comprising body sherds from a vessel with a girth of 160mm. Many small sherds were recovered from the bulk samples taken to recover the cremated bone remains and these have been included in the quantification.

*Table 1: Quantified record of Middle Bronze Age pottery*

<b>Bronze Age Pottery from 2015 Evaluation</b>								
<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Diameter</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date</b>
140	178	177	R2	Urn		1	41	Bronze Age
123	165	166	R2	Urn	130mmB	60	440	Bronze Age
123	167	168	R2	Urn	160mmG	50	500	Bronze Age
123	171	168	R2	Urn		30	200	Bronze Age
123	174		R2	Urn		1	1	Bronze Age
<b>Total</b>						<b>142</b>	<b>1182</b>	

The identification of these vessels as Middle Bronze Age is tentative but is based on the fact that cremations are almost unknown in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age (the 1st Millennium BC) in the East Midlands (Willis 2006, 117). Although the R2 fabric has also been found during previous work on the Iron Age at this site (see below), the thickness and coarseness of the current vessels recalls the bucket urn fragments from Willow Farm, Castle Donington (Marsden 1999). The bases of three Middle Bronze Age cremation vessels of similar size to these, but in a grog-tempered fabric, were recently excavated at nearby Countesthorpe (Barclay 2012, 41), the radiocarbon dates suggesting their deposition in the early part of the Middle Bronze Age. The rarity of cremation cemeteries of this date and difficulty of detecting them through sample trenching highlights the importance of further in the area before development commences.

**The Iron Age Pottery**

Table 2 details the remains of the vessel from (176) which was a jar with a flattened bead rim of diameter 280mm and the base of lug on one sherd, possibly from a handle.

*Table 2: Quantified summary of Iron Age pottery*

<b>Iron Age Pottery from 2015 Evaluation</b>						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Rim	Diameter	Sherds	Weight	Date
134	176	175	R1 Syenite	Jar	handled	Flatbead	280mmR	11	160	Iron Age

The fabric was the distinctive R1, opened with angular fragments of granitic rock up to 4mm with no plates of biotite mica, suggesting that the rock may be syenite from the nearby Croft deposit, as suggested at sites such as the enclosures at nearby Enderby (Marsden 2004, 24), rather than granodiorite from Mountsorrel which is typical of the sites closer to Charnwood such as Humberstone and Beaumont Leys (Marsden 2011; Knight *et al.* 2003). The fabric is also sand-free, and although not as common as the sand and granite fabric R2 found during previous work at Lubbesthorpe, still made up 26% of the assemblage (Cooper 2011). There is also no evidence for scored decoration on the vessel, although the form is typical of that Middle-late Iron Age tradition (Elsdon 1992, 85, Fig.1.6 and 1.9). A date closer to the Middle Iron Age might be appropriate but difficult to base on a single vessel. The preservation of the pottery is good and suggests that further stratified features datable to the Iron Age remain to be found if further work is undertaken.

### ***The Roman Pottery***

A total of six body sherds were recovered from the subsoil of two trenches and, given their poor condition but fairly large size, probably indicate the medieval disturbance of stratified Roman features in the immediate vicinity rather than manuring material. The material was classified using the Leicestershire Roman pottery form and fabric series (Pollard 1994, 110-114) and quantified by sherd count and weight.

Trench 164 Subsoil: Two joining but very abraded and leached body sherds (12g) from an early Roman shell-tempered jar in Fabric CG1A, dating from the mid-1st to 2nd century AD.

Trench 165 Subsoil: two joining but abraded body sherds (5g) from a small jar or beaker in fine grey ware (Fabric GW3) of 2nd-4th century date, and two joining but abraded and encrusted sherds (45g) from the lower body of a grey ware jar in a medium to coarse grey ware (Fabric GW5), again not closely datable between the 2nd-4th century.

### ***The Prehistoric Flint by Lynden Cooper and Wayne Jarvis***

Thirteen worked flints were recovered. All of the flint is derived from glacial till. From Trench 125 a core with dendritic patina is likely to be Lower Palaeolithic. The remaining pieces display flake technology and hard hammer percussion and are likely to be later prehistoric (Neolithic/Bronze Age in date).

(151) core

(162) 2ry flake

T82 core

T96 2ry flake

T109 2ry flake, shatter

T110 core, 3ry flake

T125 core (with dendritic patina)

T132 core

T134 denticulate

T161 secondary flake

T165 fragment of blade core. Poor quality flint

**The Cremated Bone** by Jennifer Browning, Rachel Small and Wayne Jarvis

Five soil samples were taken during the evaluation. Three of these samples were from probable cremation burials, the other two from potentially associated contexts. They were wet sieved in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and were left to air dry (these were not sorted in this instance). The residues were transferred in to plastic trays; they were left to air dry and the fractions over 4mm sorted for all finds and the fraction between 2 and 4mm sorted for bone.

Calcined (white) bone was present in all samples; it was of a larger quantity in samples 11, 12 and 13 (Table 3). The largest fragment, 57mm in length, was present in sample 12 (table 1). The cremated bone appears to be human and human tooth root fragments were identified in sample 12. The bone was remarkably homogeneous in the level of calcining, and the presence of only comparatively small pieces indicates that the material may have been processed or sorted in some way. Other finds present in the coarse fraction ( $\geq 4\text{mm}$ ) of the samples included charcoal, pot and hazel nut shell (table 4).

Table 3: Weight of cremated bone and maximum fragment length.

Sample	Context	Cut	Feature	Weight (g)			Max fragment length (mm)
				$\geq 4\text{mm}$	2 - 4mm	Total	
11	165	166	Cremation	10	7	17	15
12	167	168	Cremation	102	43	145	57
13	171	168	Cremation	11	9	20	19
14	170	169	Post hole		<1	<1	
15	174	173	Pit	<1	<1	<1	6

Table 4: Weight of charcoal, prehistoric pot and hazel nut shell.

Sample	Context	Cut	Weight (g)		
			Charcoal	Prehistoric pot	Hazel nut shell
11	165	166	4	64	
12	167	168	23	33	
13	171	168	39	190	
14	170	169	130		<1
15	174		19	<1	

**Conclusion**

The majority of the site area proved negative at the evaluation stage, however a small central area produced evidence of prehistoric activity. This included two urned

cremations of probable middle Bronze Age date, and several other potentially related features. To the north of this area Iron Age pottery, and nearby a further unstratified sherd of Bronze Age pottery, was also recovered. The cremations are a rare discovery, and of some significance considering they were exposed during trenching works and also being potentially related to other activity nearby. Some residual prehistoric struck flint was also recovered across the proposed development area, but this represents a 'background noise' usually recorded during trial trenching. The flint was predominantly of Neolithic-Bronze Age date, although one piece is probably Lower Palaeolithic. Several sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered in a subsoil south of the Old House, perhaps indicating ploughed out features in the vicinity.

**Acknowledgements**

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**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	New Lubbesthorpe
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	P. Clay
Project Supervisor	W Jarvis
Previous/Future work	DBA, Evaluation
Current Land Use	Arable and pasture
Development Type	Mixed use
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Requirement
Site Co ordinates	SK 531 017
Start/end dates of field work	20/01 – 07/05/2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	19.7ha

**Archive**

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number XA112.2011, and forms part of a larger archive incorporating earlier work.

The archive for this phase consists of the following:

Trench Index (4 A4 pages) and 91 Trench recording sheets

7 Photo Record sheets. Other site indices (1 context index sheet, 13 A5 context sheets (context no.s 150-178), 1 drawing index and drawing record sheet, 1 sample index sheet, 3 A3 permagraph drawing sheets)

1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report 2015-040)

Digital photograph contact sheets

Digital photographs on CD

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20-05-2015

## Appendix 1. Trench Details

Tr No	Co ords (SK)	Area	Features
74	52419/01757	R7 Pt2	N
75	52413/01729	R7 Pt2	N

76	53905/01512	Bridge	N
77	53919/01576	Bridge	N
78	53933/01647	Bridge	N
79	53963/01733	Bridge	N
80	54001/01812	Bridge	N
81	52420/02065	R1	N
82	52505/02078	R1	N
83	52525/02047	R1	N
84	52520/01904	R1	N
85	52570/01903	R1	N
86	52741/01935	R3 Pt2	N
87	52728/01984	R3 Pt2	N
88	52691/02062	Local centre	N
89	52635/02069	Local centre	N
90	52567/02093	Local centre	N
91	52645/02036	Local centre	N
92	52598/02037	Local centre	N
93	52593/02002	Local centre	N
94	52648/01936	R3 Pt2	N
95	52679/01896	Balancing pond N	N
96	52672/01815	R8 PT1	N
97	52674/01788	R8 PT1	N
98	52594/01877	R8 PT1	N
99	52611/01854	R8 PT1	N
100	52617/01818	R8 PT1	N
101	52632/01766	R8 PT1	N
102	52558/01762	R7 PT1	N
103	52551/01793	R7 PT1	N
104	52540/01828	R7 PT1	N
105	52472/01832	R7 PT1	N
106	52485/01790	R7 PT1	N
107	52487/01745	R7 PT1	N
108	52414/01578	Balancing pond S	N
109	52462/01527	Balancing pond S	NAT
110	52526/01490	Balancing pond S	NAT
111	52789/01935	R3 PT3	N
112	52818/01958	R3 PT3	N
113	52875/01960	R3 PT3	N
114	52779/01991	R3 PT3	N
115	52870/02057	R4	N
116	52847/02049	R4	N
117	52795/02144	School	N
118	52757/02130	School	N
119	52925/20247	R4	N
120	52932/02021	R4	N
121	52950/01995	R4	N
122	52973/01979	R4	N
123	52892/02081	R4	165-8, 171
124	52950/02154	R2 PT1	N
125	52908/02185	R2 PT1	N
126	52860/02142	School/R2 PT1	N
127	52872/02079	R4/School	173-4

128	52883/02093	R4/R2 PT1	169-170
129	52923/02111	R4/R2 PT1	N
130	53009/02193	R2 PT1	N
131	53038/02213	R2 PT1	N
132	52979/02246	R2 PT1	N
133	52893/02045	R4	172
134	52868/02199	R2 PT1	NAT - 175-6
135	52858/02223	R2 PT1	N
136	52809/02222	School	N
137	52838/02261	R2 PT1	N
138	52878/02280	R2 PT1	N
139	52909/02296	R2 PT1	N
140	52914/02262	R2 PT1	NAT - 177-8
141	53000/02314	R2 PT1	N
142	52958/02279	R2 PT1	N
143	52893/02236	R2 PT1	N
144	53349/02284	R2 PT3	N
145	53334/02264	R2 PT3	N
146	53304/02230	R2 PT3	N
147	53283/02244	R2 PT3	N
148	53221/02314	R2 PT3	N
149	53257/02301	R2 PT3	N
150	53215/02338	R2 PT3	N
151	53276/02324	R2 PT3	N
152	53300/02331	R2 PT3	N
153	53291/02367	R2 PT3	N
154	53202/02369	R2 PT3	N
155	52978/02069	R5 PT1	N
156	52993/02054	R5 PT1	N
157	53008/02032	R5 PT1	N
158	53026/02005	R5 PT1	N
159	52733/01796	R8 PT2	N
160	52758/01789	R8 PT2	N
161	52749/01743	R8 PT2	N
162	52705/01736	R8 PT2	N
163	52749/01705	R8 PT2	N
164	52747/01655	R8 PT2	N
165	52676/01697	R8 PT2	N

## Appendix 2. Context Index

Context	Cut	Area	Description
150	150	T110	Nat alluvial fill
151	150	T110	" "
152	153	T109	Agricultural feature
153	153	T109	" "
154	156	T109	" "
155	156	T109	" "
156	156	T109	" "
157	158	T109	" "
158	158	T109	" "
159	159	T110	Scoop, modern?

160	159	T110	" "
161	161	T110	Subsoil filled scoop, prob natural
162	161	T110	" " "
163	164	T117	Subsoil filled feat, prob natural
164	164	T117	" " "
165	166	T123	Cremation pit fill
166	166	T123	" " cut
167	168	T123	Cremation pit fill
168	168	T123	" " cut
169	169	T128	Posthole cut
170	169	T128	" fill
171	168	T123	Cremation pit fill
172		T133	Lens of charcoal
173	173	T127	Pit cut
174	173	T127	" fill
175	175	T134	Natural feature, with pot, charcoal
176	175	T134	" "
177	177	T140	", pot off top
178	177	T140	"

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