



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**Remembering, Remodelling and Reusing:
Neolithic to Anglo-Saxon Activity**
An Archaeological Excavation
West of Loughborough Road, Rothley, Leicestershire.

NGR: SK 58865 12255

By Dr Gavin Speed



ULAS Report No 2017-203

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**An Archaeological Excavation at
Loughbrough Road, Rothley,
Leicestershire**

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Dr Gavin Speed

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CONTENTS

Contents

Summary	6
1. Introduction.....	6
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	6
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	8
3.1 Prehistoric	8
3.2 Roman	8
3.2 Anglo-Saxon	9
3.3 Medieval to Present.....	9
4. Aims and Objectives	9
5. Methodology	11
6. Results.....	12
6.1 Phase 1: Middle Neolithic [3500-3300 BC]	14
Ring Ditch.....	14
Barrow mound	18
Cremation Burials	18
6.2 Phase 2: Bronze Age (1900 BC – 1550 BC).....	21
6.3 Phase 3: Late Iron Age (700 BC – AD 30).....	21
Pre-enclosure ditches	22
Rectangular Enclosure	22
Possible Cremation Pits	24
Refuse Pits	25
6.4 Phase 4: Transitional Iron Age / Roman AD 20 - 60.....	29
Sinuous Ditch Enclosure.....	29
Human Burials	30
Pits within enclosure	33
South-east Enclosure.....	34
Parallel Gullies.....	35
6.4 Phase 5: Roman.....	36
6.5 Phase 6: Anglo-Saxon.....	37
Graves within the area of the Neolithic ring ditch & Iron Age enclosure	37
Graves cutting the Neolithic ring ditch	39
Graves to the south-east of the ring ditch	40
Sunken-Featured Buildings and scattered pits.....	42
6.6 Phase 6: Medieval to present	44
7. Finds & Environmental Evidence.....	45
7.1 Neolithic and Beaker Pottery (by Nicholas J. Cooper)	45
Introduction.....	45
Methodology	45
Early Neolithic Carinated Bowl.....	45
Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware	46
Beaker Pottery.....	49
Discussion	51
7.2 Late Iron Age and ‘transitional’ early Roman Pottery (by Nicholas J. Cooper) ...	51
Introduction and overview	51
Methodology	51
7.3 Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon Pottery c.450-700 (by Nicholas J. Cooper)	56

Introduction.....	56
Methodology.....	56
Analysis by fabric and form.....	57
Catalogue.....	58
7.4 Worked Lithics (by Lynden Cooper).....	60
Discussion.....	60
7.5 Quern and other fragments of stones (by Nicholas J. Cooper).....	61
Introduction.....	61
The Querns.....	61
Discussion.....	62
7.6 Roman tile, burnt daub, and annular loom weights (by Nicholas J. Cooper).....	63
Introduction.....	63
Analysis.....	63
7.7 Animal Bone (by Jennifer Browning).....	64
Introduction.....	64
Methods.....	64
Results.....	64
Conclusion.....	65
7.8 Metalwork (by Gavin Speed).....	65
Iron Age Objects.....	65
Anglo-Saxon Objects.....	65
Grave [5].....	65
Grave [25].....	66
Grave [16].....	70
Grave [109].....	71
Objects found elsewhere.....	71
7.9 Charred Plants Remains (Rachel Small).....	72
Introduction.....	72
Methodology.....	72
Results.....	72
Discussion.....	74
Conclusion.....	75
7.10 Radiocarbon Dating (By Gavin Speed).....	76
7.11 Industrial Residues (By Heidi Addison).....	76
8. Discussion.....	78
8.1 Middle Neolithic: Round Mound Constructed.....	78
8.2 Bronze Age: Remodelling the Round Mound.....	81
8.3 Iron Age: Enclosing the landscape.....	84
8.5 Roman (lack of) activity.....	85
8.5 Anglo-Saxon cemetery: ‘Rothley Warrior’ and the Reuse of an Ancient Landscape.....	85
9. Conclusion.....	88
10. Archive.....	88
11. Publication.....	89
12. Bibliography.....	89
13. Acknowledgements.....	96
Appendix: Contexts listed by cut with phases.....	98

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location within the UK, county of Leicestershire, and Rothley	7
Figure 2: View of the machining underway	13
Figure 3: Neolithic features	14
Figure 4: Ring ditch sections A-C	15
Figure 5: Ring ditch sections D-F	16
Figure 6: Views of ring ditch excavated sections	17
Figure 7: Pit containing Neolithic pottery	18
Figure 8: Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware pottery, as found on the Site	19
Figure 9: Cremation pits plans and sections	20
Figure 10: Late Iron Age features	21
Figure 11: Sections of pre-enclosure ditches [47] and [24]	22
Figure 12: Rectangular enclosure ditch sections	23
Figure 13: View of rectangular enclosure ditch terminus	23
Figure 14: Iron Age cremation pits [13], [14], and [66]	24
Figure 15: View of cremation pit [66]	26
Figure 16: Pit cluster cutting soil layer (718) in NW corner of Iron Age enclosure ...	27
Figure 17: Pits [92] and [93], plan, section and view of querns <i>in situ</i>	28
Figure 18: Phase 4 features with cut numbers	29
Figure 19: Sections of sinuous enclosure	30
Figure 20: View of enclosure ditches [21] and [39] (foreground), looking N	30
Figure 21: Mid-1 st -century AD graves [1], [4], and [15]	32
Figure 22: Mid 1 st century AD graves to the east of the ring ditch ([9] and [111])	33
Figure 23: View of pit under excavation showing Belgic style pottery <i>in situ</i>	34
Figure 24: Iron Age pits [139] & [145], Belgic pit [140], and Anglo-Saxon burial [142]	35
Figure 25: View of mid 1 st -century AD gully containing pottery	36
Figure 26: Plan showing Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves	37
Figure 28: Anglo-Saxon graves [7] and [16], and annular brooch after cleaning	38
Figure 29: Detailed plan of Grave [25]	40
Figure 30: Inhumation graves [5], [12], [109], and [115]	42
Figure 31: Plan and sections of Anglo-Saxon SFBs	43
Figure 32: Medieval and post-medieval evidence	44
Figure 33: Peterborough Ware in Mortlake sub-style	48
Figure 34: Peterborough Ware in Fengate sub-style	49
Figure 35: Beaker Pottery	50
Figure 36: Typology of vessel forms from Grove Farm, Enderby	53
Figure 37: Late Iron Age/East Midland scored ware tradition	55
Figure 38: Transitional early Roman shell-tempered wares	56
Figure 39: Early – Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery	59
Figure 40: Neolithic ground stone axe (SF11)	61
Figure 41: two joining halves of upper stone from Hunsbury type beehive quern	62
Figure 42: Small fragment of saddle quern from pit [103]	62
Figure 43: Iron chatelaine chain and hoops (SF2a)	66
Figure 44: Shield boss (SF3) photo and drawing	67
Figure 45: Detailed view showing spike on top	67
Figure 46: Detail view of mineralised wood on the boss	67
Figure 47: Large rivets on shield boss (SF3)	68
Figure 48: Iron buckle photo and drawing	68
Figure 49: Photo of knife (SF6)	69

Figure 50: ‘8’-shaped, shield mount / fitting? 5cm L, 3cm W (SF7)	69
Figure 51: Angular spearhead (SF8 & 9).....	70
Figure 52: Anglo-Saxon penannular brooch (SF15).....	71
Figure 53: Knife (SF27).....	71
Figure 54: Neolithic activity in relation to Neolithic features at Temple Grange.	80
Figure 55: View of Neolithic activity on elevation model.	81
Figure 56: View of the ring ditch	82
Figure 57: The Site in relation to Temple Grange, Rothley Lodge.	82
Figure 58: Rothley barrow compared to the Cossington barrows	83
Figure 59: Phased Iron Age activity	84
Figure 60: Anglo-Saxon cemetery and other features	86
Figure 61: Landscape view showing known Anglo-Saxon settlements	87

TABLES

Table 2: List of grave objects from [25] and possible dates	39
Table 3: Summary of Leicestershire Roman pottery fabric series where relevant to the assemblage (Pollard 1994).....	52
Table 4: Concordance of Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery.....	57
Table 5: Quantified record of the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery assemblage	57
Table 6: Worked lithics.....	60
Table 7: Roman tile, and fired clay (burnt daub) fragments from Rothley	63
Table 8: Catalogue of faunal remains	65
Table 9: <i>Plant remains and artefacts present in the flots. Key: underlining indicates extraction for radiocarbon dating.</i>	74
Table 10: Radiocarbon results	76
Table 11: Quantified record of material by context.....	76

An Archaeological Excavation at Loughborough Road, Rothley, Leicestershire.

Dr Gavin Speed

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological investigation on land to the west of Loughborough Road, Rothley, Leicestershire (SK 58865 12255). This revealed evidence for a long sequence of human activity including burial and settlement remains.

The first activity saw a ring ditch and mound constructed on the slope of high ground overlooking the confluence of the Rivers Soar, Wreake, and Rothley Brook in the Middle Neolithic. The Neolithic round mound was remodeled in the Bronze Age. In the late Iron Age three clear phases of activity can be discerned, including field enclosures and human burials, with the latest Iron Age phase dating to the 'Belgic' period. In the early Anglo-Saxon period, the area had become the focus for a small inhumation cemetery. At least 14 inhumations were discovered, including evidence for a 'warrior' burial.

The results from the excavation have added significantly more to our understanding of the prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon landscapes of this area, showing the multi-period occupation and burial use of the Site in the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, and Anglo-Saxon periods.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service, under accession number XA.111.2015.

1. Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out on land to the west of Loughborough Road, Rothley, Leicestershire (SK 58865 12255). This document presents the results of the scheme of archaeological work, required by the planning authority (Charnwood Borough Council) as a condition of planning. Planning permission has been granted for a new housing development on the former allotments, the excavation follows an archaeological desk-based assessment (EDP 2008), and evaluations / excavations in adjacent fields (Temple Grange (Speed 2011) and Brookfield Farm (Higgins 2013).

The work began as an archaeological evaluation in October 2015, followed immediately by an excavation between November 2015 and January 2016. The work was required to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present in order to determine the potential impact of the proposed development upon them. It addressed the requirements of Planning Condition 5. A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Clay 2013). The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The Site is located on land to the west of Loughborough Road, in the parish of Rothley, Leicestershire (Ordnance Survey grid reference SK 58817 12357, Figs. 1-2). Rothley is located approximately 8km to the north of central Leicester (Figure 1) The Site is located on the southern edge of the village, and covers an area of 2.2ha. The eastern boundary of the Site is defined by Loughborough Road (the former A6), the north boundary by the rear gardens of residential properties built from 2010 by Charles Church (Speed 2011), the west boundary by a public footpath, and the south boundary by a paddock field.

The Site lies at a geological interface between glaciofluvial deposits of Bytham sands and gravels in the eastern half of the Site, and Mercia Mudstone bedrock in the western-half (British Geological Survey, 2013). The land lies at a height of 69 metres OD, at the south-west corner of the Site, sloping down to 57.5 metres OD to the –north-east.

The earlier Ordnance Survey maps and historic satellite imagery show that the Site has been in use as open farmland throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. In the early 21st century it was in use as an allotment gardens. Recently the allotments were moved to the SW of the Site, the former allotment gardens were left to become densely overgrown with scrub and wasteland.

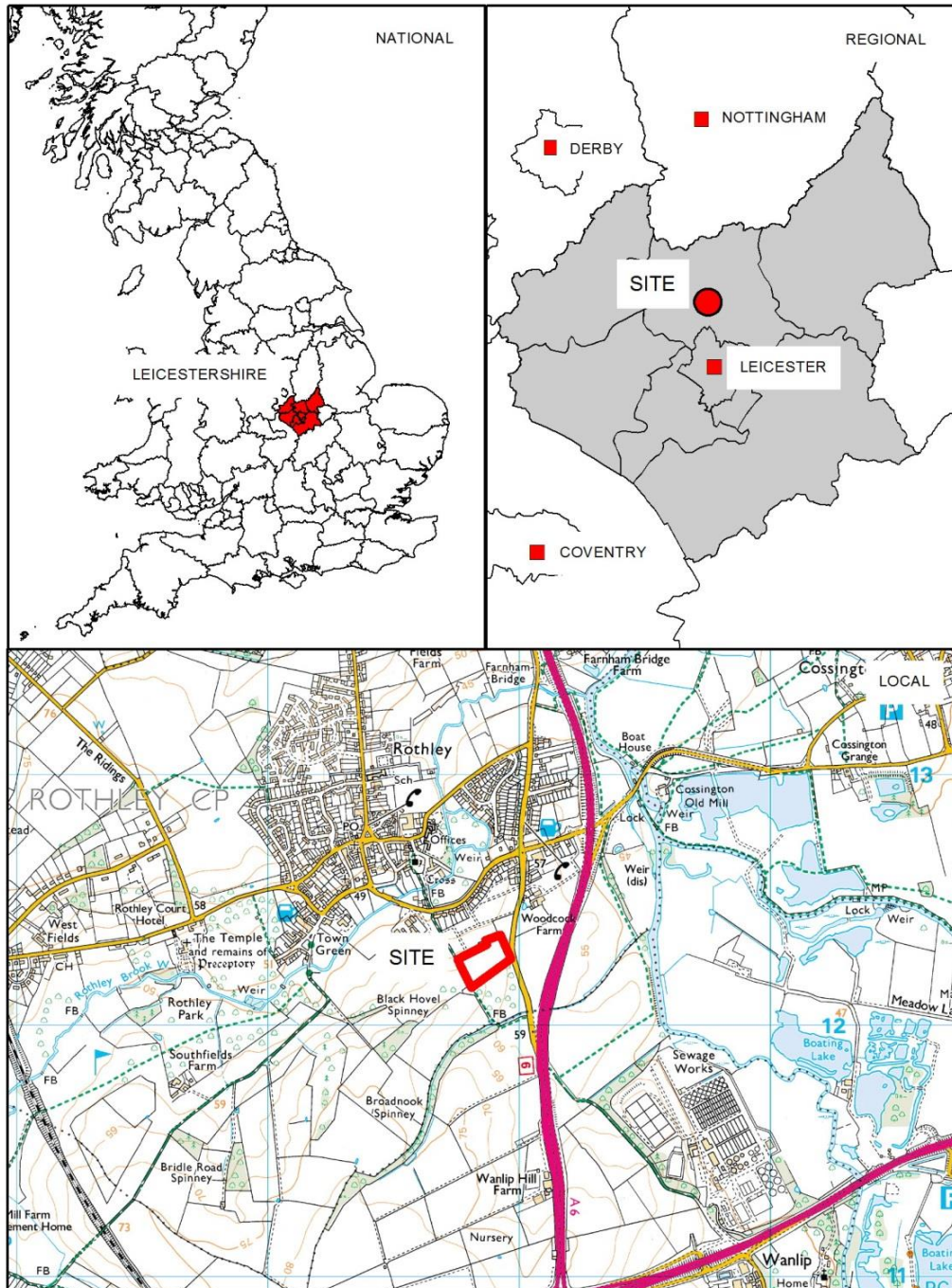


Figure 1: Site location within the UK, county of Leicestershire, and Rothley

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3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland records that there are two known archaeological remains within the assessment area itself. The cropmarks indicate the presence of a ring ditch (MLE 885), and less clear sub-rectangular enclosures (MLE 10311). The ring ditch is likely prehistoric date, perhaps representing a ploughed-out Bronze Age burial mound, occupying a prominent ridge. The enclosures are less certain, they could be prehistoric ditches, or else natural geology.

An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was written in 2008 (EDP 2008), the following is an updated summary of the key discoveries in the immediate vicinity of the Site to place the results of the excavation in a wider context.

3.1 Prehistoric

Archaeological excavations at Temple Grange, immediately to the north of the Site identified nationally significant Neolithic remains, these included structures, structured deposits, and associated activity and pottery (Speed 2011).

There is some evidence for Mesolithic activity along the western edge of the Soar valley close to Wanlip Sewage Works, and 150m north of the Site close to Red Lion Public House (EDP 2008, 5). Most of the Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement evidence comes from fieldwalking with numerous flint scatters, many in areas of slightly higher ground overlooking the confluence zone.

Approximately 600m south-east of the Site a scatter of flint artefacts of Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been collected from the north west of Wanlip Sewage Works (EDP 2008, 5). 1km to the south a prehistoric settlement Site has been identified at Bentley's Roses. A geophysical survey and fieldwalking survey located around 25 pits, a double ditched and rectilinear enclosure, along with overlying Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters and 36 sherds of Bronze Age pottery (Hunt 2010, 22). Bronze Age cremations are known 1.6km west of the Site (Hunt 2010, 5). A possible Neolithic building and a substantial amount of associated artefacts (including a rare example of prehistoric art) were found at a Neolithic settlement lying 2km north - excavated in 2005 at Lodge Farm (Clay, Hunt and Cooper 2006; Clay & Hunt 2016).

Evidence for Iron Age activity within the immediate area of Rothley is minimal, Iron Age ditches were discovered during the Temple Grange excavations in 2010, immediately to the north of the Site (Speed 2011). Elsewhere a settlement Site of late Bronze Age – early Iron Age was identified during pipeline renewal alongside the A6 c.200m south of the Site (EDP 2008, 6).

3.2 Roman

A small Roman settlement at Rothley, with significantly large-sized high status buildings known within the village. A villa is located on the western end of the Ridgeway (Upson-Smith 2011), and the central focus of the settlement is thought to be on the eastern side of the present village (Hunt 2010:5), Roman structures of 2nd to 4th century date were discovered in 2007 at The Grange in the village centre (Upson-Smith 2011, 2016). Archaeological excavations at Temple Grange in 2010, immediately to the north of the Site, identified Roman ditches and associated pottery (Speed 2011).

3.2 Anglo-Saxon

The earliest Anglo-Saxon settlement evidence found in Rothley to date was discovered during archaeological excavations at Temple Grange in 2010, immediately to the north of the Site. There an early to mid Anglo-Saxon Sunken-Featured Building and associated pottery (68 sherds) was identified (Speed 2011, 68).

Rothley appears to have been a significant settlement by the late 7th / early 8th century with a royal manor, and presumably a pre-conquest church with priest (Parsons 1996 and McLoughlin 2010, 2018). Archaeological excavations at The Grange (in the village centre) identified a mid to late Saxon Christian cemetery, with evidence for 138 inhumations, and 149 deposits of re-deposited bone. Radiocarbon dating shows the burials begun AD 590-860 and ended AD 805-1080 (Upson-Smith 2011, 2016). There is a late Anglo-Saxon cross (8th – 9th century, SM 21646) in the church graveyard in the village.

3.3 Medieval to Present

Rothley is recorded in the Domesday Book as "Rodolei" which is most likely from the Anglo-Saxon Roplēah meaning "meadow in a clearing" (Mills 2003). The Domesday Book shows that at the time it was amongst the lands belonging to the King. It shows that the land included 37 acres of meadow, a mill and considerable woodlands. This manor also controlled surrounding pieces of land in a large number of villages including Asfordby, Seagrave and Sileby (Nichols 1804).

Remains of medieval buildings and associated features have been found in numerous excavations in the village. Post-medieval structures are still upstanding within the village.

In the Middle Ages, Rothley was home to a manor of the Knights Templar, known as Rothley temple, but now the Rothley Court Hotel, which passed to the Babington family after the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century. The Babington family held the manor for almost 300 years until the death in 1837 of Thomas Babington who was MP for Leicester from 1800-1818, and a leading Anglican evangelical. Educated at St John's College, Cambridge alongside William Wilberforce, the two worked closely together on social improvement and famously on the Bills to abolish the slave trade (White 1877). Rothley village has formed around two distinct nuclei: one at Town Green and the other around the parish church.

4. Aims and Objectives

The broad aims of the archaeological investigation were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the Site as indicated by the geophysical survey
- To establish the nature and extent of any existing disturbance and intrusion to subsurface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance
- To enable the clients to establish a schedule for archaeological risks
- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the Site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Leicestershire.

This document follows guidelines set out in The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014b, 12-14).

The results are considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper 2006) and strategy (Knight et al. 2012). This now features as an interactive digital resource (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>). Along with targeting national research aims, highlighted as English Heritage's (now Historic England) critical research priorities for the prehistoric and Roman periods (EH 2010, EH 2012). More detailed period-based national research agendas are also considered: e.g. the Neolithic (Clay 2006), the Iron Age (Haselgrove et al. 2001, Willis 2006), and Anglo-Saxon (Vince 2006).

3. Neolithic and Bronze Age (c.4000-c.1150 cal BC):

3.1 Dating

we define more precisely the chronology of the major monument classes (causewayed enclosures, barrows and cairns etc), and how might this have varied spatially?

3.4 Exploitation of different landscape zones

How may the region's remarkable variety of upland, lowland and coastal landscapes be surveyed in ways that would permit recognition of significant intra-regional variations in land use?

Can we further refine our knowledge of the selective use of particular landscapes for ritual, agriculture and other activities?

3.5 Settlement Patterns

How may we characterise more effectively the frequently ephemeral structural traces that might relate to settlement activity?

3.6 Ceremonial and burial monuments

Why may monument complexes have developed, why were some short-lived and others of longer duration, and why do these incorporate such a wide variety of monument types?

Why were some monument types, such as causewayed enclosures, long cairns and henges, constructed in some areas but not others?

What roles may henges, causewayed enclosures, cursuses and other monument classes have performed in contemporary society?

To what extent can we relate monument types to particular artefact suites, and can such information usefully inform fieldwork strategies?

3.8 Neolithic and Bronze Age societies

How far can studies of burials, grave goods, house and barrow/cairn structures contribute to studies of status variations within and between communities?

4. Late Bronze Age and Iron Age (c.1150 cal BC – AD 43):

4.6 Field systems and major linear boundaries

Can we shed further light upon the development of field and boundary systems?

4.10 Social relations and society

What may further analyses of burials and of settlement architecture and morphology contribute to studies of social and political organisation?

6. Early Medieval (c. AD 410-1066):

6.1 Demography and the identification of political and social groups

What may be deduced about changes in diet, mortality and other demographic variables from osteological studies of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, and how might this have varied spatially and over time?

What was the relationship between indigenous communities and Germanic populations, and how may this have varied spatially and over time?

How far may studies of dress be advanced by analyses of inhumations, and how may dress accessories reflect social or political groupings?

6.2 Ritual and belief

Can 'sub-Roman' or 'British' cemeteries and cemeteries dating from the late seventh to ninth centuries be identified?

6.4 Rural settlement patterns

What impact may Germanic and Scandinavian immigration have had upon established rural settlement patterns, and how may place-name evidence contribute to studies of settlement evolution?

May settlement have retreated from areas of heavier soils in some areas (e.g. Leicestershire and Northamptonshire)?

5. Methodology

All fieldwork followed a Written scheme of Investigation for archaeological excavation (Clay 2013), agreed with the Archaeological Advisor at Charnwood Borough Council, as a condition of planning. The work followed the Corporate Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (CIfA 2014b). Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken including visits to the Site by the project manager. These ensured that project targets were met and professional standards were maintained. Provision was made for external monitoring meetings with the Charnwood Borough Council Archaeological Advisor, and the Client.

Two phases of archaeological work were undertaken:

1. Phase 1 consisted of a trial trench evaluation of 13 trenches to evaluate the potential archaeological features identified as cropmarks in aerial photography, and test the extent of any archaeological remains across the Site.
 - Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the Site areas were taken.
 - The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket.
 - The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached.
 - Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

2. Phase 2 consisted of an open-area archaeological excavation
 - The excavation involved the supervision of overburden removal by hymax 360's or similar with ditching bucket by an experienced professional archaeologists to determine

the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. An area was expanded around the trenches containing archaeological remains.

- Once the extent of significant archaeological remains was identified, this was followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

The percentage of archaeological features excavated consisted of:

- 50% of discrete archaeological features, where these formed part of a recognisable structure or contained deposits of particular value or significant artefacts or ecofacts they were fully excavated.
- 25% of the exposed lengths of linear features associated with settlement or activity areas. All excavation slots were (where possible) at least 1m wide and sections were placed to provide adequate coverage of the features and included excavation of any terminals.
- 25% of ring gullies were normally be excavated to include excavation of the terminals and sections at each side and to the rear of the gully. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphic relationships and concentrations of artefactual material.
- Sufficient samples of other linear features not associated with settlement were excavated.
- 5% of field boundaries.
- A sample of tree throw holes/possible natural or geological features.
- Human remains were initially left in situ, human remains were only removed following appropriate liaison with the Ministry of Justice and in compliance with their requirements and in accordance with appropriate professional standards and guidance, as well as other relevant environmental health regulations.
- Any increase or decrease in sample ratio were agreed with the CBC.

Archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples archaeological deposits located were hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20, and tied into an overall Site plan. All plans were tied into the National Grid using a Differential Global Positioning System (dGPS). Archaeological deposits were excavated and recorded as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

The ULAS recording manual was used as a guide for all recording. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. A photographic record of the investigations was prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Digital photographs were used during the recording. The photographic record also includes 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation. The Site has been given the Leicestershire Museum and Records Service accession number: X.A111.2015.

6. Results

The excavations revealed evidence for the multi-period occupation and burial use of the Site from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Middle and Late Iron Age, and Anglo-Saxon periods. The soil conditions were poor, being severely truncated from modern allotments, within acidic soils (sands and gravels). A thin topsoil (being towards the top of a hill) and also contributed to the high truncation. The results will be presented below in chronological order, describing the contextual / stratigraphic detail / evidence for each phase of activity. Archaeological contexts are assigned as a cut number [***] or fill number (***)



Figure 2: View of the machining underway, removing the topsoil to create an open-area excavation

6.1 Phase 1: Middle Neolithic [3500-3300 BC]

In the Neolithic a ring ditch and barrow mound were constructed, surrounding it were three cremation burials (Figure 3).

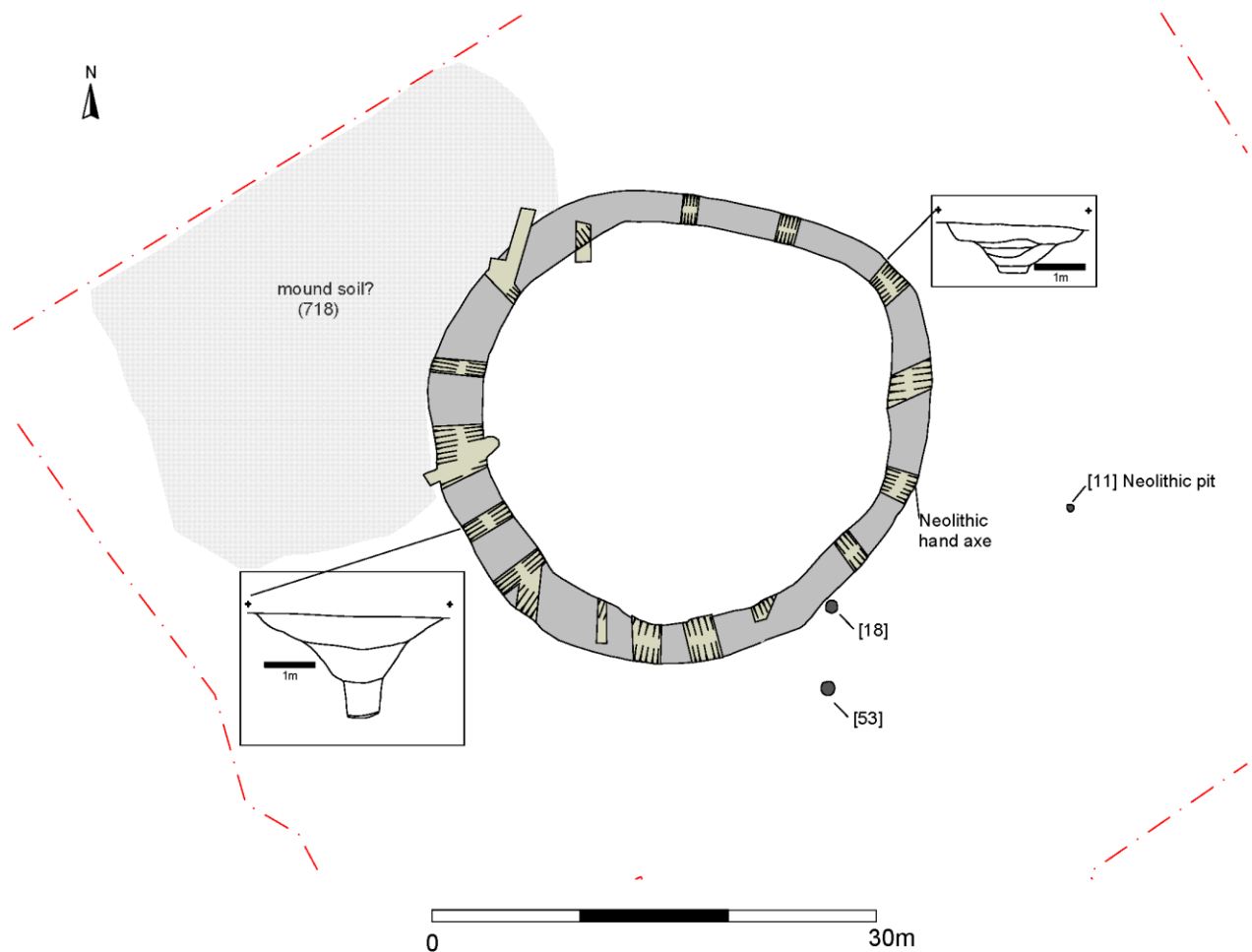


Figure 3: Neolithic features (more detailed ring ditch sections on Figure 4 and Figure 5)

Ring Ditch

The ring ditch ([10] and [34]) was sub-circular, enclosing an area with an internal diameter of 27m (588m²). There would have been space for a 23m diameter barrow mound. The ditch consisted of mainly two phases (three phases were noted in one section on the NW side). The ditch varied slightly in profile and dimensions within the excavated sections. It measured 3.01-3.9m in width. Its depth varied along the length of the ditch, on the north and east sides it was much shallower at 0.93-1.1m, whereas on the south and west sides it was much deeper at c.1.5m (2m in one section - see ring ditch Section E). This is probably a reflection of the natural slope downwards from SW to NE. Despite the west-side base of the ditch being 2m below the bottom of the removed topsoil, the actual depths above Ordnance Datum are remarkably the same (65.1m), showing the ditches had been originally cut to a similar depth around the entire circuit. There were 16 hand-excavated slots, at least 1m wide (some wider) excavated at regular intervals around the ring ditch, this equates to 30% of the ditch excavated (81m² of 260m²).

The earliest phase of the ditch (Phase 1) was generally steep-sided which broke to a near-vertical edge and a flat base. In the lower parts of the ditch were mainly sterile fills of clean sand, indicating these were wind-blown sands and natural silting. Pottery and worked flint from this ditch, the former

consisting of mainly Neolithic Peterborough Ware and a small amount of abraded Bronze Age Beaker pottery. A ground stone axe (Sf11) was also recovered from this. The ditch had largely silted up before it was recut (see Phase 2, [34]).

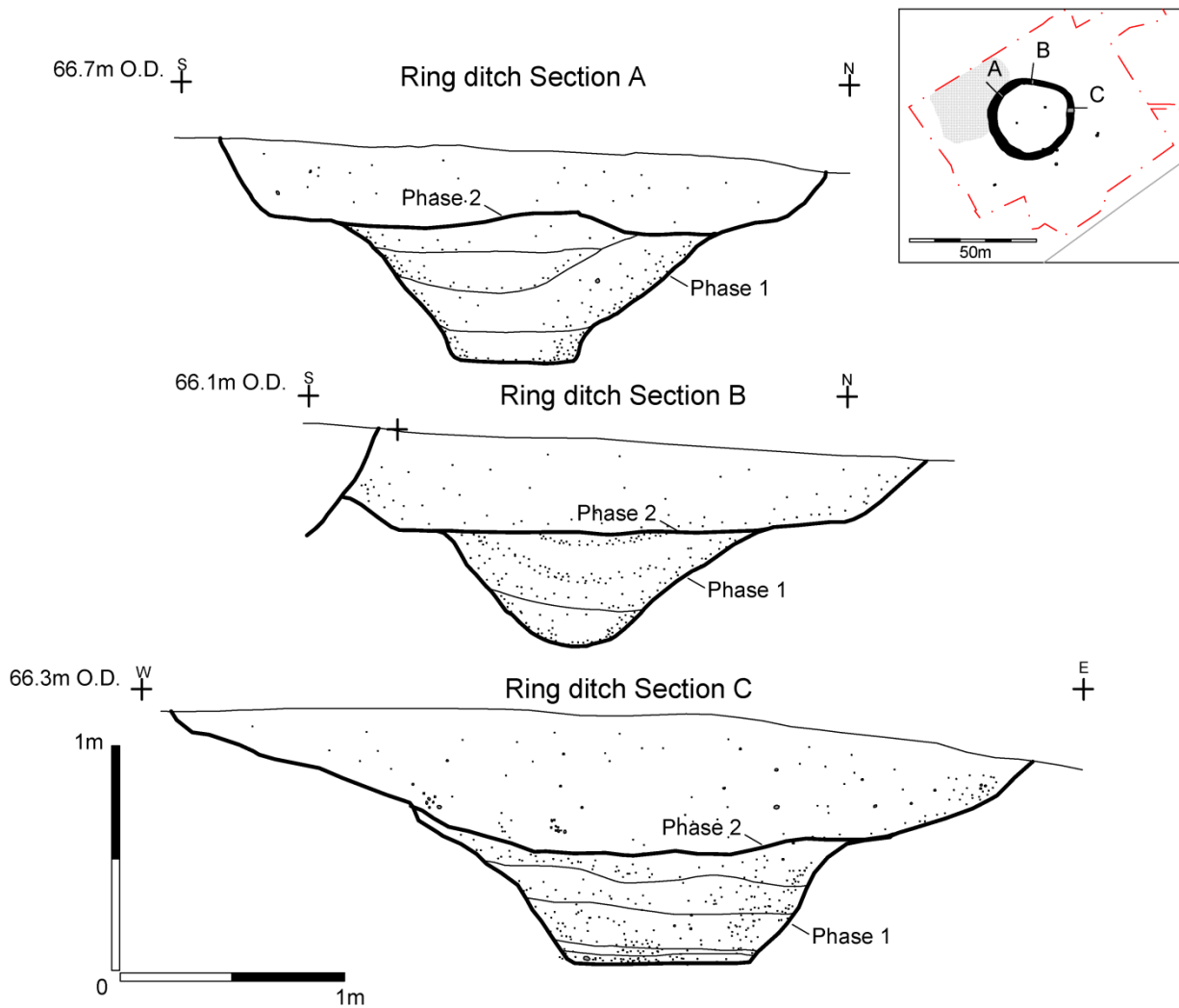


Figure 4: Ring ditch sections A-C

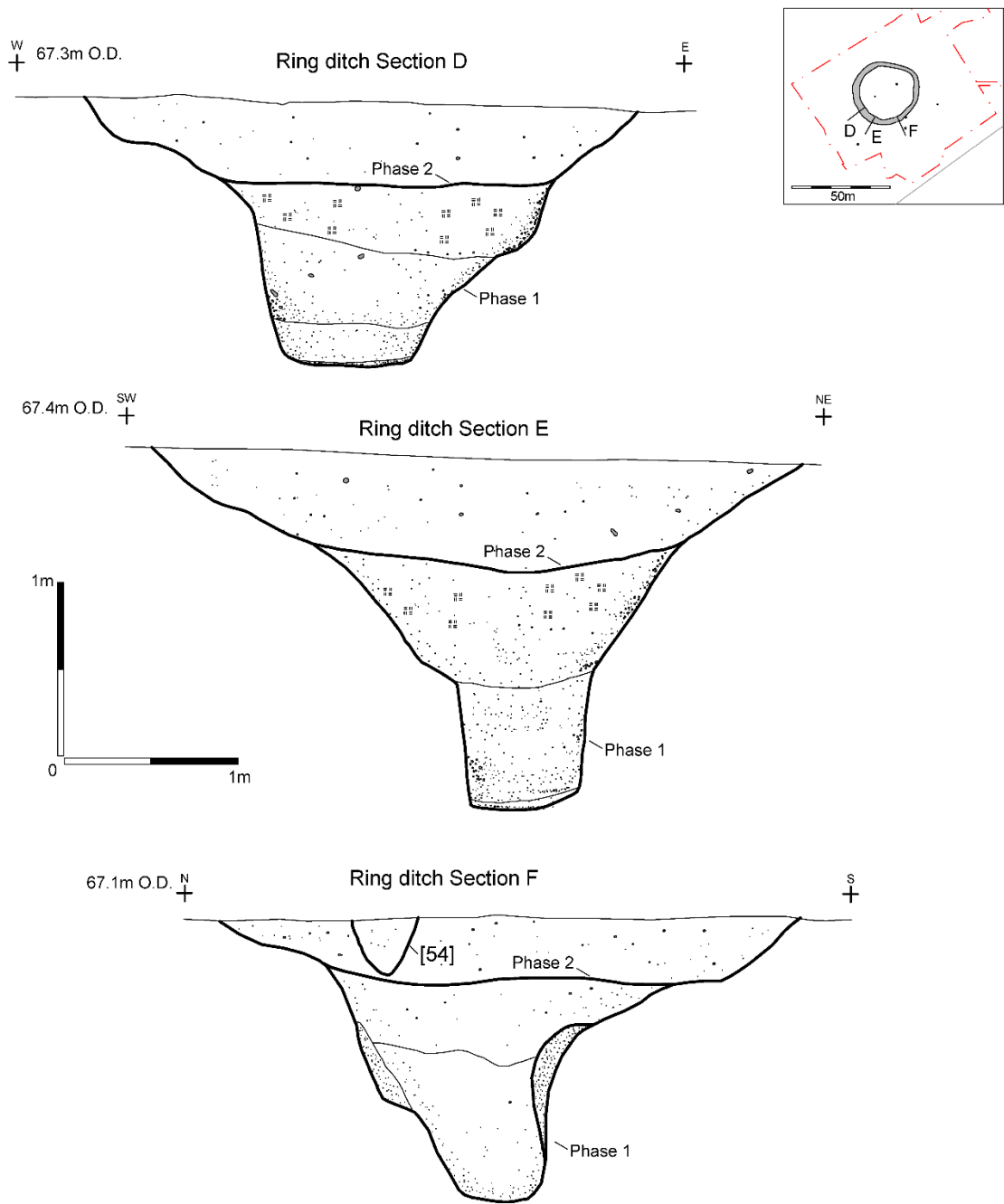


Figure 5: Ring ditch sections D-F



Figure 6: Views of ring ditch excavated sections

Barrow mound

Whilst there was no evidence for an *in situ* barrow mound, this was likely due to significant plough truncation on the top of the slope. However, a soil layer was observed to the north and north-west (718). This consisted of a mid-brown silty sand, it covered an area 30m x 20m (roughly 600m²), it was around 0.15-0.3m deep and thinned out in places to just a few centimetres. It is likely to have been the barrow mound material that had slipped downslope (by natural erosion, and perhaps by ploughing), sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from this. Iron Age pits cut into this layer (see 6.3), showing that the mound had eroded by the late 1st century BC.

Cremation Burials

Presumably associated with the ring ditch were three cremation pit burials (Figure 9), one with an urn ([11]), and two un-urned to the south of the ring ditch ([18] and [53]).

A cremation pit [11] was located to the east of the ring ditch. It contained a complete middle Neolithic pottery vessel, this was severely smashed by ploughing activity. Burial pit [11] measured 0.6m in diameter and 0.1m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silty-sand (519). Within this were large fragments from a single vessel of Neolithic Peterborough Ware, and worked flint (including a blade, bladelet, and flakes). The pottery vessel was damaged by ploughing, rooting, and burrowing. Small pieces of cremated bone (extremely fragmentary, ID could not be ascertained) were present in the backfill, indicating this was a cremation burial.

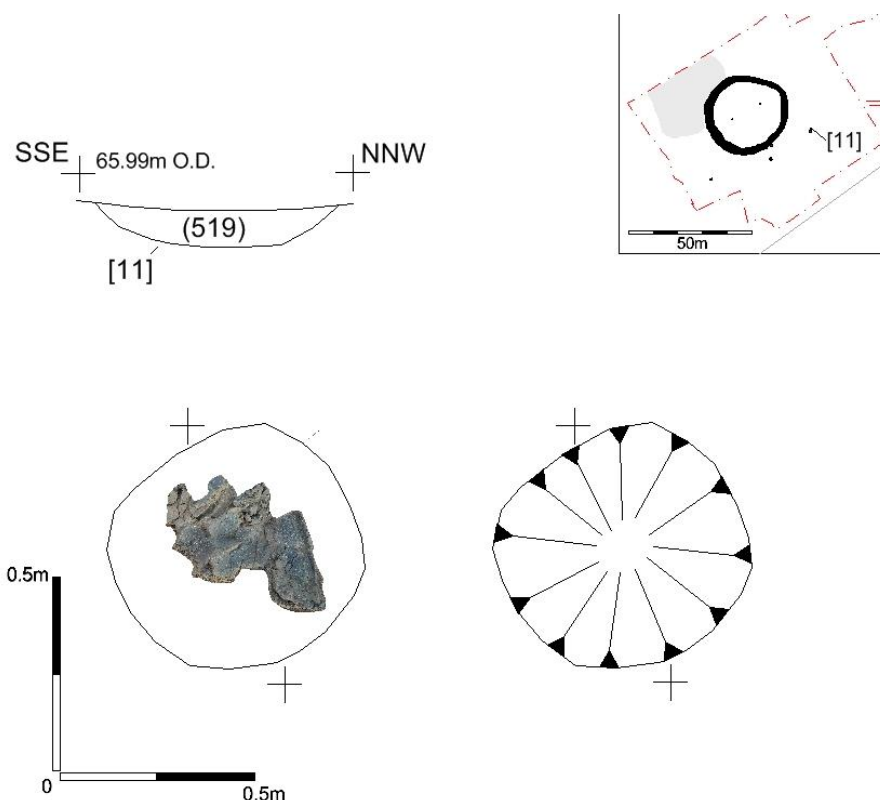


Figure 7: Pit containing Neolithic pottery (pottery *in situ* on left prior to excavation, plan on right shows fully excavated pit)



Figure 8: Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware pottery, as found on the Site

Cremation pit [18], was located 0.5m south of the ring ditch. It was circular measuring 0.94m in diameter, with straight sides and flat base, it was heavily truncated by plough damage, being only 0.19m deep. There were two backfills, the primary fill consisted of a firm mid orange-brown silt (528). It contained very small fragments of cremated bone (these degraded upon touch and so could not be retrieved). Overlying this was a mid-dark grey-brown silty-sand (527), cremated bone flecks and charcoal flecks were present within this.

Cremation pit [53] was located 4m south of the ring ditch. The pit was circular measuring 0.9m in diameter, 0.24m deep. It contained a red-brown silty-sand (552). It was cut by an Iron Age ditch [30], so intrusive material is likely.

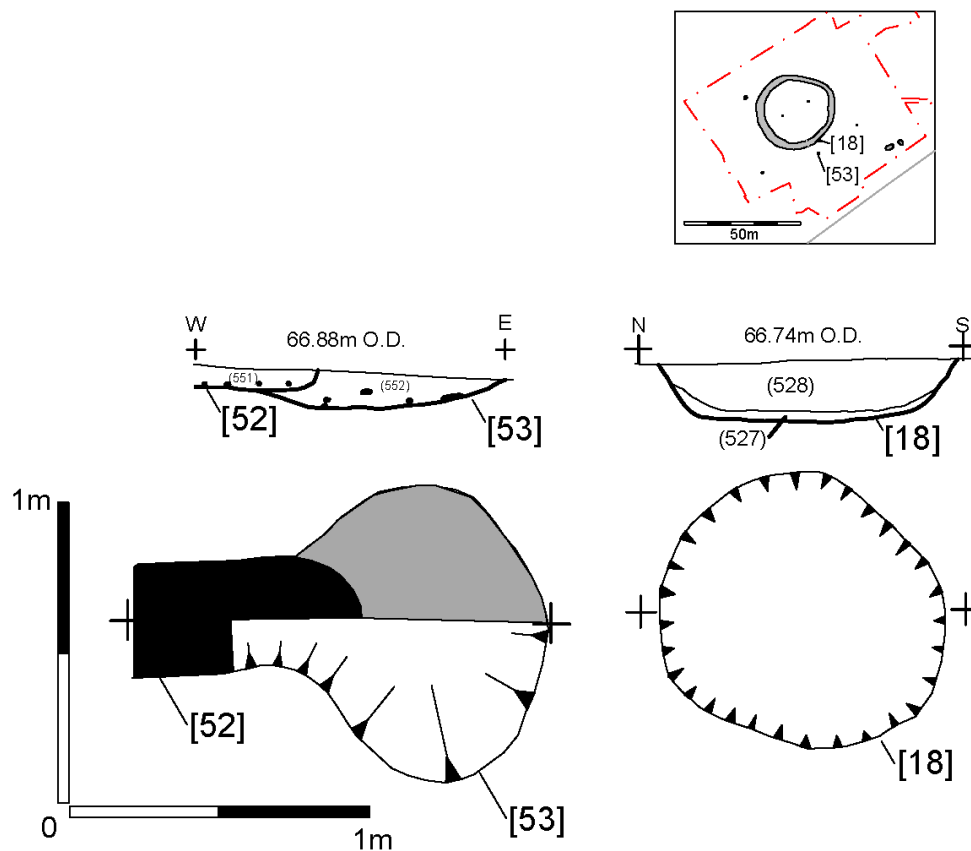


Figure 9: Cremation pits plans and sections

6.2 Phase 2: Bronze Age (1900 BC – 1550 BC)

The Neolithic ring ditch was recut with a much shallower ditch (0.3m deep), and had more gradual sides, but this may have been a reflection of erosion on the loose edges. The backfill was much darker than those filling the Phase 1 ditch, indicating a substantial period of time separates the primary cut and the later recut. Pottery from this fill again mainly consisted of Neolithic pottery, although occasional sherds of late Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery suggest the ditch was still partly open during these periods. Crucially 6 sherds of Beaker pottery from three separately excavated 1 metre slots around the ring ditch suggests this re-cut ring ditch may have been dug in the Bronze Age, perhaps a broadly contemporary activity with the Cossington barrows (see discussion section below).

6.3 Phase 3: Late Iron Age (700 BC – AD 30)

In the Iron Age, the area was active with at least three phases of activity (see Figure 58). The ring ditch had mostly silted up, and its mound had mainly eroded, but some of the earthwork was likely still upstanding, apparently influencing the location of the late Iron Age ditches and enclosures.

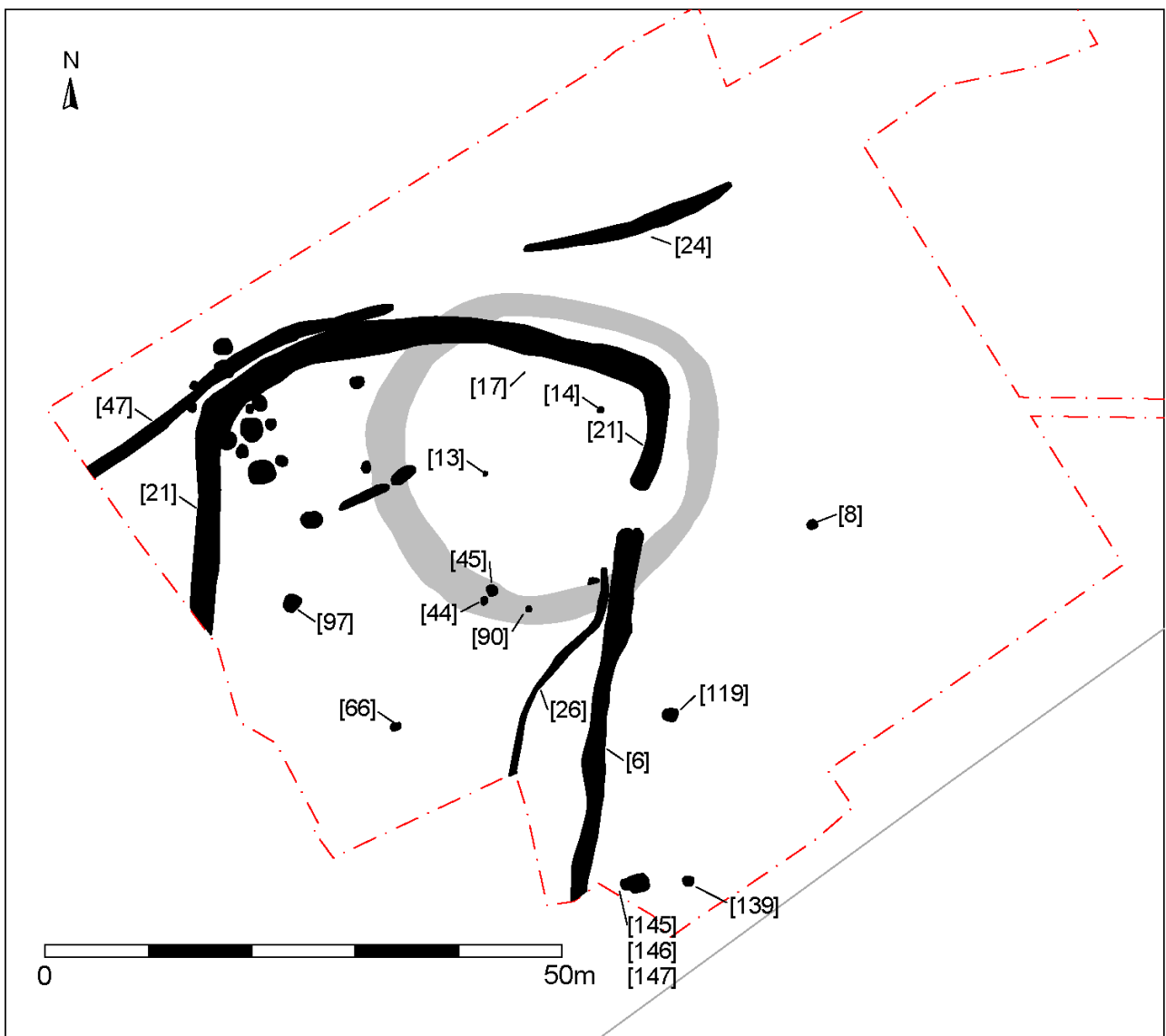


Figure 10: Late Iron Age features (cut numbers for pit cluster in NW corner on Figure 16)

Pre-enclosure ditches

The earliest features were ditches [47] and [24], both of which lay on the same alignment (NE-SW), located just to the north of the Neolithic ring ditch. Ditch [47], was 33m long, it was aligned NE-SW, and was cut by the rectangular enclosure ditch [21] and ditch [39]. It had concave sides and flat base, and was 0.3m deep. It contained a single fill that consisted of a dark brown-grey silty-clay (576). It contained burnt bone and Iron Age pottery. Ditch [24] was on the same alignment as ditch [47] (NE-SW), it lay further to the NE. It was cut by a modern field boundary towards its NE end. Length: 21m, width: 0.7-1.3m, depth: 0.29m. It had two phases, the earlier cut [78] was seen towards the eastern-end, this was slightly deeper. Both phases contained a single fill consisting of a dark blackish-grey clay-silt (540), within which were a small amount of fire-cracked pebbles. Mid to Late Iron Age pottery and worked flint was recovered from the four excavated sections.

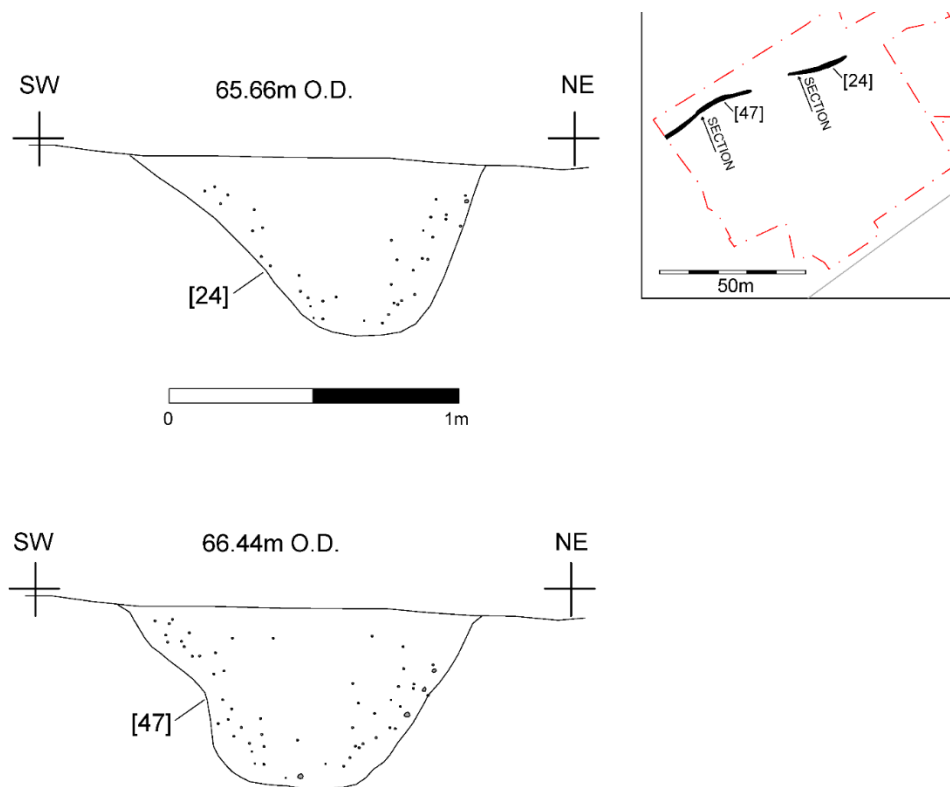


Figure 11: Sections of pre-enclosure ditches [47] and [24]

Rectangular Enclosure

After ditch [47] had gone out of use, a large rectangular enclosure (consisting of ditches [6] and [21]) was constructed partly along the bounds of the ring ditch, and avoiding the central area of the mound. There was an entrance-way on the east-side (3.8m wide) directly on the mound, with a pit area on the west-side of the mound.

The rectangular enclosure measured 42m in width, although the length was uncertain, being at least 52m, it enclosed at least 1900m². The ditch on the north-east side ([21]) was 2.25m wide and 1m deep. The ditch was notably shallower (0.65m deep) further upslope (SW area), this is probably a reflection of the amount of plough truncation in areas of thinner topsoil. The ditch on the south-side of the entrance ([6]) was of a very similar profile and size. It was significantly deeper at the entrance, being much shallower further south (1m to 0.1m)

The ditch had gently sloping sides that broke to sharper sides and a flat base. There was evidence for two ditch phases (one recut). The ditch contained a series of thin light grey-brown silts towards the base of the ditch, likely natural silting during the use of the ditch. The ditch was partly recut to 0.65m

in depth. The upper fills were more mid grey-brown sand-silts and the final backfill consisted of a dark grey-brown silt-sand. Within the final backfill were Iron Age pottery sherds.

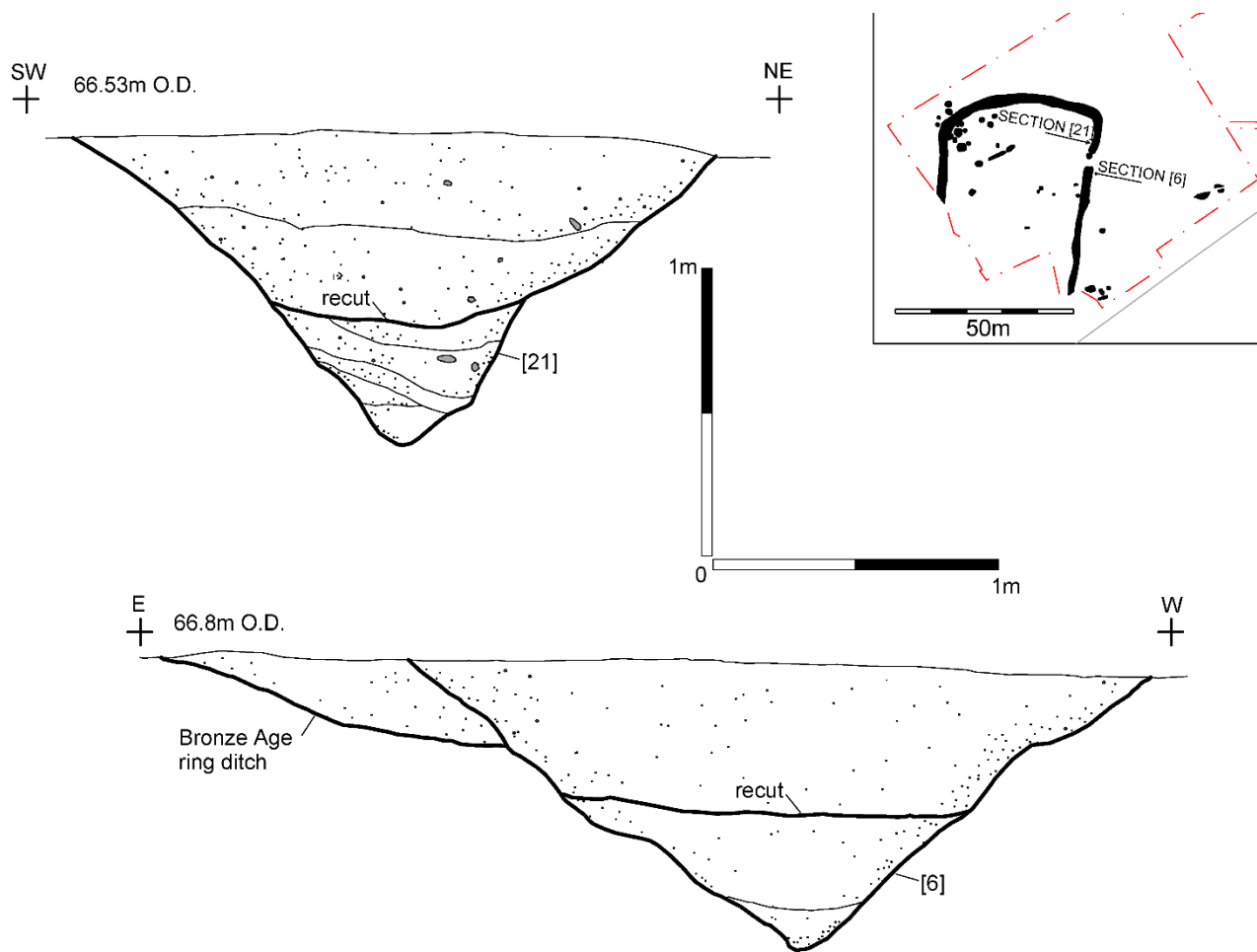


Figure 12: Rectangular enclosure ditch sections



Figure 13: View of rectangular enclosure ditch terminus

Possible Cremation Pits

There is evidence for two small pits dating to the Iron Age, these were located within the Iron Age enclosure, within an area formerly occupied by the Neolithic ring ditch (pits [13], [14]). They contained fragmentary burnt bone, suggesting they could be cremation pits.

Pit [13] was circular, measuring 0.6m in diameter and 0.15m deep. It contained two fills, the primary fill consisted of a light-mid orange-brown silty-sand (521). Within this were small fragments of burnt bone (no ID possible due to fragile condition of bone). The upper fill consisted of a dark brown-grey silty-sand (522). It was very similar to pit [14] that lay 12m NE, also within the ring ditch. Pit [13] contained a grain that was radiocarbon dated to 171BC (95% probability) or between 153-159BC (68% probability).

Pit [14] was circular, with concave sides, it measured 0.65m diameter and 0.19m deep. They were both severely truncated by modern ploughing. The fill consisted of a mid grey-brown silty-sand (523). There were tiny traces of burnt bone, these were extremely fragmentary (no ID possible due to fragile condition of bone). A small amount of mid to late Iron Age pottery was present in [14].

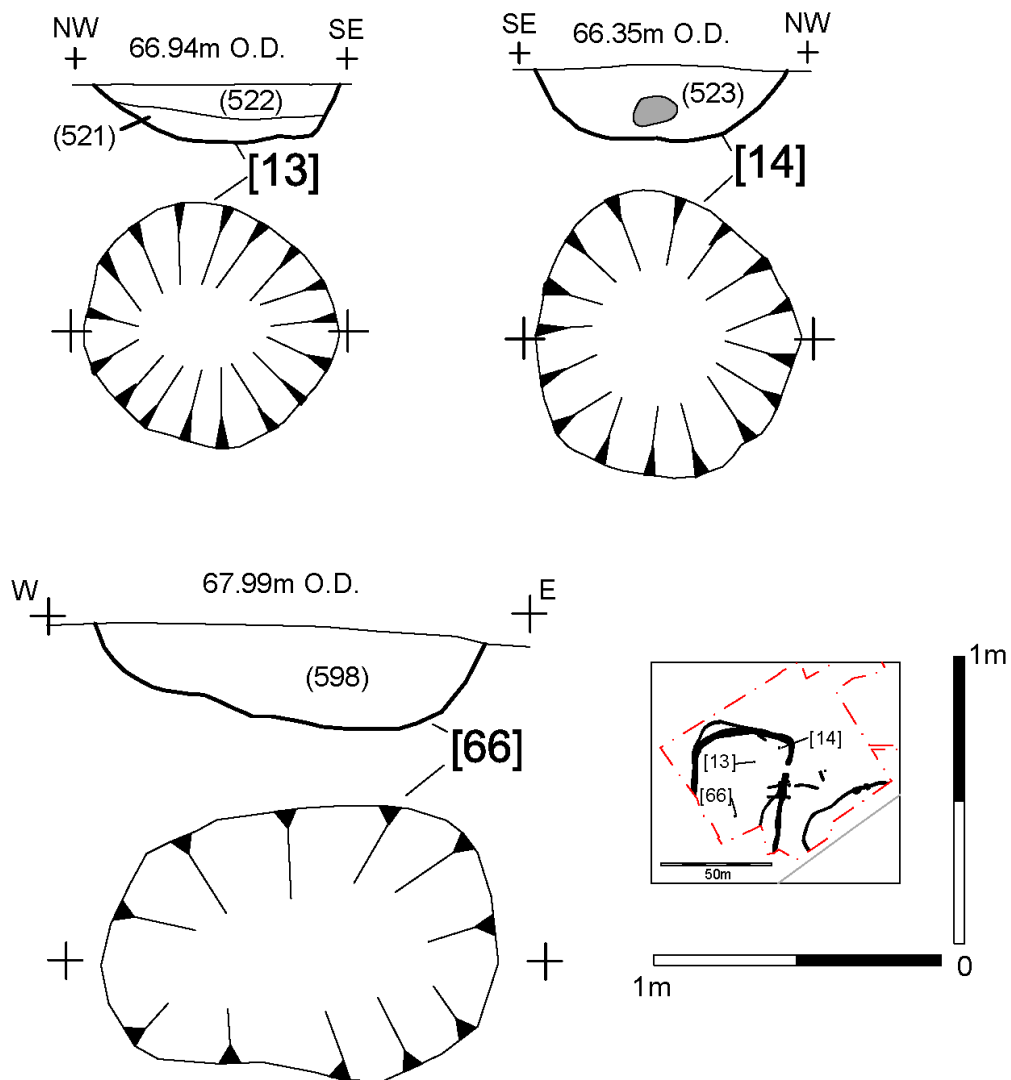


Figure 14: Iron Age cremation pits [13], [14], and [66]

Refuse Pits

Within the north-west corner of the rectangular enclosure were a number of Iron Age pits that may be contemporary with the enclosure, further pits lay scattered in the central area, along with a short gully at the north-edge.

In the north-west corner of the enclosure was a group of pits ([19], [56], [57], [99], [120], [121], [129], [132], [143], [151], [152], [153]), most cut into a soil layer (a likely barrow mound collapse/wash).

Pit [19] was oval and measured 1.7m long, 0.51m wide, and 0.15m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silty-clay (529), within this were mid to late Iron Age pottery sherds. Pit [56] measured 2.6m long, 1m wide, 0.25-0.3m deep, it was orientated NNW-SSE. It contained a dark orange-brown silt (589). It cut the ring ditch on its west side. Linear pit [57] or gully, steep-sided, 5m long, 0.8m wide, and 0.4m deep. Very dark orange-brown silt (590), within this were mid to late Iron Age pottery and worked flint.

Pit [99] was circular with moderate sloping sides and flat base. It measured 0.95m in diameter and was 0.3m deep. It contained a dark brown silty-clay (638). Pit [120] was sub-circular, it had sloping sides and base, it measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.15m deep. It cut pit [121]. It contained a mid grey-brown clay-sand (708), within this were Iron Age sherds of pottery. Pit [121] of uncertain shape cut ditch [21] ([123], [124]), and pit [120]. It contained a mid grey-brown clay-sand (709), within this were Iron Age pottery sherds. Pit [129] was sub-circular, it had concave sides. It contained a mid grey-brown silt-clay (717). Pit [132] was sub-circular, it had concave sides and base, it measured 0.3m by 0.5m and was 0.3m deep. Cut ditch [131]. Pit [143] was sub-circular, it had steep sides and a flat base, measuring 1.35 by 1.15m and 0.67m deep. It contained a mid grey silt-clay (733), overlying this was a mid grey-brown clay-silt (734), this contained Iron Age pottery sherds. Pit [151] was partially seen in the area of intense pitting in the NW area. It contained a mid grey-brown silty-clay (744) and no finds. Pit [152] was partially seen in the area of intense pitting in the NW area, 2.5m by 2.2m. It contained SF12 a small curved iron object. Pit [153] was partially seen in the area of intense pitting in the NW area, 1.9m by 1.5m.

Three pits ([44], [45], [81]) were located over the infilled ring ditch. Pit [44] was sub-oval, measuring 0.8m in diameter and 0.4m deep. It contained a mid brown-grey sandy-clay (567), within this were Iron Age pottery fragments and worked flint. It cut into the backfilled barrow ring ditch on the SW side. Pit [45] was oval, measuring 0.85 by 0.55, it was 0.22m deep. It had concave sides and u-shaped base. It cut into the backfilled barrow ring ditch on the SW side. Pit [81], was poorly defined, seen on the north edge of ditch [54]. It measured 0.64m diameter, 0.2m deep. It contained a sterile mid yellow-brown silty-sand (614). This could have been a tree throw or root disturbance.

Three more pits were located further to the south ([92], [93], [97]). Pit [92] was oval with concave sides and a concave base, it measured 0.58m by 0.42m, and was 0.34m deep. It contained a primary fill consisting of mid brown silty-clay (629), it contained burnt bone. Overlying this was a dark grey silty-clay (628), within there were teeth, bone, and Iron Age pottery. The upper-most fill consisted of a dark grey-brown silty-clay (627), within this were numerous pottery sherds and two large fragments of a beehive quern (SFs 21 & 22). Pit [92] (Figure 17) cut pit [93], this was circular with concave sides and concave base, it measured 0.75 by 0.42m, 0.23m deep. It contained a dark-grey silty-clay (630), within this were pottery sherds. It was cut by [92]. Pit [97] was oval, measuring 1.75m by 1.17m, it was 0.34m deep. It contained a mid brown silty-clay (637), within this was worked flint.

In the south-edge of the excavation were two pits [139] and [145] (with recuts [146] and [147]). Pit [139] was circular, it had straight sides and a flat base, measuring 1m in diameter and 0.35m deep. It contained a primary deposit of mid brown-grey silty-sand (729), overlying this was a dark grey-brown silt-sand (728). Pottery was recovered from the primary fill. The pit lay at the far south-end of the Site. Pit [145] was sub-rectangular with vertical sides and an irregular base, it measured 1.7 by 1.1m, and

0.74m deep. It contained mid grey-brown silty-sand (736), within this were pottery sherds and CBM. At south edge of Site, cut by pits [147]. Pit [147] was oval, it had straight sides and concave base, it measured 0.9m diameter, and 0.45m deep. It contained dark black-brown silty-clay (738), within this were pottery sherds and CBM. It cut into pit [145], and was cut by pit [146]. Pit [146] was sub-rectangular, with concave sides and flat base, measuring 1.9 by 1.7m and 0.2m deep. It contained a mid-dark grey-brown silty-sand (737). Within this were slag residues and pottery. It cut pit [147]. It contained mid to late Iron Age pottery.

An isolated pit [119] was located to the east of ditch [26], it was circular, it had steep sides and a concave base, it measured 1.5m in diameter, and 0.5m deep. It lay adjacent to grave [109]. No finds from the two fills, primary fill (706) consisted of a grey-brown silty-sand, overlying this was a dark brown sand (707).

Pit [8] lay immediately to the south of Neolithic pit [11], 15m to the east of the rectangular enclosure entrance, however, the pottery indicates this is Iron Age. It was sub-circular, measuring 0.96m diameter, and 0.22m deep. It contained a mid orange-brown silty-sand (514).

Pit [66] was located to the south-west of the ring ditch. It measured 1m by 0.6m, and was 0.28m deep. It contained a dark-black silty-clay (598), within this were small pieces of burnt bone (no ID possible due to fragile condition of bone). Pit [66] contained hazel fragments that was radiocarbon dated to 51BC (95% probability) or between 92-62BC (68% probability).



Figure 15: View of cremation pit [66]

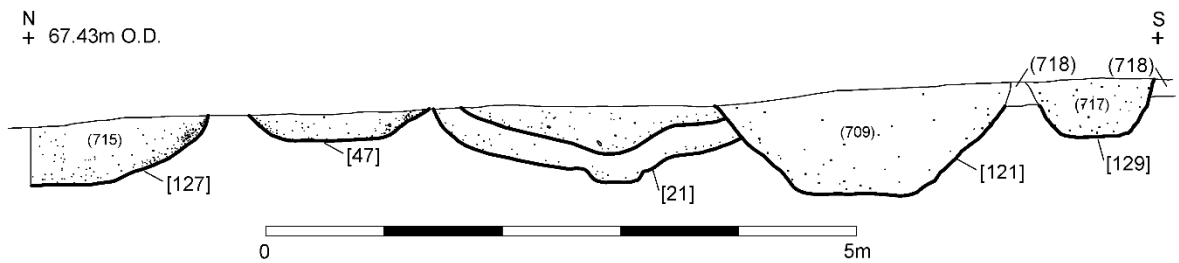
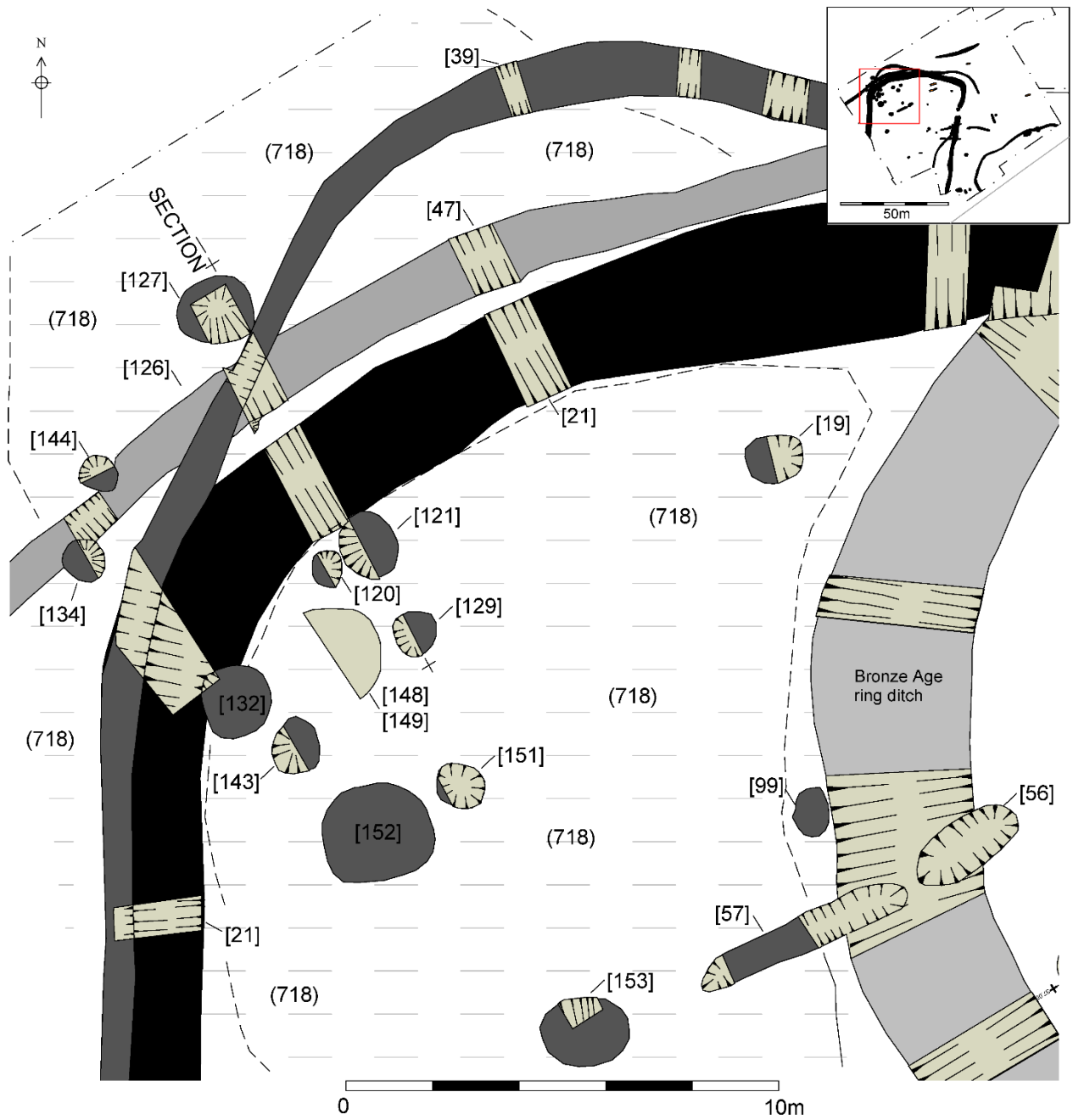


Figure 16: Pit cluster cutting soil layer (718) in NW corner of Iron Age enclosure

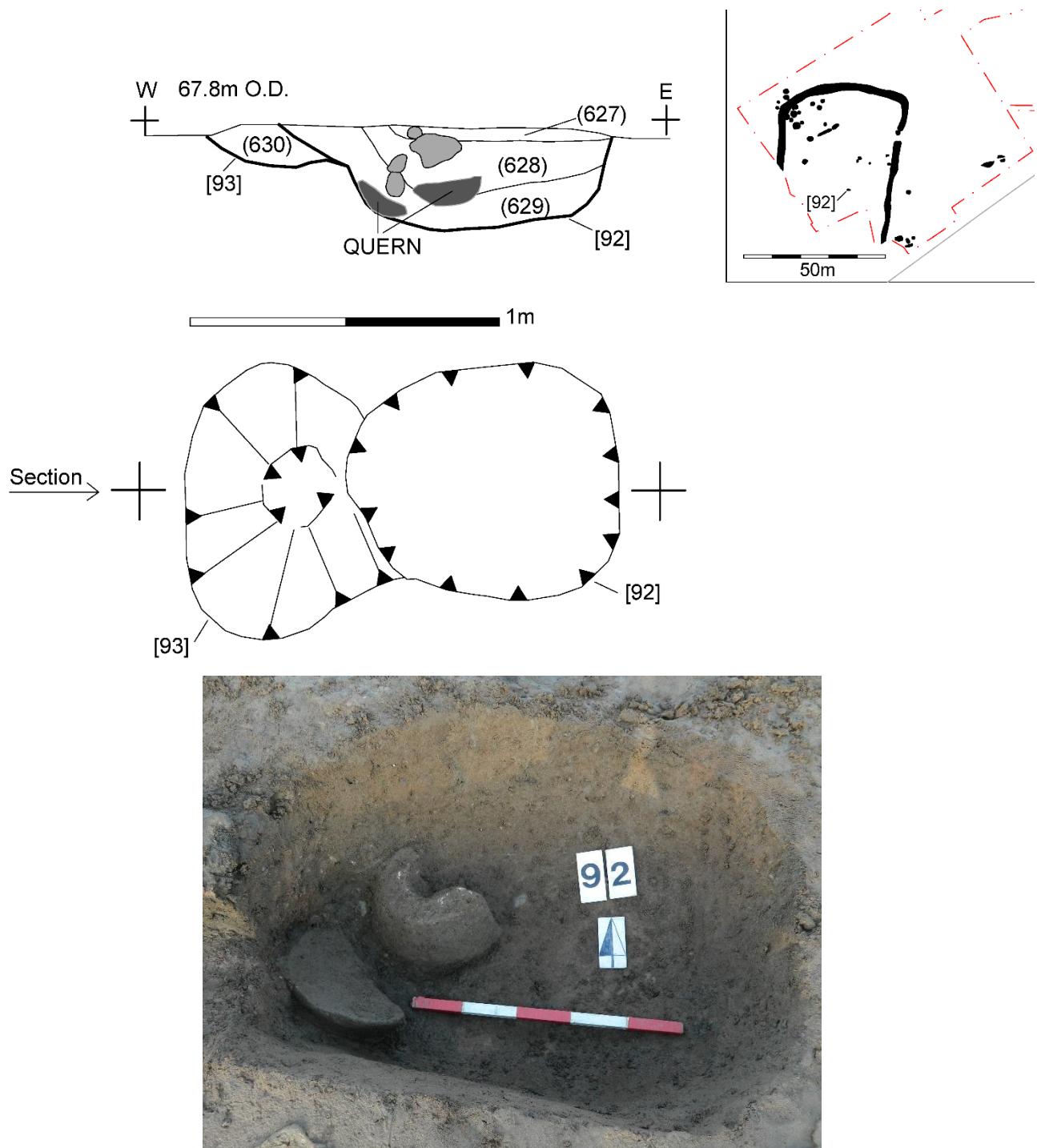


Figure 17: Pits [92] and [93], plan, section and view of querns *in situ*

Gully [17] was orientated NNW-SSE, it was positioned at the north-edge of the enclosure, it was linear in plan and had concave sides and a U-shaped base. It contained a single backfill consisting of a mid grey-brown clay-sand (526). Within this were large sherds of Iron Age pottery, and worked flint, fire-cracked pebbles were also present. The middle section was deepest, it shallowed out at either end. It could have been a beam-slot for a short fence, or else a drainage gully.

A further three pits lay on the outside (NW) of the rectangular enclosure ([127], [134], [144]). Pit [127] was sub-circular, it had steep sides and flat base, it contained a mid grey-brown clay-silt (715). Pit [134] was circular with concave sides and a flat base, it measured 1.1m in diameter, and 0.5m deep. It contained a mid brown-grey silty-sand (725). It cut ditch [133] = [47]. Pit [144] was sub-circular, with steep sides and flat base, measuring 0.9 by 0.85m, and 0.25m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silty-sand (735).

6.4 Phase 4: Transitional Iron Age / Roman AD 20 - 60

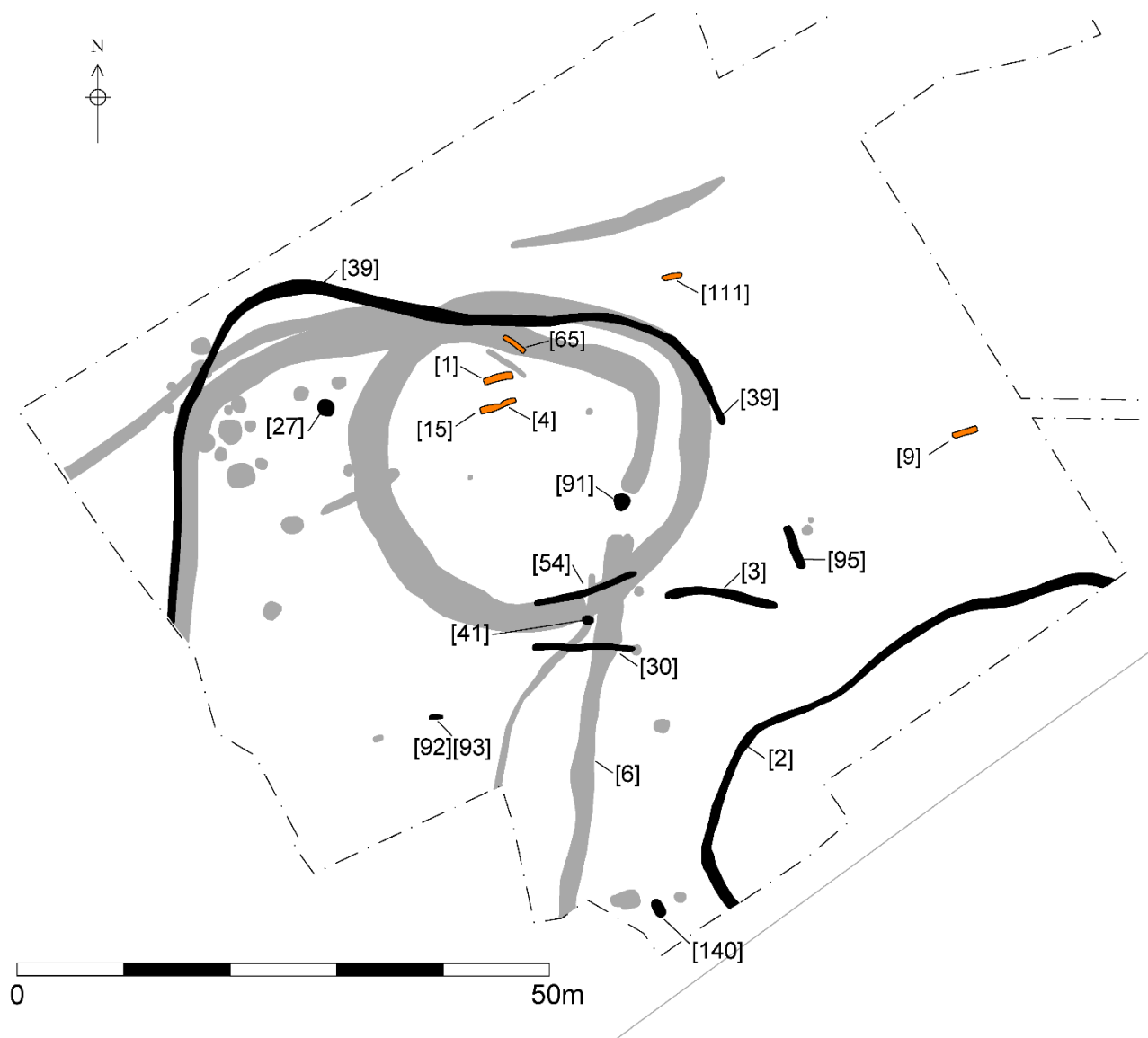


Figure 18: Phase 4 features with cut numbers

Sinuous Ditch Enclosure

The rectangular enclosure was replaced by a more sinuous – and much shallower – ditched enclosure ([39]). Whilst a further sinuous enclosure lay to the south-east ([2]), extending in the (unexcavated) field to the south.

Ditch [39] ran for approximately 20m in length, it was rather winding and sinuous in form and roughly followed the same line as the earlier Iron Age rectangular ditch. It contained a red-brown silty-sand (543). It was cut by gully [30] and pit [41]. It terminated at a similar point to the rectangular enclosure ditch. Ditch [39] cut into and followed a similar alignment to the rectangular enclosure ditch, it was 0.25m deep and 0.3m wide, with a much darker backfill (563), consisting of a dark grey-brown silt-sand, which contained Belgic style pottery. Gully [95] was linear, 4m long, 0.75m wide, and 0.3m deep. It was orientated NNW-SSE with U-shaped sides and base. It was poorly defined, containing a dark brown sand (636). It is on a similar alignment to ditch [39], given the high levels of truncation it is possible that this is part of the same shallow ditch / gully. Within this gully late Iron Age pottery was

recovered. A grain was radiocarbon dated to 54BC (95% probability) or between 40BC-40AD (68% probability).

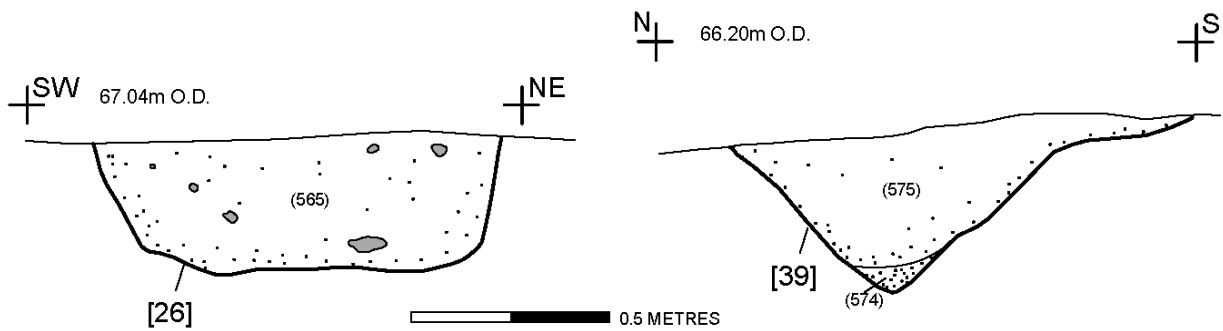


Figure 19: Sections of sinuous enclosure



Figure 20: View of enclosure ditches [21] and [39] (foreground), looking N

Curvilinear gully [3], was positioned perpendicular to ditch [26], indicating it was part of the same phase of activity. It was c.10m long, 0.75m wide, and 0.15m deep. Some Iron Age pottery from its backfill (508) (same as (719)).

Human Burials

Six inhumation burials can be assigned a mid 1st century AD date. Four graves were located within the sinuous ditch enclosure on the north side ([1], [4], [15], [65]), two other burials were located to the east ([9] and [111]).

Grave [1] measured 2.75m long (top), 2.25m (base), 0.6m wide (top), 0.35m (base), and 0.6m deep, it was orientated NNE-SSW. It was sub-rectangular in shape, with straight sides and a flat base. It contained three backfills, the primary fill (506) consisted of a firmly compacted mid grey-brown silt-clay (0.05m thick), small pieces of slag were recovered from this. A stone 'hammer' (SF 13) was located on the base at the SSW end. There was some natural silting on the sides (505). The main backfill consisted of a friable very dark clay-silt (504), within this were a few sherds of Iron Age pottery and loom weights (SFs 1 & 14). Around 50 medium to large fire-cracked pebbles were also present. A very large stone was placed on top of the backfill at the SSW end.

Grave [4] was located 4m to the south the grave [1]. It measured 1.4m (notably shorter than most), and 0.55m wide, and 0.27m deep, is was orientated NNE-SSW. It was sub-rectangular in plan, with U-shaped sides and a flat base. It contained a single backfill (509) consisting of a mid-grey-brown silt-clay, within which were a small amount of medium-sized fire-cracked pebbles, and Belgic pottery. It cut grave [15] on its NNE end. It was truncated by a furrow on its south edge.

Grave [15] was cut by grave [4]. It was sub-rectangular in plan (1.9m long and 0.67m wide), with straight sides and a flat base. It was filled with a friable dark blackish-brown silt-clay (524), a small amount of medium fire-cracked pebbles, and Belgic pottery was also recovered. It was truncated by a furrow on its south edge.

Grave [65] was two metres NE of grave [1]. It was 2.3m long, 0.4m wide, 0.2m deep. The sub-rectangular cut had concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (597) that consisted of a friable dark blackish-grey clay-silt. Within the backfill were a few sherds of Iron Age pottery, and a degraded animal tooth. It cut into the backfilled Iron Age enclosure ditch.

Two further burials were located to the east and may be near contemporary burials.

Grave [9] measured 2.4m long, 0.4-0.6m wide, and 0.15m deep, it was orientated NE-SW. The backfill consisted of a friable dark brown-black clay-silt (515), within this were small fragments of burnt bone. A grain recovered from the backfilled soil was radiocarbon dated, the results show 51BC (at 95% probability) or between 38 BC AD 38 (68% probability).

Grave [111] measured 1.94m long, 0.53m wide, and 0.48m deep, it was orientated E-W. It contained a dark brown sand-silt (677). Three tiny fragments of human bone were present. Pottery recovered was modern and late Iron Age, though both came from bioturbation. Located to the north-east of the barrow, the only burial located in this area.

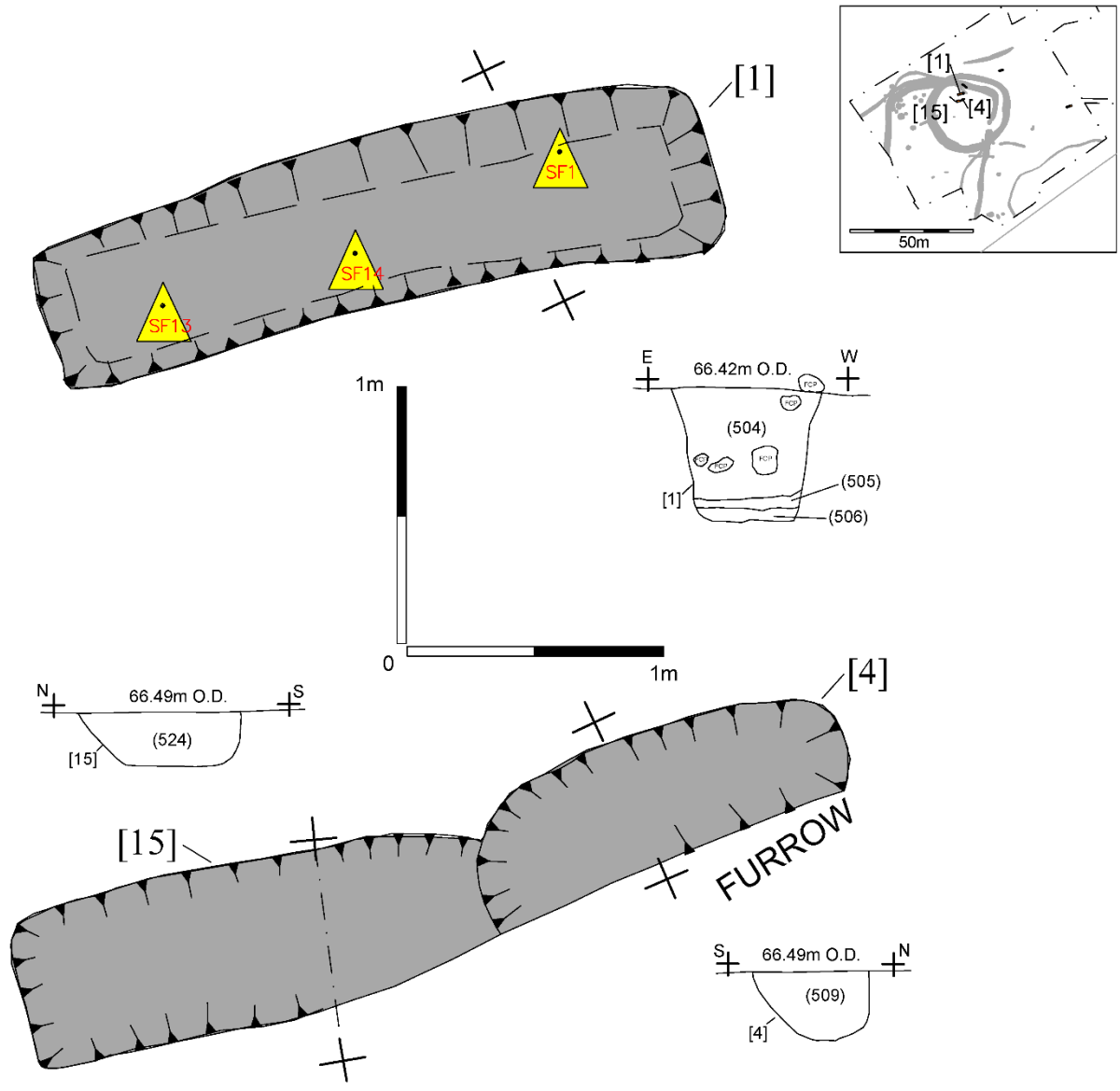


Figure 21: Mid-1st-century AD graves [1], [4], and [15].

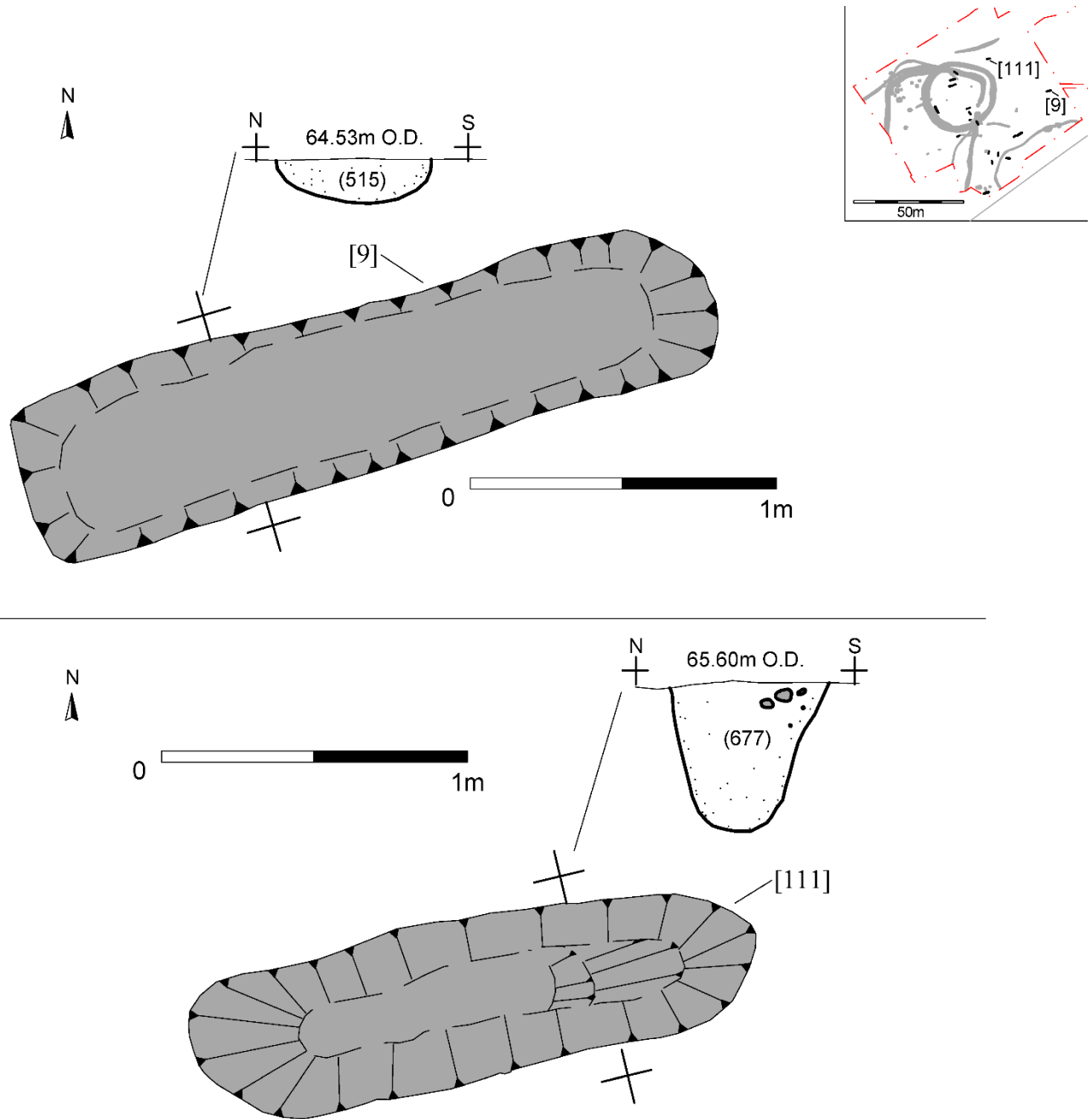


Figure 22: Mid 1st century AD graves to the east of the ring ditch ([9] and [111])

Pits within enclosure

Pit [27] was sub-circular and measured 1.9 by 1.4m, and 0.52m deep. It contained two deposits, the primary fill consisted of a dark brown silty clay (544), this contained Belgic pottery sherds. Overlying this was a mid yellow-brown silty-clay (545), and finally the upper fill consisted of a dark grey-brown silty-clay (546). It was within an area with numerous pits, NW of the ring ditch.

Pit [91] was sub-circular with concave sides and base, measuring 1.3m by 1.4m and 0.24m deep. It contained two ploughed out vessels (including sherds of Belgic pottery). This could be evidence for a large enclosure gateway posthole, or perhaps a structured ‘special deposit’, to mark the closing and ending of the use of the enclosure ditch.



Figure 23: View of pit under excavation showing Belgic style pottery *in situ*

South-east Enclosure

In the south-east corner of the excavated area was an irregular ditch [2] forming an enclosure. The ditch was very shallow (c.0.15-0.29m), having had significant truncation. The ditch was filled with a dark-brown silty-sand (578). Within this were Belgic pottery sherds.

In the south-edge of the excavation was a single pit dating to Phase 4 (it was surrounded by earlier and later features). Pit [140] was oval-shaped, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base, it measured 1.7m by 1.4m, and 0.27m deep. It was located adjacent to pit [139], it contained both Late Iron Age and Belgic pottery.

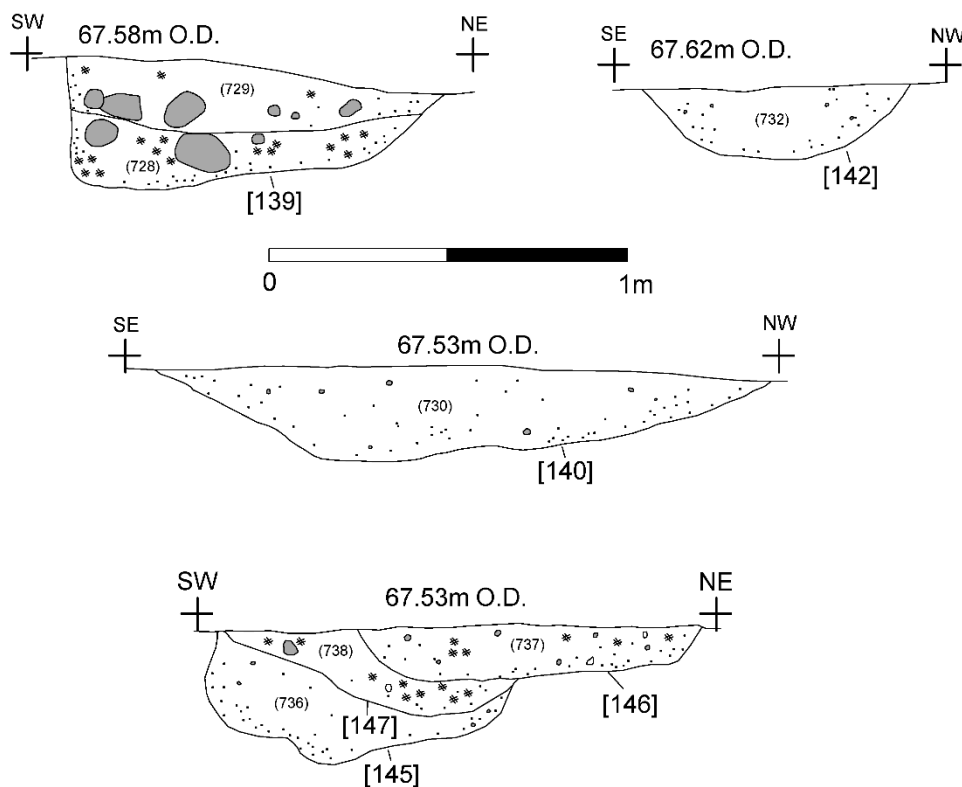
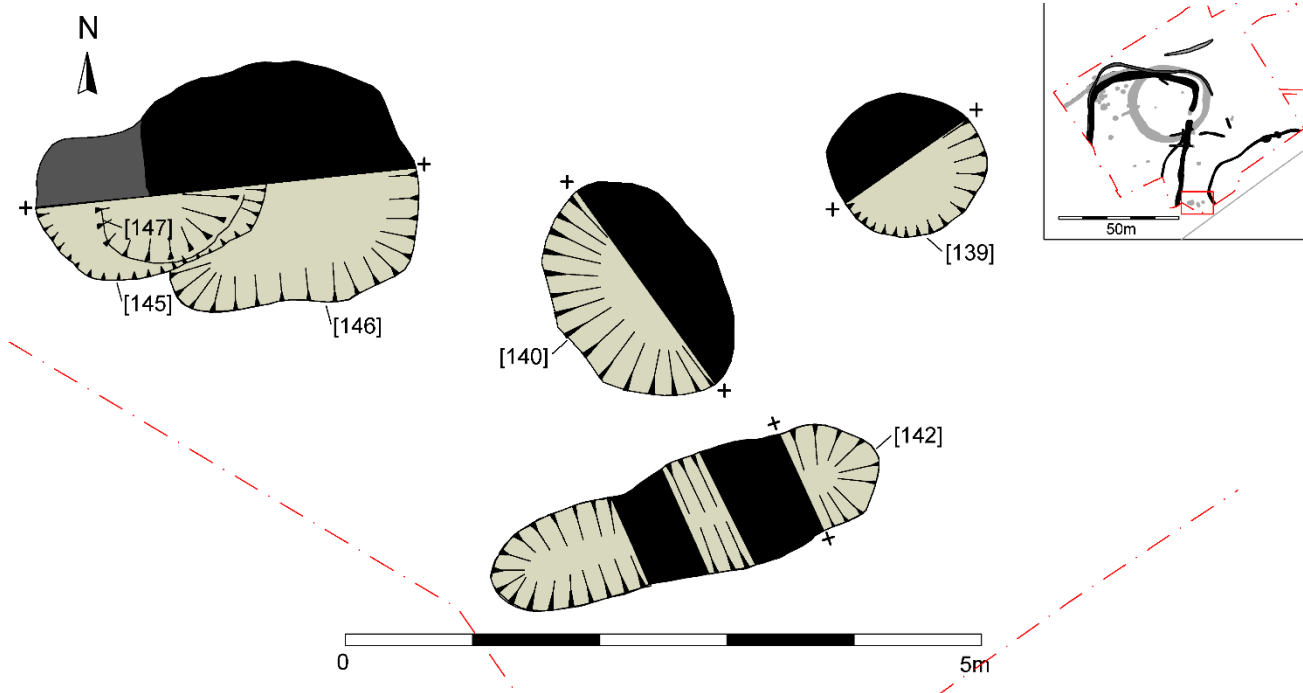


Figure 24: Iron Age pits [139] & [145], Belgic pit [140], and Anglo-Saxon burial [142]

Parallel Gullies

Stratigraphically the latest Iron Age activity consisted of a pair of parallel gullies ([30] and [54]), both cut into the Bronze Age ring ditch [10], and the Iron Age rectangular enclosure ditch [6] and ditch [26]. Gully or beam-slot [30], measured 9.5m in length, 0.45m wide, and 0.26m deep. It varied in depth, and had a curved base. The primary fill consisted of a red-brown silty-sand (569), probably a disuse siling fill. Overlying this was a grey-brown clay-sand (550). Within this was a dump of broken Iron Age and Belgic pottery vessels (Figure 25), along with numerous further pottery sherds in the backfill. It cut pit

[53] at the east-end. Ditch [54] (section on Figure 5) was positioned along the line of the former ring ditch, it was 10m long east-west orientated ditch, it was 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep. Presumably a later Iron Age activity, post-dating the ring ditch and Iron Age enclosure. It contained a dark brown-grey silty-clay (617), within this were Iron Age and Belgic pottery sherds. The gullies were 3.7m apart and the west-end and 6.5m at the east-end, they may have had a role as a cattle funnel (though there is no survival of any enclosure / field).



Figure 25: View of mid 1st-century AD gully containing pottery, cutting the Neolithic ring ditch (on right)

Between the two gullies / beamslots was pit [41], this was circular and measured 1m diameter, 0.35m deep, it contained a mid brown-grey silty-sand (565), within this were a few pieces of worked flint. It cut into ditch [42].

6.4 Phase 5: Roman

A very small amount (12 sherds) of Roman pottery was recovered during the excavations. Three sherds came from the Neolithic barrow ditch (502) (530), showing the ditches were partially visible during the Roman period, surrounded by the (then) more visible Iron Age ditches. The remaining sherds were residual, from Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves (eight sherds of abraded 2nd century pottery came from grave [5] and one sherd from grave [109]).

6.5 Phase 6: Anglo-Saxon

The next phase of activity on the Site consists of thirteen inhumation graves spread around the former Neolithic ring ditch and Iron Age enclosures. Along with these were two probable SFBs and scattered pits (Figure 26).

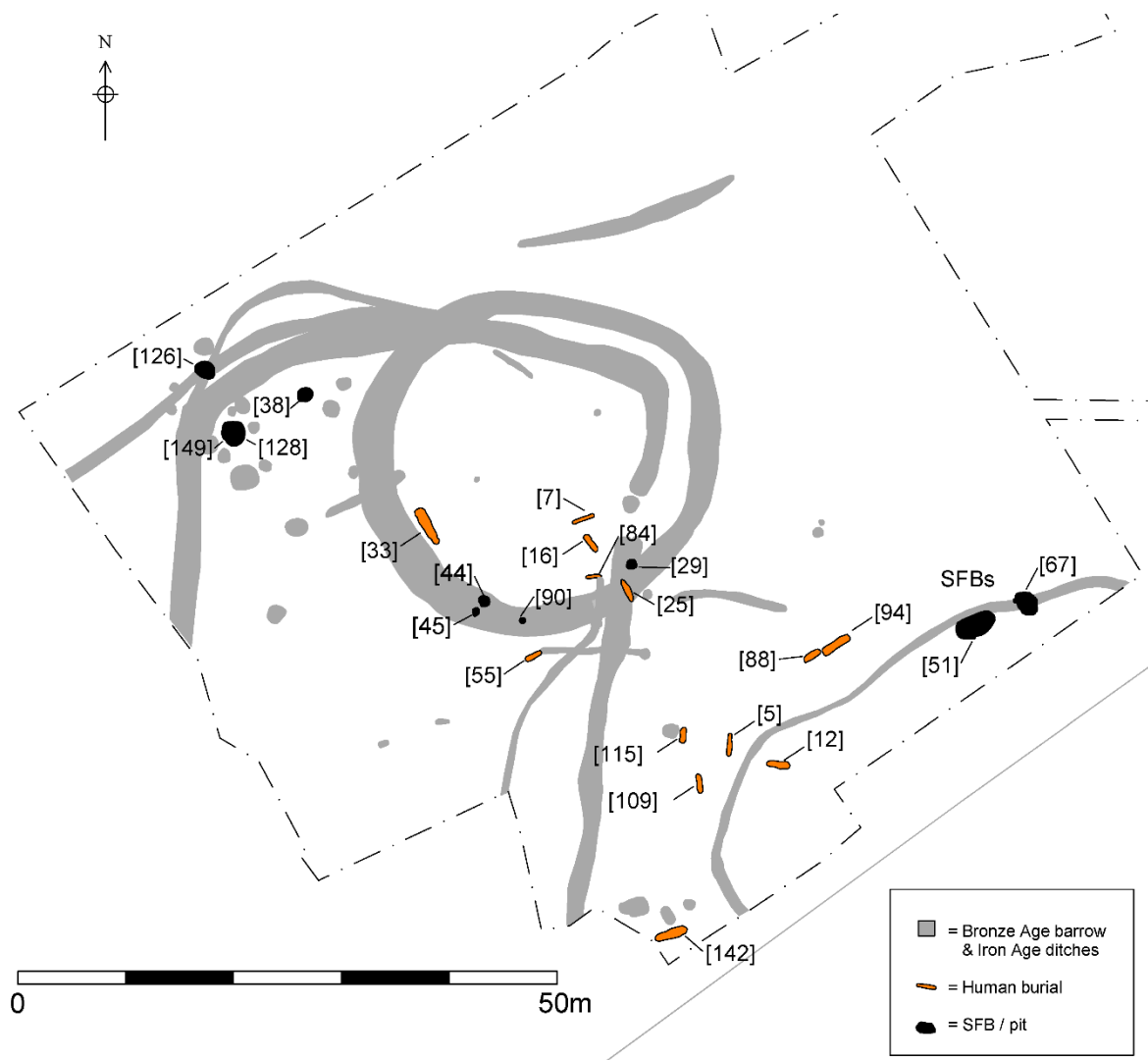


Figure 26: Plan showing Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves, in relation to the earlier prehistoric activity

Graves within the area of the Neolithic ring ditch & Iron Age enclosure

Three inhumation graves lay within the Neolithic ring ditch / Iron Age enclosure, on the south side ([7], [16], and [84]), and one possible grave lay on the west side ([33]). It is highly likely that the barrow mound had eroded northwards downslope by this time, and the ditches filled. The Iron Age earthworks were likely to have played a part on the positioning of the Anglo-Saxon graves.

Grave [7] measured 2m long, 0.48m wide, and 0.31m deep, it was orientated NE-SW. It contained a single backfill (513), this consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-sand, two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, some cremated bone. The base seemed to form two separate cuts, perhaps indicating this was a double (child?) grave, with the bodies positioned end on end.

Grave [16] measured 1.88m long, 0.52m wide, and 0.2m deep, it was orientated NNW-SSE. It was filled with a dark grey-brown silt-sand (525), a few fragments of burnt bone were recovered. An annular brooch (SF15) was located towards the south-east end in the middle (i.e. positioned in central

part of upper body, head at SSE-end). This brooch type dates broadly to the 5th - 7th centuries AD (Nielson 2013, 223). It indicates this was probably a female burial.

A possible grave [33], was NNW-SSE aligned, and dug adjacent to the Bronze Age ring ditch on the west-side. It measured 3m long, 0.7m wide, and 0.35m deep, it was orientated NNW-SSE. It was filled with a dark black-grey silt-sand (555), pottery. It was longer than the other graves but everything else about it (its form and backfill) is similar to the more definite examples. It may represent two graves.

Grave [84] was located at the south side of the ring ditch, close to graves [16] & [18]. It measured 1.5m long, 0.35m wide, and 0.25m deep, it was orientated east to west. It contained a dark brown-grey silt-sand (618), a few traces of small cremated bone were present.

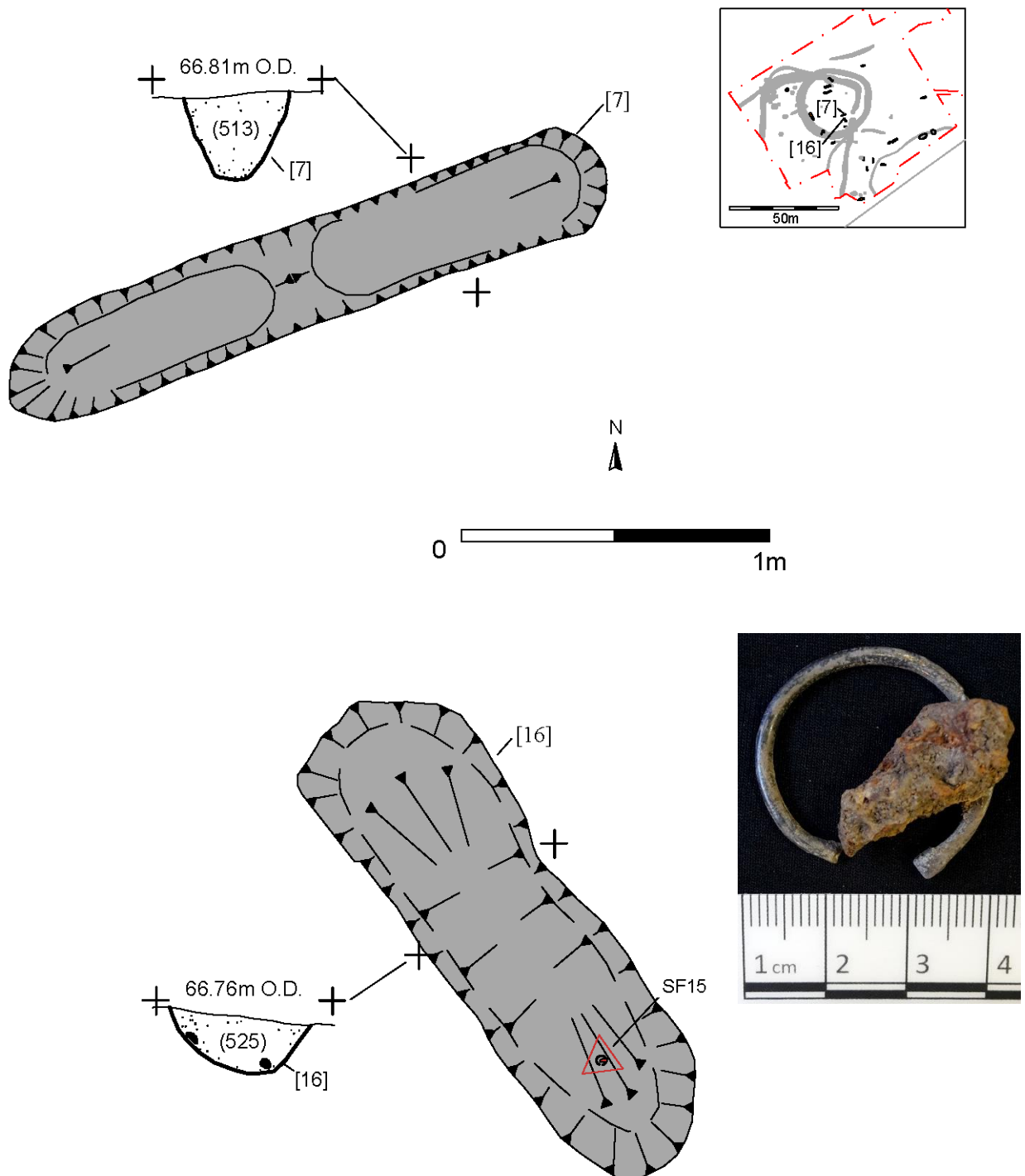


Figure 27: Anglo-Saxon graves [7] and [16], and annular brooch after cleaning

Graves cutting the Neolithic ring ditch

One grave cut into the infilled ring ditch ([25]). Grave [25] measured 2.24m long, 0.67m wide, 0.15m depth. The sub-oval cut was aligned NW-SE, it had shallow concave sides and a flat base. It was severely truncated by ploughing and former allotments. Small pieces of human teeth were recovered (fused with SF8), showing that the body was aligned S-N. The grave cut into the Neolithic ring ditch, Iron Age enclosure ditch, and small later Iron Age gully, 4m to the south of grave [16]. The backfill of the grave consisted of a friable dark grey/brown silt-sand (541), some cremated bone was noted in the backfill.

Within grave [25] were four objects, consisting of a shield boss (SF3) (with shield mounts / fittings, SF6b & 7), a belt buckle (SF5), a knife (SF6a), and spearhead (SF8). The shield boss (SF3) was centrally located in the middle of the grave cut. It is a 'sugar loaf' or conical form, a developed form of boss, recent refined C14 dating indicates dates range from AD 580s-680s (Bayliss et al 2013, 249). It was an oak shield, and some pieces of shield mounts / fittings were recovered in the central area (SF6b & 7). An angular spearhead was located at the south-end (SF9), the spear itself was made of ash from a mature tree. Fragments of human teeth were found in the soil around the spearhead. A small belt buckle (SF5) was located in the middle of the grave on the west side, it is broadly dated to AD 450-550 (Nielsen 2013, 137), the earliest dated item in the grave. Close to this was a knife (SF6a), these are only broadly dated to the 6th to 7th centuries AD (Evison 1987, 115).

Table 1: List of grave objects from [25] and possible dates

Grave object	Possible date
Buckle	AD 450-550
Spearhead	AD 525- 560s
Shield boss	AD 580s-680s
Knife	6 th -7 th centuries

Pit (or post-hole) [29], was circular measuring 0.74m diameter and 0.15m deep. It cut into the backfill of Iron Age ditch (542), north of pit [18]. Distinctly different fill - a dark brown-grey silty-sand (549) to other features in the area, no finds were recovered from this. It lay immediately to the north of the grave [25].

Close by post-hole [90] was cut into the ring ditch at cut [23] west of gully [54]. It does not seem to relate to any other feature so interpretation is limited. Contained a single fill (625).

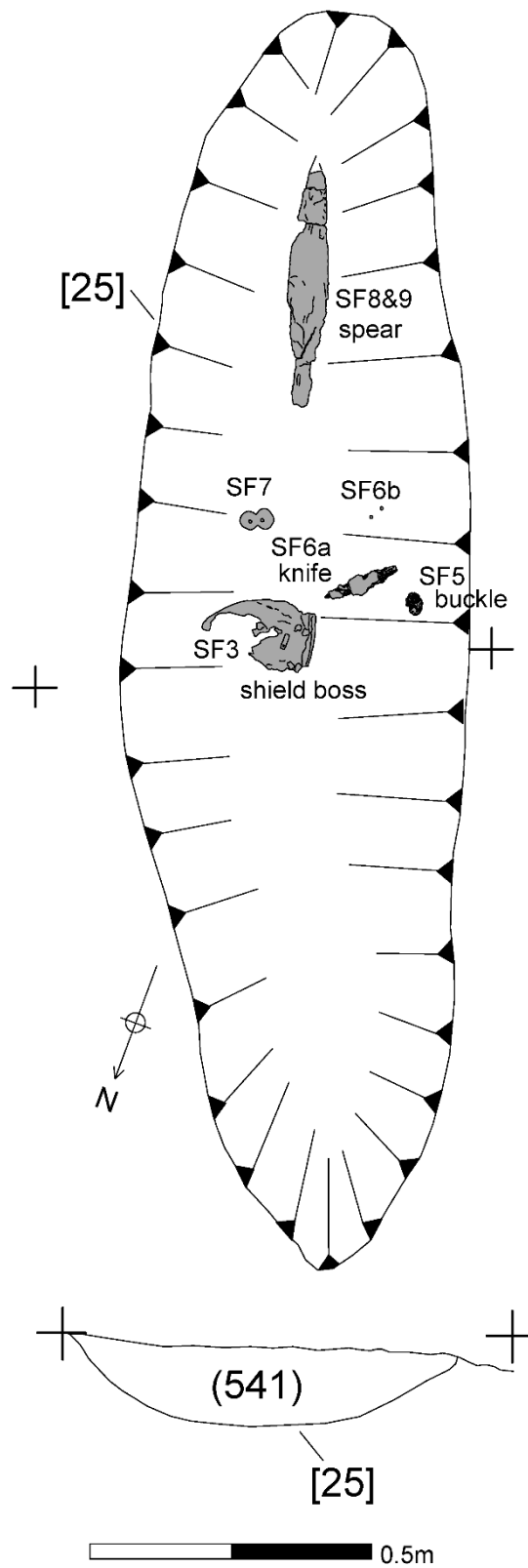


Figure 28: Detailed plan of Grave [25]

Graves to the south-east of the ring ditch

Eight inhumation graves lay to the south-east of the ring ditch.

Grave [5] measured 2.1m long, 0.3-0.5m wide, and 0.2m deep, it was orientated N-S, the body lay south to north orientation. The backfill seemed to vary across the length of the grave, at the north-end it was much looser (510), within this a complete early Anglo-Saxon globular vessel was placed in the base at the north-end, and on the west edge (midway long the length of the grave, i.e. at the waist /hip) were three metal objects. These consisted of a chatelaine chain and hoops (SF2a) of 6th or 7th century AD, along with a poorly dated chisel (SF2b) and small knife (SF2c). Backfill (510) consisted of a dark brown-grey silt-sand, within this were small charcoal flecks and angular pebbles. The backfill towards the southern end was a light-mid grey-brown silt-sand (511), this was much more compact, fragments of pottery were recovered from this.

Grave [12] measured 2.2m long, 0.58m wide and 0.2m deep, it was orientated E-W. It was heavily truncated by ploughing. The grave was filled with a friable mid grey brown silt-sand (520), it contained a complete (centrally placed) vessel, but due to the plough damage only the base survived, some worked flint was also recovered.

Grave [55] measured 1.6m long, 0.4m wide, and just 0.09m deep, it was orientated NE-SW. It was filled with a brown-black clay-sand (584), this contained no finds. It was very poorly defined, the area was subject to significant plough truncation and root disturbance. Despite this the grave cut could be seen to cut Iron Age gully [30].

Grave [88] measured 1.74m long, 0.62m wide, and 0.24m deep, it was orientated NE-SW. It contained backfill a firmly compacted mid grey-brown sand-silt (622), residual Iron Age pottery and bone were recovered from this.

Grave [94] measured 2m long, 0.7m wide, and 0.2m deep, it was orientated NE-SW. A wider cut at the SW-end suggests the skull, the grave tapers to the east, suggesting the body facing east. The backfill (635) consisted of a mid grey-brown silt-clay, it contained residual Iron Age and Belgic pottery. It lay immediately adjacent to grave [88].

Grave [109] measured 1.8m long, 0.5m wide, and 0.2m deep, it was orientated NNW-SSE. It contained a primary fill (670) consisting of an orange sand-gravel, this contained no finds was just 0.01m thick. The main grave backfill (671) consisted of a brown-orange sand-silt. Pottery recovered consisted of two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, along with residual Roman and Iron Age sherds. In the base of the grave was an iron knife (SF27) and a metal pin (SF26). The knife was located on the west-side, the pin on the east-side towards the south-end, indicating the head lay at the south-end. The knife is seen as 6th or 7th century in date (Evison 1987, 115). The blade length could indicate that this is a male adult burial (Härke 1989, 145; Walton Rogers 2007, 138).

Grave [115] measured 1.45m long, 0.55m wide, and 0.2m deep, it was orientated N-S. It contained a primary orange sand-silt (690), overlaying this was a mid orange-brown silt-sand (689). It contained no finds. Lay close to graves [5] and [109], same orientation also.

Probable grave [142] lay at the southern edge of excavated area, close to earlier pits and ditch. Could be a grave, very long (2.7m). It contained a primary orange sand-silt (732).

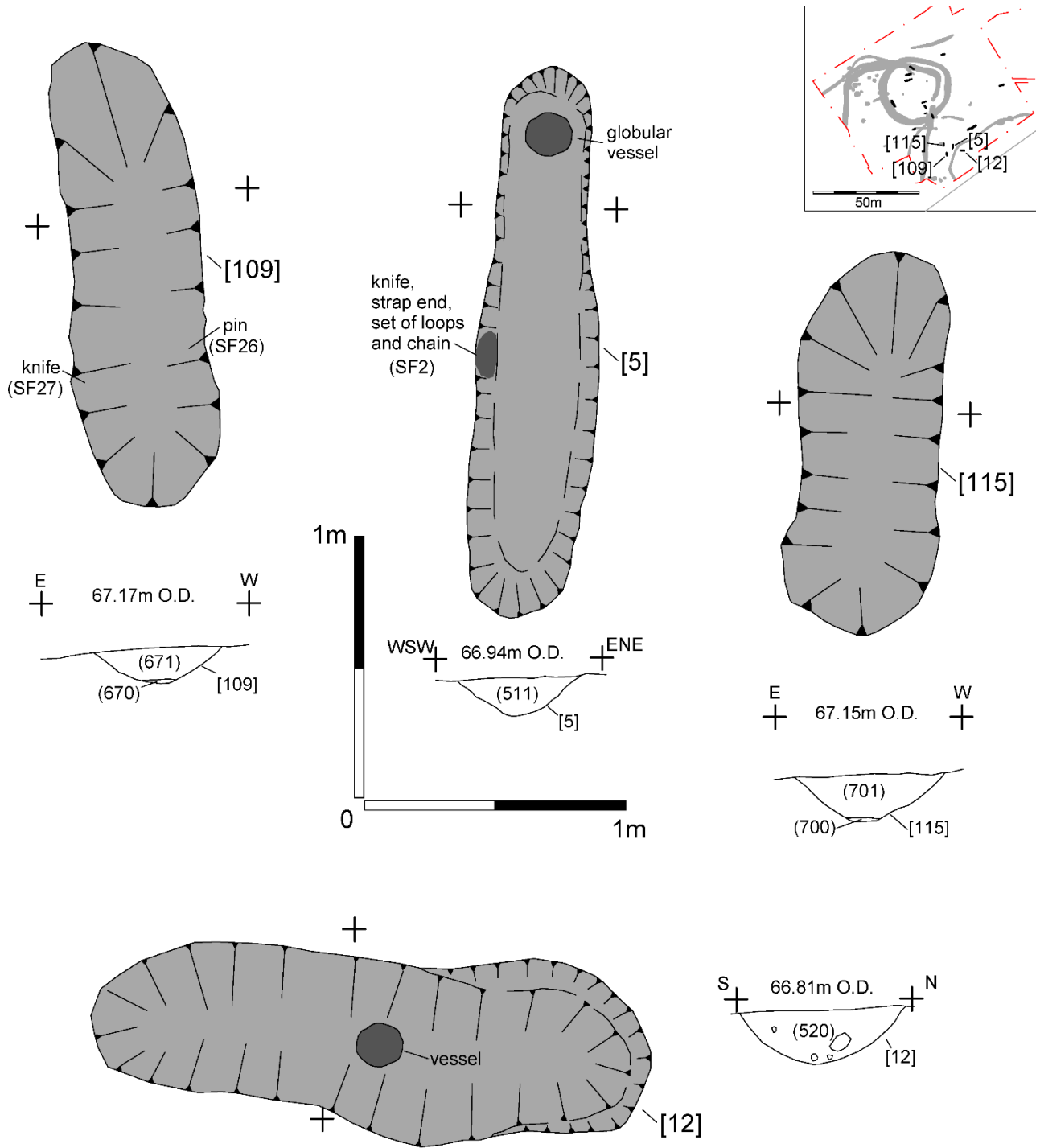


Figure 29: Inhumation graves [5], [12], [109], and [115].

Sunken-Featured Buildings and scattered pits

Two shallow pits cut an Iron Age ditch [2], near the SE corner of the excavation. A shallow oval pit [51] measured 3.5m long and 2m wide, and was 0.16m deep. It was filled with a firmly compacted dark-brown sandy-silt (580), a small sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the backfill, though this was likely intrusive from the Iron Age ditch [2]. Adjacent to this was sub-oval pit [67], this measured 1.6 by 0.6m, and 0.2m deep. Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the mid grey-brown silt-clay backfill (594). Though not the finest examples, the two pits resemble evidence for Anglo-Saxon Sunken-Featured Buildings. Two unstratified fragments of Anglo-Saxon annular loomweights were also recovered during the excavation, showing evidence for domestic activity in this area.

Pit [38] was circular and measured 1.2m diameter, it was just 0.11m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silty-clay (556), within this were 9 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Two pits ([44] and [45]) were located over the backfilled Bronze Age ring ditch. Pit [44] was sub-oval, measuring 0.8m in diameter and 0.4m deep. It contained a mid brown-grey sandy-clay (567), within this were Anglo-Saxon pottery fragments (and residual worked flint). These are possible cremation burials but the evidence is inconclusive. It cut into the backfilled barrow ring ditch on the SW side. Pit [45] was oval, measuring 0.85 by 0.55, it was 0.22m deep. It had concave sides and u-shaped base. It cut into the backfilled barrow ring ditch on the SW side.

Pit [126] was sub-circular with concave sides and U-shaped base. It contained a mid grey-brown sandy-silt (714). It cut ditches [123] & [125].

Pit [128] (same as [148]) was sub-oval with steep to vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 2.3m by 2m, and 0.7m deep, it contained a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Pit [149] was sub-circular, with concave sides and sloping base, measuring 2.3 by 2m, and 0.7m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silty-clay (742). It cuts pit [148].

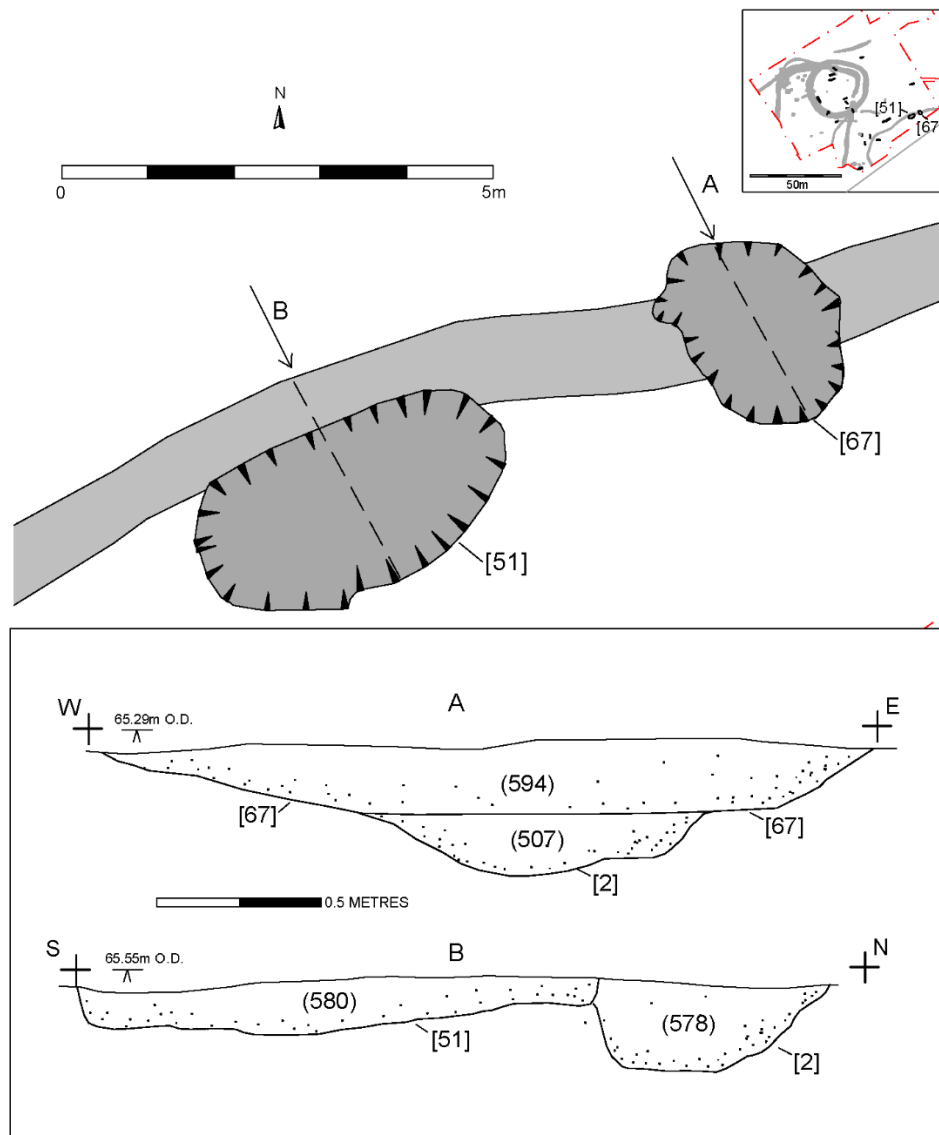


Figure 30: Plan and sections of Anglo-Saxon SFBs

6.6 Phase 6: Medieval to present

Evidence for medieval / post-medieval furrows were seen regularly spaced across the excavated area (Figure 31). They were orientated NE-SW, the base of each furrow was approximately spaced every five metres. A hedge was located, orientated NW-SE, this was present on the 19th century Ordnance Survey map, and removed in the 20th century, it was also located in the earlier excavations to the north (Speed 2011, 68, 106). In the later 20th century and early 21st century the field was used for garden allotments. It was subject to development for housing in early 2016.

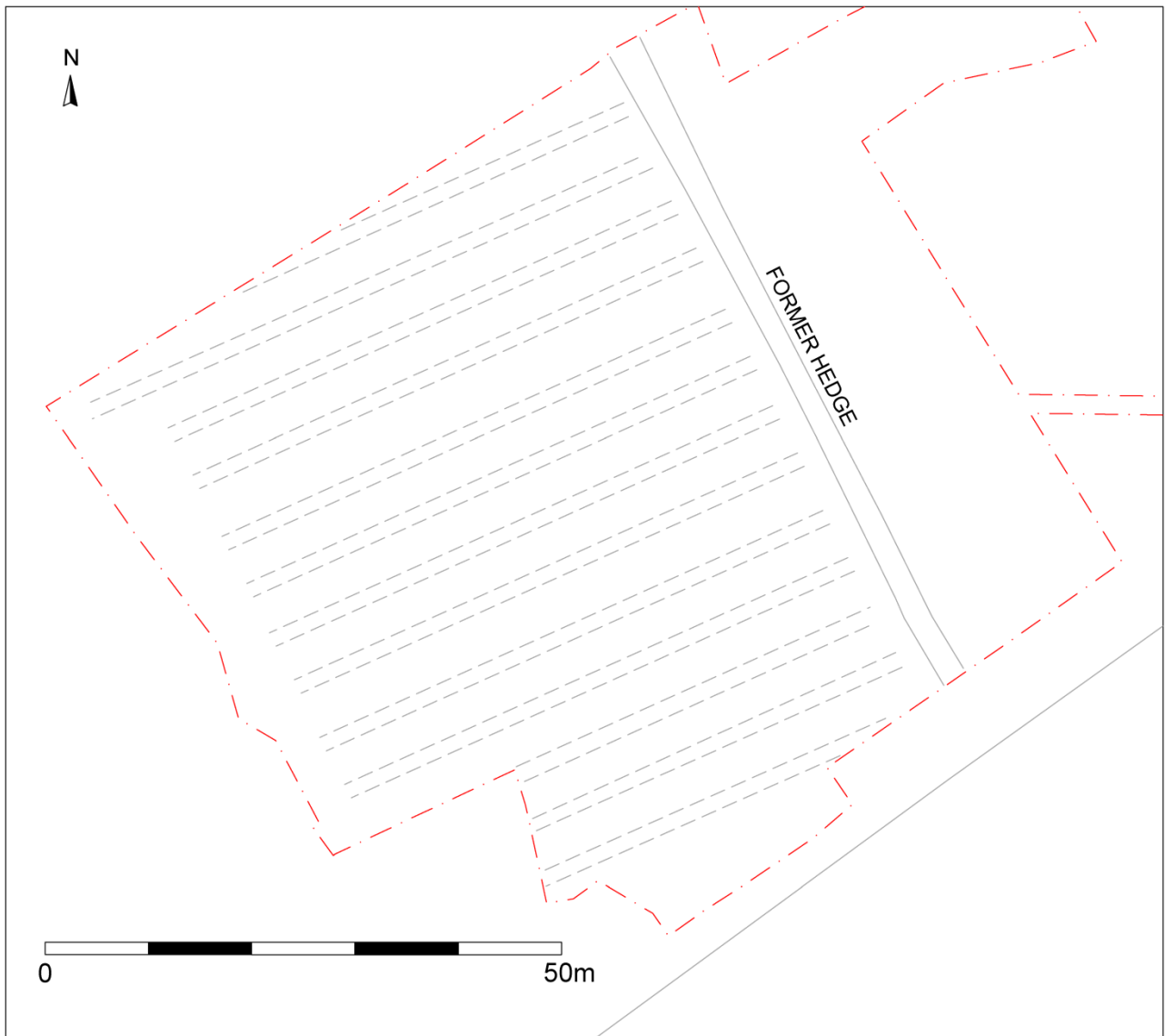


Figure 31: Medieval and post-medieval evidence

7. Finds & Environmental Evidence

7.1 Neolithic and Beaker Pottery (by Nicholas J. Cooper)

Introduction

A total of 159 sherds of Neolithic and Beaker pottery weighing 1782g and with an EVEs value of 0.72 (from three rims) was recovered from a series of contexts across the Site and suggests a long tradition of use and re-use of the Site across the Neolithic and into the earliest part of the Bronze Age. The majority of the assemblage comprises Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware alongside smaller amounts of Early Neolithic Carinated Bowl, and Beaker Pottery, each of which is considered in detail below.

Methodology

The assemblage has been analysed in accordance with *The Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al.* 2016), using the Leicestershire Prehistoric fabric series, employing low power microscopy to aid identification (Marsden 2011, 61, and Table 1, below) and was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and EVEs (rims only). The full quantified record is held in archive on an MS Excel spreadsheet, an edited version of which is tabulated below by period (Tables 2-4).

Table 1: Summary of Leicestershire Prehistoric pottery fabric series relevant to the assemblage (Marsden 2011 with additions).

Fabric	Description
Quartz Q5 Quartz	Rare to moderate sub-angular crushed pebble quartz (0.5–4mm) and rare to sparse sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm). Similar to R1, but with quartz rather than granite
Granitic rock R1 Granodiorite	Rare to moderate sub-angular granodiorite (0.5–4mm) and rare to sparse sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm). Inclusions include plates of biotite (yellow) mica.
Shell-tempered S1 Shell S2 Sandy fabric with shell	Moderate to very common shell or plate-like voids (1–5mm) As S1, but common to very common sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm)
Grog G2 Grog with sand	Similar to Q1 with common sub-angular grog (0.5-2mm)

Early Neolithic Carinated Bowl

A small assemblage of eight body sherds (46g) was recovered from five contexts as detailed in Table 2.

Table 2 Quantified record of Carinated Bowl pottery from the Site

Cut	Context	Fabric	Part	Dec	Sherds	Weight
96	646	Q5	body	burnished	2	9
96	647	Q5	body	smoothed	2	3
96	648	Q5	body	burnished	1	1
	666	Q5	body	burnished	1	3
107	669	Q5	body	int smooth	2	30
Total					8	46

Contexts (646), (647) and (648) are all separate fills within [96] which contained five of the sherds, the remaining three sherds coming from (666) and (669) [107]. Contexts (648) and (666) also produced sherds of Peterborough Ware. Both wares are manufactured in the same distinctive fabric employing angular white fragments of crushed pebble quartz (Q5) as seen at the nearby Temple Grange and Rothley Lodge farm sites (Cooper 2015 and 2016) and commonly further up the Soar Valley and close to its confluence with the Trent (Carney 2012). The sherds of Carinated Bowl have been distinguished by the lack of impressed decoration and the presence of burnishing or smoothing on one or both surfaces. The lack of vessel profiles prevents identification as either Carinated Bowl or the later-dating, developed or ‘Modified’ Carinated Bowl pottery that was recovered at Temple Grange (Cooper 2015, 13, figs.13 and 14). That assemblage had an associated radiocarbon date of 3510-3340 cal BC which lies right at the end of the Carinated Bowl tradition (Cooper 2015, 13) and is coincident with the start of the Peterborough Ware sequence at Willington, Derbyshire dated 3510-3360 (Marsden *et al.* 2009, 96). The fact that both wares are occurring in the same contexts here at Loughborough Road might mean that they are broadly contemporary, rather than the Carinated Bowl being residual.

Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware

An assemblage of 145 sherds (1691g) with an EVEs value of 0.72 was recovered from 13 contexts across the Site as detailed in Table 3.

Table 3 Quantified record of Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware pottery from the Site.

Peterborough Ware Pottery Rothley XA111.2015								
Cut	Context	Fabric	Part	Form/Decoration	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
10	518	Q5	body	incised	1	7		
11	519	S1	rim	Mortlake; incised/maggot	100	1250	0.62	260
63	595	S2	rim	Fengate; fingernail	1	27	0.03	260
72	606	S2	neck	Fengate; incised line	3	90		200
72	606	Q5	neck	Mortlake; maggot	7	65		
86	619	Q5	neck	impressed	1	10		
86	619	Q5	body	impressed	1	11		
	620	Q5	body	incised line	1	7		
	640	R1	body	fingernail	1	20		
	641	R1	body	int smooth	1	5		
	642	S2	body	Fengate; fingernail	1	18		
96	648	Q5	body	fingernail	4	50		
96	648	R1	body		2	6		
	666	Q5	body		4	10		
113	686	Q5	rim	Mortlake; maggot	13	91	0.07	240
113	686	Q5	body	incised line	3	9		
113	687	Q5	body	impressed	1	15		
Total					145	1691	0.72	

The majority of the sherds derive from one partially complete vessel from (519) [11] (fig.1.1), a bowl belonging to the Mortlake sub-style and manufactured in a shell-tempered fabric (S1), which is an unusual occurrence in the north of the county, being more prevalent to the south, towards Northamptonshire at sites such as Husbands Bosworth, for example. The bowl is decorated with a combination of impressed and incised decoration comprising whipped cord maggot impressions forming a herringbone band around the external lip of the rim and incised lattice on the internal face of the rim and the external neck and body. The lattice on the internal surface is relatively neat, forming

evenly-sized lozenges, whilst on the external neck and body it is poorly executed and approximates to a herringbone pattern with some overlap forming a lattice.

Two other bowls in the Mortlake sub-style have been recognised, both in the more typical crushed white pebble quartz-tempered fabric (Q5) seen at nearby Rothley Lodge Farm (Cooper 2016, 38, fig.26). The first is a rim from (686) [113] (fig.1.2) decorated with whipped cord maggot impressions in bands around the external lip of the rim, on the internal lip and on the external body below the neck. The second is the neck of a bowl from (606) [72] (fig.1.3) decorated with rows of crescentic whipped cord maggot impressions. The use of maggot impressions on these three vessels is paralleled by a number of vessels from Rothley Lodge Farm (Cooper 2016, Fig.26.1 and Fig.27.9-10). In common with the Rothley Lodge Farm assemblage and the 'modified' Carinated Bowls from Temple Grange a proportion of the assemblage is manufactured using the local granodiorite from Mountsorrel (Fabric R1) as opening materials. Here, however, only four sherds have been recognised; from (640), (641) and (648) [96].

Three bowls in the Fengate sub-style have been recognised. The first was recovered from (595) [63] (fig.2.4), manufactured in a sandy shell-tempered fabric (S2) and decorated with finger nail impressions arranged in a herringbone pattern on the internal and external faces of the rim collar. The decoration is similar to the Fengate vessel from Rothley Lodge Farm (Cooper 2016, 38, fig.27.7 also in fabric S2), as well as a number from Ratcliffe on the Wreake, five miles up-river from the confluence with the Soar (McSloy 2008, 9, fig.6.2-4). The second Fengate vessel is from (606) [72] (fig.2.5), in fabric S2 and is represented by the upper body and lower part of the rim collar. The body is decorated with a faintly-incised and poorly-executed lattice, above which is a neck groove, punctuated by a single circular impression, and the bottom of the squared collar decorated with crescentic motifs, possibly made with a finger nail but partly obscured by some carbonised residue. The third Fengate vessel is a body sherd from just below the rim collar which has a single circular impression at the top and random crescentic finger nail impressions below.

The remaining decorated body sherds include one from (619) [86] (fig.2.6) in Fabric Q5, with continuous rows of interlocking circular impressions similar to a vessel from Rothley Lodge Farm, giving the appearance of crochet work, and presumably imitating basketry (Cooper 2016, 38, fig.26.4). Another sherd from (648) [96] in Fabric Q5 appears to be faintly decorated with lines of twisted cord.

Catalogue

- 1) (519) [11] Fabric S1 Peterborough Ware bowl. Mortlake sub-style. Whipped cord maggot impressions and incised herringbone slashes and lattice. Diameter 260mm.
- 2) (686) [113] Fabric Q5. Peterborough Ware bowl. Mortlake sub-style. Whipped cord maggot impressions. Diameter 240mm.
- 3) (606) [72] Fabric Q5. Peterborough Ware bowl. Mortlake sub-style. Whipped cord maggot impressions. Diameter 200mm.
- 4) (595) [63] Fabric S2 Peterborough Ware bowl. Fengate sub-style. Fingernail impressions. Diameter 260mm.
- 5) (606) [72] Fabric S2 Peterborough Ware bowl. Fengate sub-style. Incised lines and fingernail impressions. Diameter 260mm.
- 6) (619) [86] Fabric Q5. Peterborough Ware bowl. Body sherd decorated with rows of circular impressions.

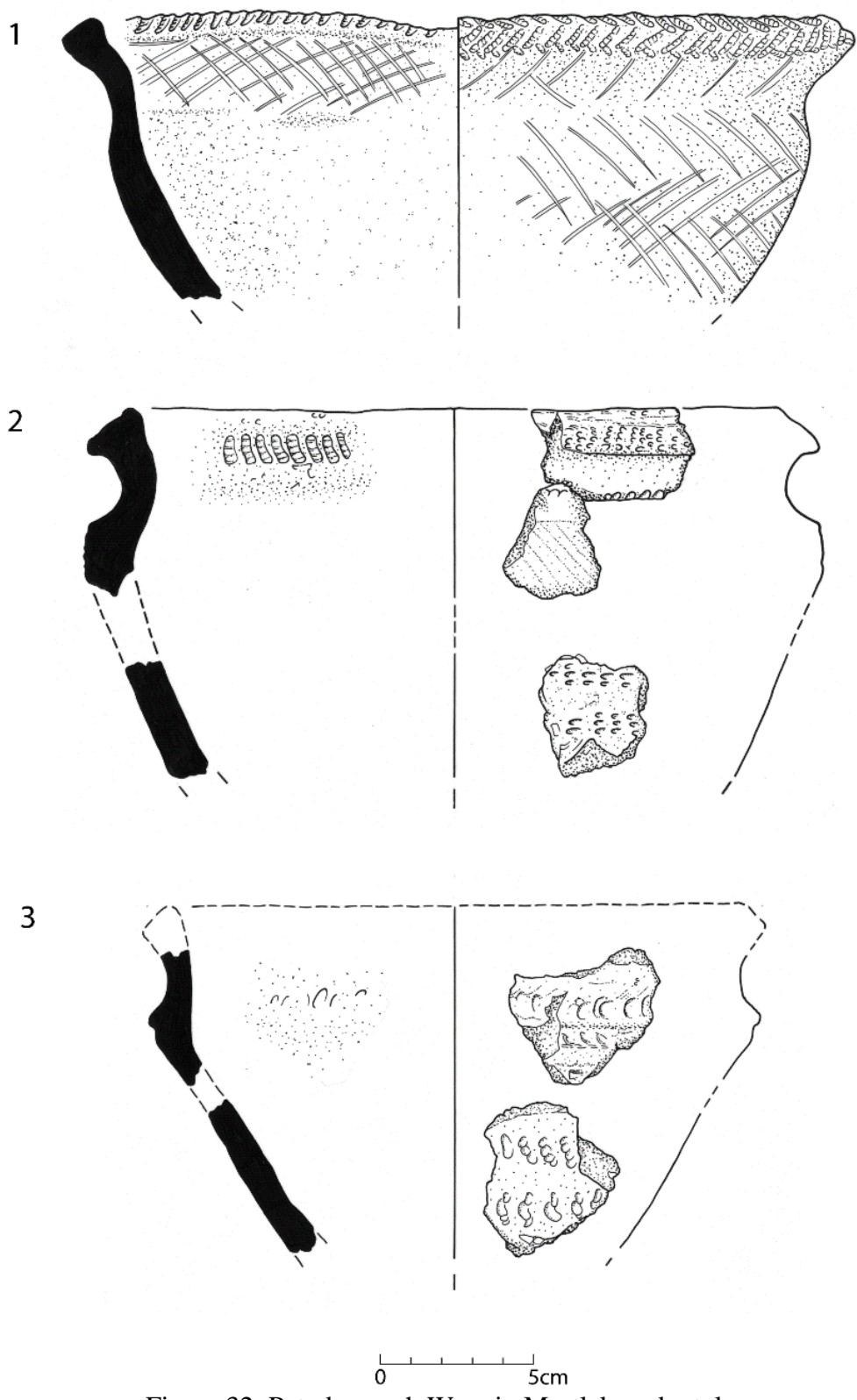


Figure 32: Peterborough Ware in Mortlake sub-style

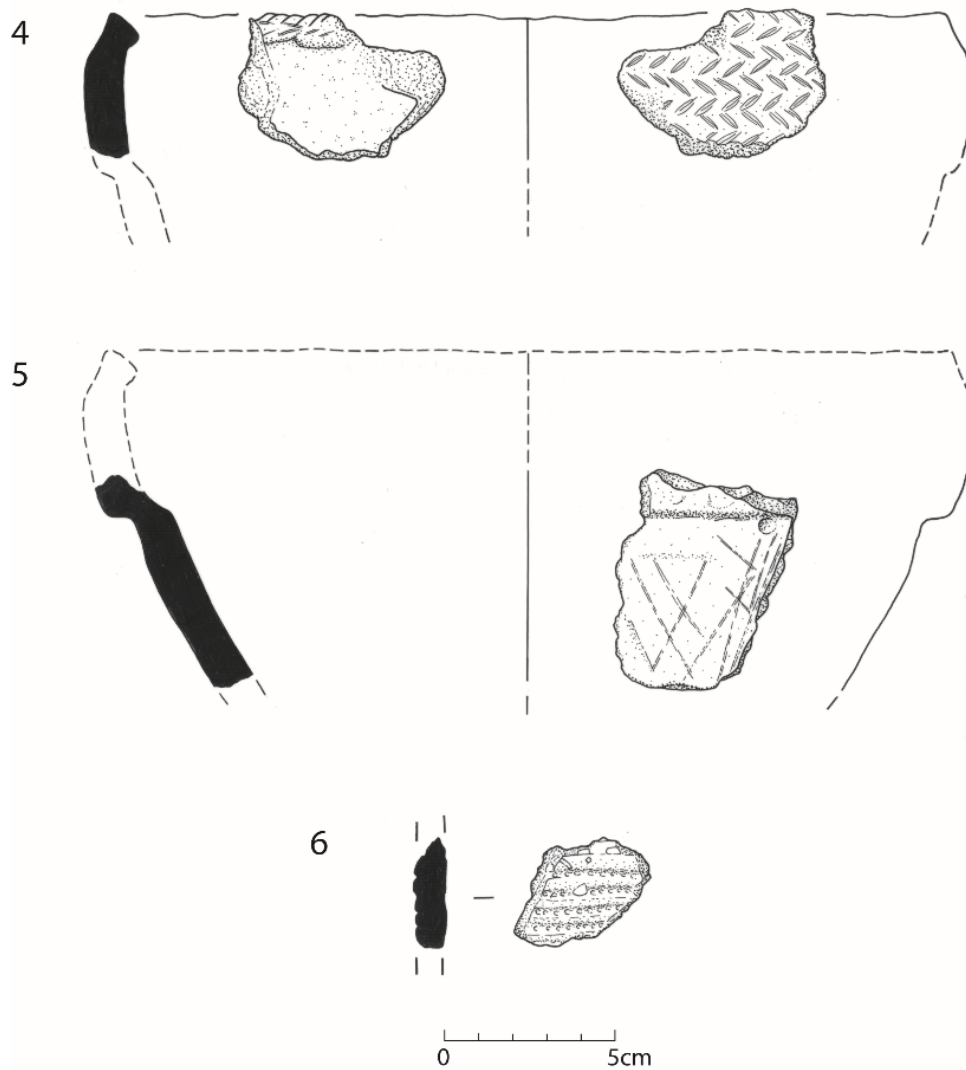


Figure 33: Peterborough Ware in Fengate sub-style (nos.4-5) and decorated body sherd (no.6)

Discussion

Although this is only a small assemblage, the group makes an important contribution to baseline knowledge of Peterborough Ware in the county. This is only the fourth one published, alongside that from Rothley Lodge Farm (Cooper 2016), the Fengate group from Ratcliffe on the Wreake (McSloy 2008) and the misidentified group of Fengate vessels from Hallam Fields, Birstall (Speed 2010, 32). In addition, unpublished material from the causewayed enclosure at Husbands Bosworth has yet to be analysed. Prior to the turn of the new century, Peterborough Ware was unknown in the county, with only a small assemblage of four Mortlake vessels previously published from the pit circle at Oakham (Gibson 1998). Local chronology is provided by four radiocarbon dates on the Fengate group from Ratcliffe on the Wreake ranging between 3370 to 3090 cal BC and 3120 to 2910 cal BC (Moore 2008, 5) which fits in with the current understanding that the Peterborough ware tradition spans the period *c.* 3500-2900 BC (Ard and Darvill 2015, 1).

Beaker Pottery

A small assemblage of six body sherds (45g), belonging to three vessels, was recovered from three contexts as detailed in Table 3.

Table 3 Quantified record of Beaker pottery from the Site.

Cut	Context	Fabric	Part	Dec	Sherds	Weight
-----	---------	--------	------	-----	--------	--------

112	502	G2	body	toothed comb	1	5
	533	G2	body	incised	4	19
	640	G2	body	rusticated	1	21
Total					6	45

All the vessels are manufactured in a sandy grog-tempered fabric (G2) which is typical of other Beaker assemblages in the county, the largest of which comes from Loughborough Road, Asfordby (Cooper 2012, 9-20). A single body sherd from a geometric beaker (fig.3.1) was recovered from (502) [112] and appears to be residual within a context containing both Iron Age and Roman pottery. The decoration comprises toothed comb lines arranged horizontally and obliquely, similar to Vessel 4 at Asfordby which came from the upper fill of a pit, the lower fill of which was radiocarbon dated to 2210-2030 cal BC (Cooper 2012, 19), agreeing with the proposed currency of long necked beakers with zoned decoration between 2200 and 1900 cal BC (Needham 2005, 195). The second vessel, comprising four joining body sherds, comes from (533) (fig.3.2), and appears to be residual within a context containing Iron Age pottery. It is decorated with evenly-spaced horizontally-incised lines. The third vessel from (640) (fig.3.3), which also contained a sherd of Peterborough Ware, is tentatively identified as Beaker from the sandy, grog-tempered fabric and the concave profile, which may come from the shoulder or neck, and is decorated with vertical column of fingertip impressions; perhaps part of a rusticated pattern as seen on Vessel 1 as Asfordby from the lower fill of the pit radiocarbon dated to 2210-2030 cal BC (Cooper 2012, 12, Fig.11).

Catalogue

7) (502) [112] Fabric G2. Body sherd from toothed comb-decorated Geometric Beaker

8) (533) Fabric G2. Body sherds from beaker decorated with incised horizontal lines.

9) (640) Fabric G2. Body sherd decorated with vertical column of fingertip impressions, probably from a rusticated beaker.

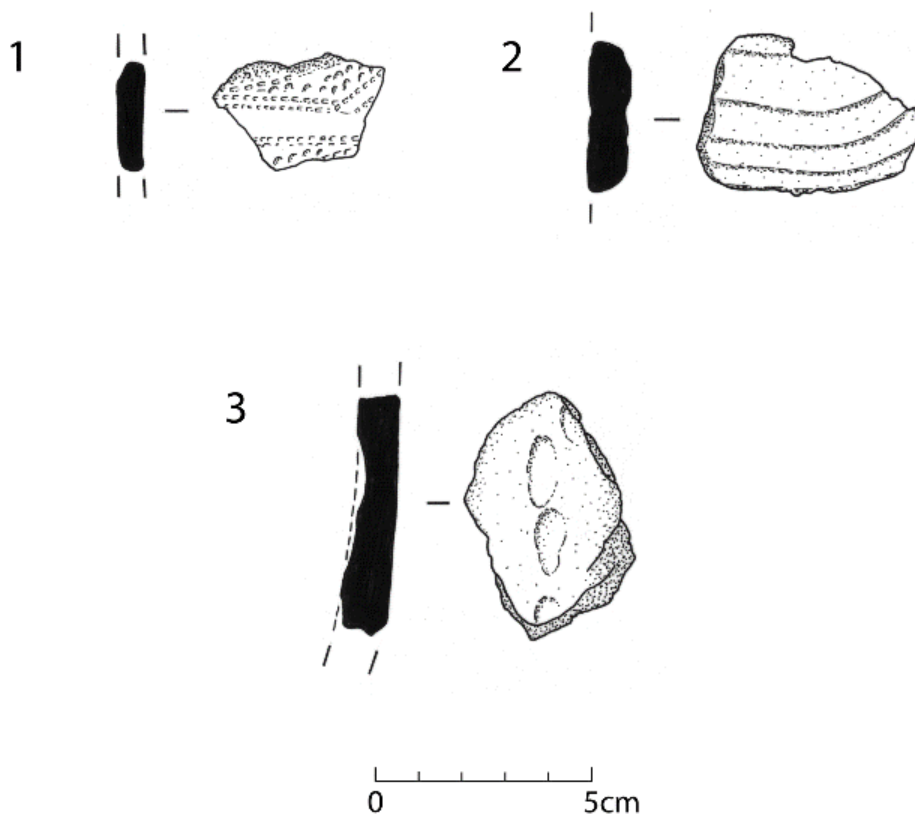


Figure 34: Beaker Pottery (nos.1-3)

Discussion

Although this is only a small assemblage of early Prehistoric pottery, each group makes an important contribution to baseline knowledge of ceramics in the county. This is only the second occurrence of Carinated Bowl or ‘Modified’ CB pottery in the county, next to the major group at the adjacent Temple Grange (Cooper 2015, 13). The occurrences of Beaker pottery in the county are slowly increasing and, although the Asfordby group remains the largest (Cooper 2012, 9), a more local occurrence came from Barrow 2 at Cossington on the other side of the Soar/Wreake confluence from Rothley, dated to 2140-1930 cal BC (Allen 2008, 28, fig.31.1-2).

7.2 Late Iron Age and ‘transitional’ early Roman Pottery (by Nicholas J. Cooper)

Introduction and overview

A total of 686 sherds of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery weighing 12.5kg, and with an EVEs value of 6.28 vessels, were recovered from 90 stratified contexts. With an average sherd weight of 18g, the pottery is in relatively good condition, but varies in terms of levels of abrasion and sherd size between contexts. Shell-tempered fabrics, which make up 46% of the assemblage, are often leached of their inclusions, indicating acidic soil conditions and/or long exposure of pottery on the ground surface. Most of the context groups are small, containing less than ten sherds, with only a handful yielding significant deposits of more than 30-60 sherds (c. 500g-2kg) with distinctive vessel forms preserved. However, the diagnostic nature of the vessel fabrics present across the Site, creates a coherent pattern of activity dating to the Late Iron Age and into the Roman Conquest period but probably not extending beyond about AD60, given the absence of fully ‘Romanised’ fabrics such as grey ware in any of the major stratified groups. The most significant context groups are [12] (520) sherd-linked to (570); (550); [83] (617); [88] (622) linked to [94] (635); [103] (658-660) and [123] (711), the vessels from which will be described in more detail below.

The significance of the assemblage is that mid-later Iron Age scored wares, the handmade tradition of the East Midlands rarely occur alongside Conquest-period wheel-thrown wares such as those in the ‘Belgic’-style, and early Roman shell-tempered wares at sites in the county, as many of the Iron Age sites in the vicinity of Leicester cease activity during the immediate pre-Conquest period, for example at Manor Farm, Humberstone (Thomas 2011). Overall, it is likely that the activity represented here dates to between the late 1st century BC and about AD 60.

Methodology

The assemblage has been analysed in accordance with *The Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al.* 2016). The Iron Age and early Roman pottery was classified in accordance with the Leicestershire Prehistoric and Roman pottery form and fabric series employing low power microscopy to aid identification (Marsden 2011, 61; Pollard 1994, 110-114) and quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and EVEs (rims only). Iron Age scored ware vessels were classified using the typology devised for the analysis of the assemblage from Grove farm Enderby (Elsdon 1992a). The full quantified record is held in archive on an MS Excel spreadsheet. A quantified summary of the data by fabric is presented and discussed below (Table 3).

Table 1: Summary of Leicestershire Prehistoric pottery fabric series relevant to the assemblage (Marsden 2011 with additions).

Fabric	Description
Sandy	

Q1 <i>Quartz sand</i>	Common to abundant sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm)
Quartz Q4 <i>Sandy fabric with quartz</i> Q5 <i>Quartz</i>	Q1 with rare to sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz (probable pebble source, 0.5–5mm, occasionally larger, up to 10mm) Rare to moderate sub-angular quartz (0.5–4mm) and rare to sparse sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm). Similar to R1, but with quartz rather than granite
Granitic rock R1 <i>Granodiorite</i>	Rare to moderate sub-angular granodiorite (0.5–4mm) and rare to sparse sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm). Inclusions include plates of biotite (yellow) mica.
Shell-tempered S1 <i>Shell</i> S2 <i>Sandy fabric with shell</i>	Moderate to very common shell or plate-like voids (1–5mm) As S1, but common to very common sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm)
Grog G1 <i>with shell & sand</i> G2 <i>Grog with sand</i>	Similar to S2 with common sub-angular grog (0.5-2mm) Similar to Q1 with common sub-angular grog (0.5-2mm)

Table 2: Summary of Leicestershire Roman pottery fabric series where relevant to the assemblage (Pollard 1994).

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
BB1	Black Burnished wares
TVW	Trent Valley wares
CG	Calcite gritted (shelly)
SW	Sandy wares
GW	Grey wares
GT	Grog tempered wares
MG	Mixed gritted wares

Analysis of the assemblage by fabric and form

Table 3 illustrates the quantified range of wares present in the assemblage and the individual fabric codes assigned to them, and this will form the basis of the analysis.

Table 3 Late Iron Age/Roman Transitional Pottery

Fabric/Ware	Codes	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	%sherds
Scored	Quartz Q1/Q4	148	3379	0.77	22
Scored	Granite R1	105	2385	0.52	15
Scored	Shell S1/S2	123	2672	1.82	18
Scored	Grog G2	18	145	0.23	3
'Belgic'-style	SW2/GT2/MG2	84	1211	1.48	12
E Rom Shelly	CG1A	196	2646	1.46	28
Grey ware	GW1/GW5	12	53	0	2
Total	Total	686	12491	6.28	100

A total of 394 sherds (57% of the entire assemblage), weighing 8581g and with an EVEs value of 3.34, are from hand-made vessels manufactured in the East Midlands scored ware tradition, the pottery used across the region during the Middle-Late Iron Age from the 4th or 3rd century BC up until the early or middle decades of the 1st century AD (Elsdon 1992b). The remaining 292 sherds (43%), weighing

3910g and with an EVEs value of 2.94, vessels are from wheel-thrown vessels of ‘Belgic’-style made in ‘transitional’ sandy, grog-tempered or mixed-gritted fabrics, jars in early Roman shell-tempered fabrics, and a small number from ‘Romanised’ grey wares which appear unrelated to the occupation and could be from later manuring of the Site perhaps.

Considering the manufacture of those vessels belonging broadly to the East Midlands scored ware tradition in detail, three main fabrics types have been identified; employing quartz (Q1/Q4), contributing 38% by sherd count and 39% by weight; granitic rock (R1), (27% and 28%), and shell (S1 and S2) (31% and 31%) as opening materials, with a small number using grog inclusions (G2) (4% and 2%). When compared with the figures from Elms Farm and Manor Farm at Humberstone (Marsden 2011, Fig.71), the Rothley assemblage is more evenly split between the three main inclusion types with quartz and shell much higher than might be expected given the proximity of the Site to the source of granitic (granodiorite) inclusions at nearby Mountsorrel (Knight *et al.* 2003). Shell-tempered fabrics are typical of scored ware assemblages in the east of Leicestershire, Rutland, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, for example at Empingham (Cooper 2000), and their increasing occurrence further west appears to be chronological and probably linked to political changes in the decades immediately before the Conquest as the Corieltavi established a new powerbase at Leicester, which consequently brought more trade in from the east and south east. In turn the use of granitic inclusions appears to have been abruptly eclipsed at this time, only returning 400 years later in the early Anglo-Saxon period.

A consideration of the vessel forms being produced in East Midlands scored ware helps to clarify this period of transition. The range of forms represented at Grove Farm, Enderby (Elsdon 1992a, ill.24) is summarised below (Fig. 1).

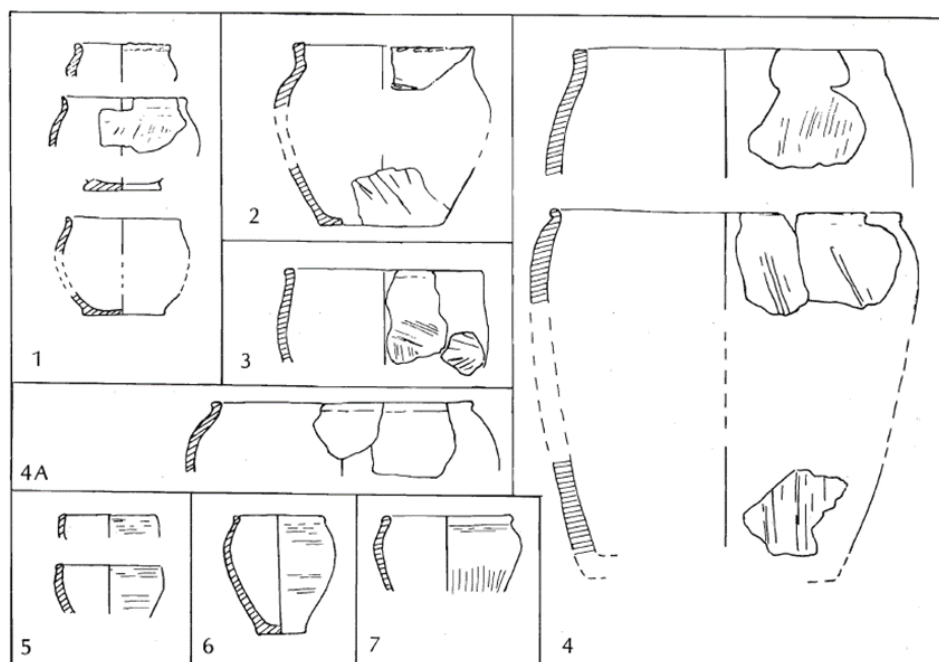


Figure 35: Typology of vessel forms from Grove Farm, Enderby (Elsdon 1992a, ill. 24)

The most common form is the small, often globular, jar (Elsdon Form 1) with short upright or rolled rims with diameters between 100 and 150mm of which there are ten examples, notably from (520) (fig.2.1) and (550) (fig.2.2), manufactured in fabrics G1, R1, and Q1. There is one example of a large jar with flat upright rim crudely formed into a bead also from (550) with a diameter of 320mm (Elsdon Form 4) (fig.2.3), with three bases and three body sherds from similarly large jars in Fabric Q1 and R1. Forms 1 and 4 make up the bulk of pottery found in the earlier Phases 2 and 3 at Grove Farm and considered to be broadly equivalent to Ceramic Phase 1 at Weekley which was radiocarbon dated to 175 BC to AD20 (Elsdon 1992a, 52).

Three examples of Elsdon's Form 6, the small, finely made hand-made jar with smoothed or burnished surfaces, and manufactured in a sandy or sandy grog-tempered fabric (Q4/G2), came from (702) and (711) (fig.2.4). This jar form is confined to the later Phase 5 at Grove Farm dated to the second quarter of the 1st century AD, c. AD 20-43, and considered to be broadly equivalent to Ceramic Phase 2 at Weekley (Elsdon 1992a, 40).

Alongside all these vessel forms was a very distinctive jar type which does not occur at Grove Farm, but does occur in pre-Conquest deposits in Leicester dating to the early-middle decades of the 1st century AD, for example from the excavations in the West Bridge Area (e.g. Pollard 1994, 105, fig.66.258-259) and Bath Lane (Clamp 1985, 51, fig.31.23). It is a small to medium-sized, handmade, barrel-shaped jar with an in-curving rim and flat or in-sloping lip between 110mm to 220mm in diameter, of which there are nine examples, notably from (550) and (569) (figure 2.5-7). Notably, this type of jar is manufactured either in a sandy shell-tempered fabric (S2) or in a fine sandy fabric (Q1), rather than a granitic fabric, and where it occurs, (550), (577) and (610), the decoration is combed horizontally and vertically rather than scored randomly, whilst in another case (658) the external surface is smoothed. Though handmade, the type is beginning to resemble the 'transitional' range of Early Roman shell-tempered and sandy wares more than the East Midlands scored ware tradition it has emerged from.

The other, smaller, half of the assemblage (43%) comprises those 'transitional' wares which are either jars in the 'Belgic'-style, manufactured in early Roman sandy, mixed-gritted or grog-tempered fabrics (SW2, MG2 or GT2), or shell-tempered jars (CG1A) with beaded or lid-seated rims. At least eight 'Belgic'-style vessels, usually necked jars with carinated profiles and bead rims are represented (diameters 140-180mm), with joining sherds from two vessels from (622) [88] and (635) [94] (fig.3.1-2) dating to the period c.AD30-60. 'Belgic'-style vessels are rare on rural sites in Leicestershire suggesting that scored wares continued to be used right up to the Conquest, and in areas to the north, towards the Trent, probably later, and so the best parallels are, again, from those early deposits in Leicester (Pollard 1994, 72-4, fig.52.41-43 and 46). Shell-tempered jars (CG1A) with bead rims and combed decoration occur alongside these vessels, notably in (622) [88] and (635) [94] (fig.3.3-4), whilst joining sherds of the same lid-seated jar occur in (507) [2], (520) [12] and (570) (fig.3.5), with four others from (585) [60], (595) [63] and (602) and another in SW2 from (626) [91]. Both forms are paralleled in early deposits at Leicester (Pollard 1994, fig.52.38 and fig.53.61), the latter being a very common form across the South Midlands during the early-middle decades of the 1st century.

The small grey ware component in the assemblage appears to be both temporally and stratigraphically unconnected with the rest of the material described above. Eight of the 12 body sherds represented belong to a jar in a hand-made fabric resembling south-east Dorset black burnished ware 1 (classified as GW1 as not confirmed) from (510) [5], with two sherds in GW5 from (502) [112], a context which also yielded Beaker pottery. The last two single abraded sherds in GW5 come from (530) and (671) [109], the latter residual within a context containing an Early Anglo-Saxon jar rim.

Catalogue

East Midlands scored ware

- 1) (520) Fabric G1. Elsdon Form 1 jar with thin body and bead rim.
- 2) (550) Fabric R1. Elsdon Form 1 jar with short upright rim and smoothed internal surface.
- 3) (550) Fabric S1. Elsdon Form 4 jar with crude bead rim.
- 4) (711) Fabric Q4. Elsdon Form 6 with upright and lightly burnished external surface.
- 5) (550) Fabric S2. Barrel-shaped jar with in-curving rim.
- 6) (550) Fabric S2. Barrel-shaped jar with in-curving rim and regular horizontal combing.

7) (569) Fabric S2. Barrel-shaped jar in-curving rim.

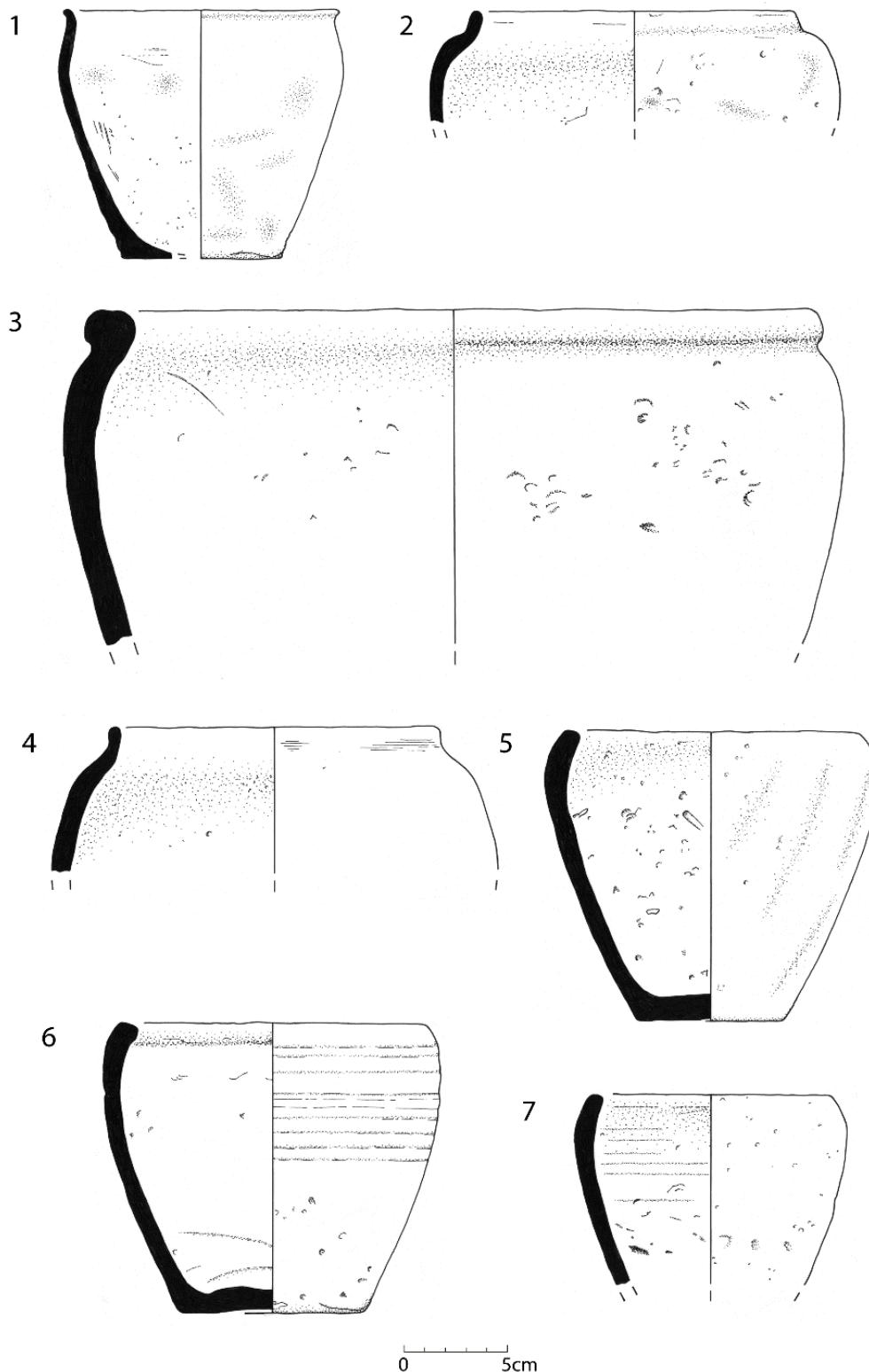


Figure 36: Late Iron Age/East Midland scored ware tradition

Belgic-style pottery

- 1) (622)/(635) Fabric SW2. Carinated bowl with neck cordon and burnished external surface.
- 2) (622)/(635) Fabric SW2. Carinated bowl with neck cordon and perforation above.

'Transitional' early Roman shell-tempered wares

- 3) (622)/(635) Fabric CG1A. Jar with bead rim and shoulder groove.
- 4) (622)/(635) Fabric CG1A. Jar with stubby bead rim and horizontal rilling on the shoulder.

5) (507)/(520)/(570) Fabric CG1A. jar with triangular bead rim and shallow lid-seating.

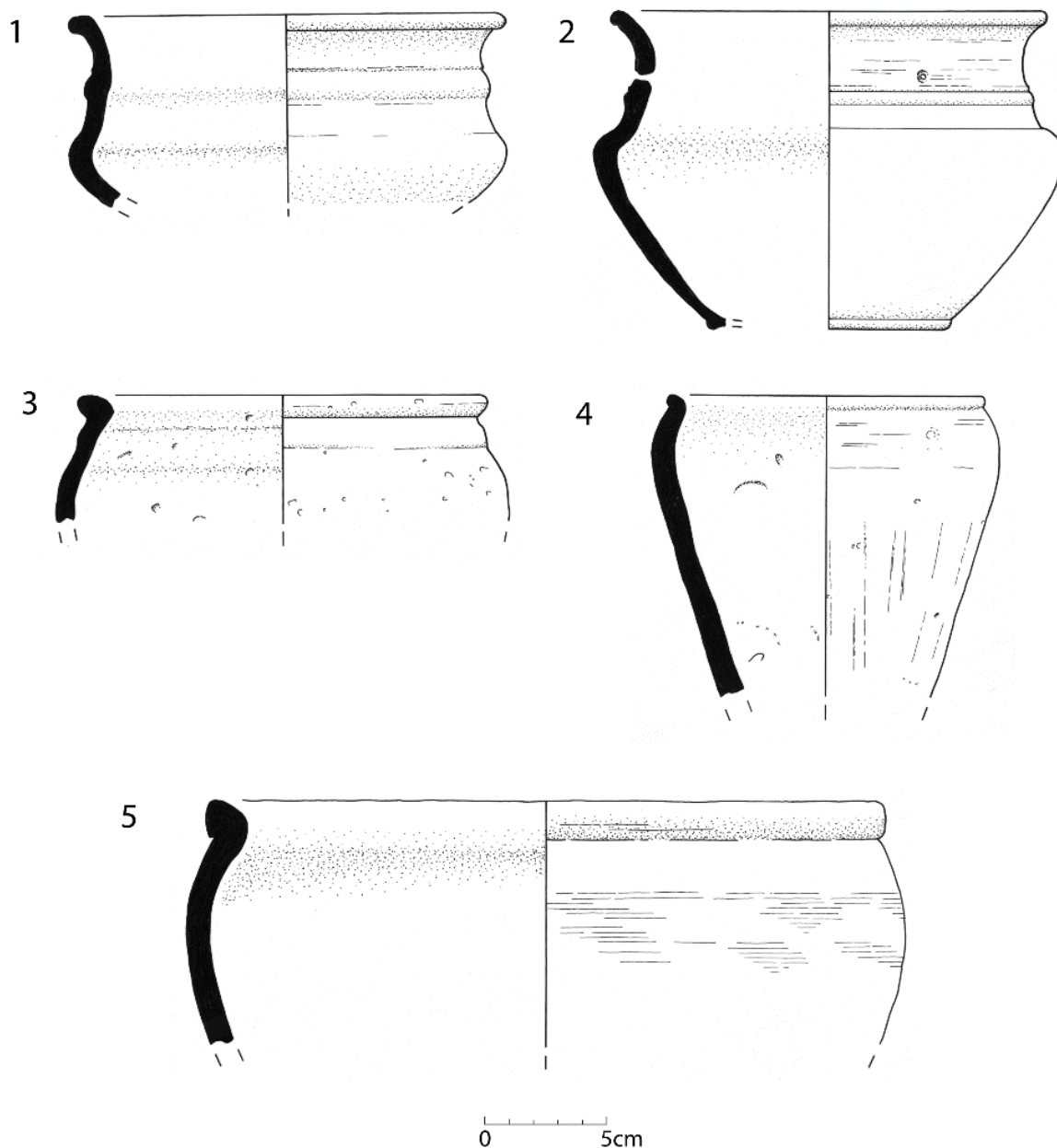


Figure 37: Transitional early Roman shell-tempered wares

7.3 Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon Pottery c.450-700

(by Nicholas J. Cooper)

Introduction

An assemblage of 106 sherds weighing 2091g and with an EVEs value of 1.0 was recovered from 15 contexts, ten of which yielded three sherds or less, including two (640) and (642) which also contained Neolithic sherds. Five contexts yielded more significant groups; [5] (510), (556), [23] (539), (578), and [67] (599), the first containing a near-complete globular jar with its rim missing.

Methodology

The assemblage was recorded in accordance with the *Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and with reference to the Leicestershire Anglo-Saxon pottery fabric series (Blinkhorn 1999 and Table 1 below). It was quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessels

equivalents (EVEs) using the six preserved rims. The assemblage was recorded on an MS Excel spreadsheet held in archive and an edited version of this is presented below (Table 2).

Table 3: Concordance of Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery fabrics from Eye Kettleby and three Leicester sites; the Shires 1988 (St Peter's Lane and Little Lane), Causeway Lane 1991 and Highcross, Leicester shopping centre 2003-6.

Eye Kettleby: low power microscopy	The Shires/Causeway Lane: petrological thin-section (Williams 2007)	Causeway Lane: low power microscopy (Blinkhorn 1999)	Highcross, Leicester: low power microscopy (Cooper and Forward 2009)
Fabric 1 Quartz	Sx1 Quartz(ite)	F1 White quartz(ite)	Sx1 Quartz
		F2 Grey quartz(ite)	
	Sx2 Fine sandy quartz	F3 Fine sandy quartz (Shires only)	Sx2 Fine sandy quartz
		F5 Sparse sandy	
	Sx6 Sandstone	F8 Sandstone	
Fabric 2 Granite	Sx3 Granite	F4 Coarse Granite	Sx3 Granite
		F6 Fine Granite	
Fabric 3 Calcareous	Sx4 Quartz & Limestone	F7 Quartz calcareous	Sx4 Quartz and shell
Fabric 4 Chaff			

Analysis by fabric and form

The entire assemblage (Table 5) is manufactured in fabrics using opening materials of mineral origin, which are either granitic (Fabric Sx3, granodiorite from nearby Mountsorrel; Williams and Vince 1997; Knight *et al.* 2003) or quartz (Fabric Sx1), probably also local.

Table 4: Quantified record of the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery assemblage

Cut	Context	Fabric	Form	Part	Dec	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
5	510	Quartz	jar	profile	untreated	24	710		G180
5	510	Granite	misc	body		1	4		
	556	Granite	jar	rim	Int burn	1	42	0.17	160
	556	Granite	bowl	rim	ext burn	5	44	0.07	160
	556	Granite	misc	body	smoothed	3	88		
23	539	Quartz	jar	shoulder	burnished	1	36		
23	539	Granite	misc	body		12	100		
23	539	Quartz	misc	body		1	15		
	562	Granite	misc	body	ext smooth	1	18		
abv 49	578	Granite	jar	rim		6	42	0.31	140
abv 49	578	Granite	misc	body	smoothed	13	383		
abv 49	578	Quartz	misc	body	smoothed	8	133		
67	599	Granite	bowl	profile	untreated	3	67	0.26	140
67	599	Granite	bowl	rim	untreated	2	34	0.14	150
67	599	Granite	misc	body	untreated	11	185		

67	599	Quartz	misc	body		2	90		
	621	Granite	misc	body	burnished	1	23		
	638	Granite	misc	body		1	15		
	639	Granite	misc	body		1	1		
	640	Granite	misc	body		1	11		
	642	Granite	misc	body		1	4		
109	671	Quartz	jar	rim	smoothed	2	11	0.05	140
126	714	Granite	misc	body	smoothed	1	6		
	718	Granite	misc	body		3	26		
148	741	Granite	misc	body		1	3		
Total						106	2091	1	

Sixty-four percent of the assemblage by sherd count and 52% by weight is in the granitic Fabric Sx3 against 36% /48% in the quartz-tempered Fabric Sx1. The assemblage is rather too small to make any judgement on the significance of the relative proportions of the two fabrics and, indeed, it is uncertain if such judgements have any chronological or geographic validity within the county, since we do not know the source of the quartz. The largest assemblage in the county, from Eye Kettleby near Melton (2371 sherds), was split equally between the two fabrics (Cooper and Forward forthcoming) with no spatial differences across the Site. In contrast, the assemblage from Cossington, across the river from Rothley, comprised only vessels with granite inclusions (Cooper 2008, 92).

The forms are a mix of globular jars, and bowls, with diameters between 110mm-160mm. The near-complete vessel from (510) has a girth of 180mm and rim of about 110mm (fig.1.1) and another jar with a rolled over rim comes from (556) (fig.1.2). There is a slightly globular bowl and a straight-sided bowl from [67] (599) (fig.1.3-4) and another straight-sided example from (556) (fig.1.5). Surface treatment is either lacking entirely or confined to the smoothing or burnishing of internal and/or external surfaces.

Catalogue

- 1) [5] (510). Fabric Sx1 quartz. Near-complete globular jar with narrow mouth. Girth diameter 180mm. Rim missing but estimated to be 110mm. Extant vessel height 140mm. Surfaces untreated.
- 2) (556) Fabric Sx3 granite. Globular jar with upright, rolled over rim. Diameter 160mm. Internal surface smoothed.
- 3) [67] (599) Fabric Sx3 granite. Bowl with upright, flat rim. Diameter 140mm. Vessel height 80mm. Surfaces untreated.
- 4) [67] (599) Fabric Sx3 granite. Bowl with upright rounded rim. Diameter 150mm. Surfaces untreated.
- 5) (556) Fabric Sx3 granite. Bowl with upright rounded rim. Diameter 160mm. External surface burnished.

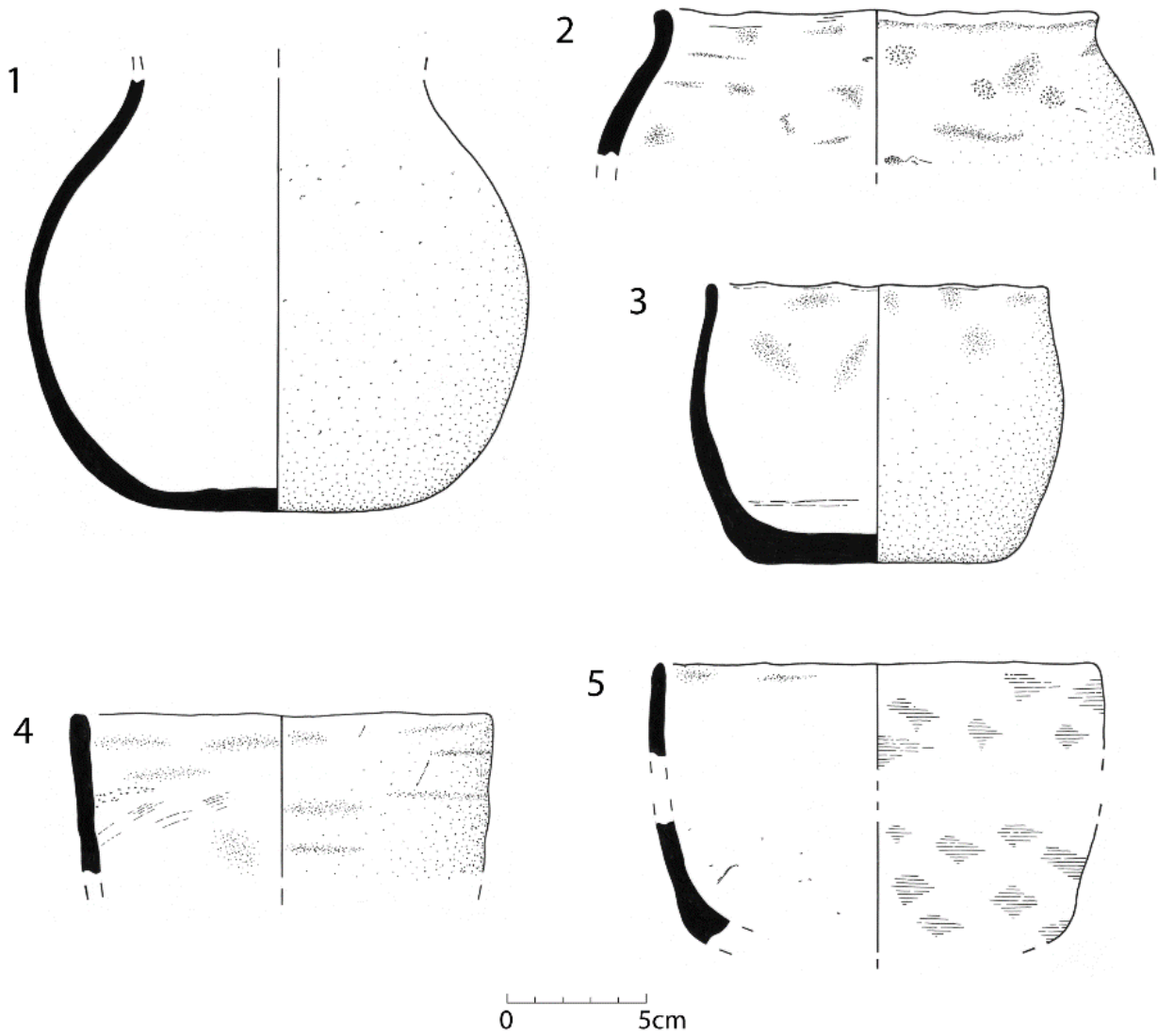


Figure 38: Early – Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery

7.4 Worked Lithics (by Lynden Cooper)

A total of 133 worked lithics were classified, bar a natural item from (502), and are listed in the table below.

Table 5: Worked lithics

Context	Classification	Context	Classification	Context	Classification	Context	Classification
35	2ry flake	539	end scraper	603	2ry flake	666	flake frag
114	2ry flake	542	2 x 2ry flake	608	2 x 2ry flake	671	core
452	core	542	3ry flake	609	4 x 2ry flake	682	core
502	natural	547	core	610	2 x 2ry flake	686	2 x 2ry flake
504	core	547	shatter	610	flake frag	687	core
507	2ry flake	547	2ry flake	621	flake frag	687	3 x 2ry flake
515	core	550	2ry flake	621	shatter	687	flake frag
517	2 x core	550	core	623	core	688	core
517	3 x 2ry flake	562	quartzite, burnt frag	623	shatter	688	2ry flake
517	1ry flake	562	core	624	2ry flake	702	core
517	shatter	562	core	635	2ry flake	709	2ry flake
518	4 x 2ry flake	565	2 x 2ry flake	635	3ry flake	711	2ry flake
519	3ry blade (Wolds)	567	3ry flake	637	2ry flake	711	flake frag
519	3ry bladelet	573	2 x flake frags, burnt	639	core	721	2ry flake
519	2 x 2ry flake	580	1ry flake	648	1ry flake	722	2ry flake
519	flake frag calcined	580	3 x 3ry flake	648	4 x 2ry flake	722	3ry flake
519	3ry flake	580	core	648	core	729	2ry flake
520	2ry flake	582	2ry flake	648	thumbnail scraper	732	2 x 2ry flake
520	core	590	flake frag	648	bladelet frag	741	2ry flake
526	3 x 2ry flake	590	2ry flake	658	2ry flake	506 sf13	hammer? natural
528	2ry flake	594	2 x core	658	core	sf11	ground stone axe
533	1ry flake	594	core on flake	659	2ry flake	unstrat	3ry flake
536	retouched flake	596	2ry flake	660	2ry flake	unstrat	2ry flake
539	flake fragment	599	natural	661	core	unstrat	2ry flake
539	3 x 2ry flake	603	2ry flake	661	2 x 2ry flake	unstrat	core
539	3ry flake	603	flake frag	666	2 x 2ry flake		

Discussion

The assemblage was mostly of a local raw material, semi-translucent grey brown flint, derived from till deposits. Exceptions are a quartzite fragment and an elegant blade made from opaque grey Wolds flint. This blade is well-crafted and is curved in longitudinal profile, possibly indicating a Creswellian origin (Late Upper Palaeolithic). The blade is lacking its butt so further technological confirmation is not possible. A bladelet from the same context is likely to be of Mesolithic date. The remaining pieces display a flake technology and are likely to be of a later prehistoric origin, spanning the Neolithic to Bronze Age. The presence of a finely made thumbnail scraper would suggest that some of the assemblage might be of Early Bronze Age date. However, a ground stone axe (Sf11) (fig.1) and a flake from a grey polished stone axe from (603) suggest some Neolithic input.



Figure 39: Neolithic ground stone axe (SF11)

7.5 Quern and other fragments of stones (by Nicholas J. Cooper)

Introduction

The remains of a beehive rotary quern came from [92] (629) and a fragment of a saddle quern was recovered from [103] (= [21]) (661). Other fragments of stone, comprising undiagnostic flat pieces of Swithland slate (probably from roofing slates of Roman or medieval date) from [8] (514) and [11] (519), a small lump of weathered granodiorite also from [11] (519) and three flakes of fine grey stone from [10] (518), were recovered (all discarded). The occurrence of a weathered granodiorite lump, raises the possibility that this opening material was being brought to the Site, from the nearby Mountsorrel outcrop, for pottery manufacture. Additionally, a large lump of granodiorite with a flat surface (sf24) was recovered from [92] (629), the same context as the beehive quern. It has sooted surfaces suggesting use in a hearth but does not appear to have been previously used as a saddle quern (it has therefore not been retained in the finds archive).

The Querns

1) Sf21 and 22 [92] (629) (fig.1). Two joining halves from an extremely worn upper stone of a Hunsbury type beehive rotary quern, manufactured from Millstone Grit. A hopper in the form of an inverted cone feeds into cylindrical feed pipe. There are two handle slots set opposite on another on the side of the stone, one perforated right through to the worn and concave lower surface. Diameter 300mm, height 95mm.



Figure 40: two joining halves of upper stone from Hunsbury type beehive quern

2) Sf25 [103] (661) (fig.2). Small fragment of saddle quern with dished and polished upper surface, made from a grey metamorphic rock; probably a glacial erratic from the boulder clay. Length 195mm.



Figure 41: Small fragment of saddle quern from pit [103]

Discussion

Beehive rotary querns of the so-called Hunsbury type become common in the middle to late Iron Age and are the first to be manufactured centrally from the Millstone Grit in Derbyshire and thus replace the more conservative tradition of using saddle querns from locally available sources such as boulders in the drift deposits. The best local collection of beehive querns is from the hill fort at Burrough Hill where they have been found in 3rd and 4th-century BC contexts, a close match to the present example coming from Pit 7 during the 1960s excavations (Thomas 2012, 94-95, fig. 31.42).

7.6 Roman tile, burnt daub, and annular loom weights (by Nicholas J. Cooper)

Introduction

A total of 57 fragments of fired clay weighing 1820g were recovered from 11 stratified contexts, alongside two fragments of annular fired clay loom weight (100g) that were recovered unstratified. Additionally, three fragments (58g) from a Roman imbrex roof tile were recovered from [76] (610). The assemblage was quantified by fragment count and weight with any surface features such as wattle impressions and flattened surfaces were noted (see table below).

Analysis

Table 6: Roman tile, and fired clay (burnt daub) fragments from Rothley

Cut	Context	Frag	Weight	description
1	504	1	20	?hearth lining
1	504	15	605	daub with flat surface
1	504	1	75	daub with wattle impression
1	506	5	445	Sf14 daub with flat surface
	524	10	30	daub
	546	4	120	daub with wattle impressions
	556	2	15	daub
	562	1	10	daub
	590	1	85	daub with wattle impressions
76	610	3	58	imbrex tile
	633	8	240	daub with flat surface and parallel wattle impressions
94	635	1	25	Sf23 flattened sphere of fired clay with fingertip impression
94	635	5	70	daub
111	677	2	30	daub
145	736	1	50	daub with wattle impression
	US	2	100	two frags of Anglo-Saxon annular loom weights diam 120mm
Total		62	1978	Average Fragment weight 32g

Over half the assemblage by weight comes from [1] (504) and (506) which also contained fragments of hearth lining detailed in the report on industrial residues (see Section 7.11). These context groups included thick fragments with a flat surface (sf14) and others with wattle impressions, perhaps from a hearth or other structure. Burnt daub with wattle impressions was also recovered from (546), (590), (633) and (746). Context (635) [94] contained a small flattened sphere of fired clay (sf23; length 37mm) with a single fingertip and nail impression in its surface. The only diagnostic fired clay objects were single fragments from two annular loom weights with diameters of 120mm. Such weights were used on upright warp-weighted looms of the Early Anglo-Saxon period (Leahy 2003, 67, fig.33).

7.7 Animal Bone (by Jennifer Browning)

Introduction

130 Fragments of animal bone were hand-recovered during excavation of settlement activity at Rothley.

Methods

Bones were identified with reference to comparative skeletal material held by Leicester University, School of Archaeology and Ancient History. Species, anatomy, state of fusion, completeness and modifications by humans or other agents were recorded, to elicit information on species proportions, skeletal representation, age and condition. In addition, where possible, the anatomical part of each skeletal element was recorded following the 'zone' method defined by Serjeantson (1996), with additional zones ascribed to mandibles, based on the system outlined by Dobney and Reilly (1988). Butchery marks were located by zone, where feasible and described using a simple code. Other modifications, such as burning, gnawing and pathologies, were also recorded. Measurements were taken as appropriate following von den Dreisch (1976). Information was compiled onto a *pro forma* computerised spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel).

Results

The assemblage was small and poorly preserved. It is very telling that the most common surviving fragments were teeth and tooth enamel fragments and calcined fragments; all of which are more durable than unburnt bones. Calcination is often characterised by a 'porcelain' or 'glassy' appearance and white colour and indicates that bones have been heated to temperatures of around 800 degrees (Nicholson 1993, 425). Cattle and deer were positively identified in the assemblage, as well as animals of sheep/pig size.

Context	Pres	NISp	Taxon	Element	No Frags	Notes
504	4	1	cattle	molar	7	fragmented cattle molar
504	4	1	med mml	shaft fragment	1	Calcined shaft fragment
512	4	1	cattle	molar	13	tooth enamel
547	4	1	cattle	molar	18	fragmented cattle molar.
597	4	12	cattle	molar	11	tooth enamel
598	4	3	med mml	shaft fragment	3	Calcined fragments
598	4	1	indeterminate	skull fragment	1	Calcined skull frag or other flat bone- calcined
598	4	1	pig	femur	1	calcined
599	3	2	cattle	molar	4	upper
599	2	1	cattle	molar	1	lower molar
599	3	1	horse	molar	1	lower cheek tooth
599	3	1	sheep/goat	molar	1	lower molar
600	4	1	cattle	molar	11	tooth enamel- m3
620	4	2	indeterminate	shaft fragment	2	
620	4	2	cattle	molar	2	tooth enamel
622	4	1	med mml	rib fragment	1	calcined
622	4	1	sheep/goat	phalanx 1	1	Distal fused, calcined

622	4	1	med mml	vertebra	1	unfused vertebral body, calcined
628	4	1	cattle	molar	30	Fragmented tooth enamel molar. Min 1 tooth.
629	4	1	sheep/goat	molar	15	fragmented molar
635	4	1	cattle	molar	7	tooth enamel
677	3	2	med mml	shaft fragment	2	
677	3	1	large mml	shaft fragment	1	
677	3	1	sheep/goat	pelvis	1	

Table 7: Catalogue of faunal remains

Conclusion

It is unfortunate that bones did not survive well in the soil conditions at the Site. The resulting assemblage is unable to provide much information regarding the economy or the use of animal products at the Site. However, both wild and domestic species were present, which suggests both pastoral farming and the exploitation of nearby wild resources.

7.8 Metalwork (by Gavin Speed)

Nineteen metal objects were recovered from inhumation burials across the Site.

Iron Age Objects

SF12, a small curved iron nail from an Iron Age pit.

SF18, a small iron nail from an Iron Age gully.

SF19, a small iron rivet or fixing, from an Iron Age ditch.

SF20, a small curved copper alloy object, from an Iron Age ditch.

Anglo-Saxon Objects

Grave [5]

Within grave [5] were three metal objects found in the middle of the grave cut (i.e. at the waist /hip) on the west edge. These consisted of a chatelaine chain and hoops (SF2a), a chisel (SF2b) and small knife (SF2c).

SF2a, an iron chatelaine chain and hoops. Consists of a large circular hoop 580mm diameter, connected to three smaller iron hoops each with 100mm diameter via chains. Also a further separate iron hoop 240mm diameter. Chatelaine chains were popular in the 7th century AD, though some appear in earlier graves (Owen-Crocker 1986, 128). Similar chatelaines were found in nine graves at Castledyke, Barton on Humber cemetery, two were dated to the 6th century, the others to the 7th century or late 7th century (Drinkall & Foreman 1998, 285), a grave in a cemetery at Cleatham had a chatelaine chain dating to the 7th century (Leahy 2007, 160). Often worn on the left hip of a female.

SF2b, a chisel (130mm L (35mm socket) 14mm W. Fused to SF2c.

SF2c, knife, 85mm long (broken), 18mm wide, shaft 30mm, also lots of fragments. 'Small' size group in Harke's classification. Short / narrow seax SX1-a/b in Neilson's classification.

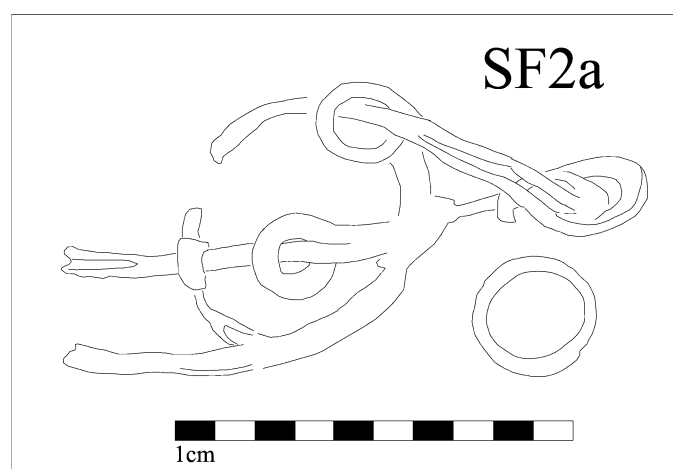


Figure 42: Iron chatelaine chain and hoops (SF2a)

Grave [25]

Within grave [25] were four objects, consisting of a shield boss (SF3) (with shield mounts / fittings, SF6b & 7), a belt buckle (SF5), a knife (SF6a), and spearhead (SF8).

SF3, A large fragment of shield boss (over half). The cone profile is slightly convex. Following Nielson 2013 methods of classification, the boss has the following measurements: height of cone: 169mm, height of wall: 20mm, total diameter 130mm, total height 180mm. Found on its side and half removed from ploughing. Surviving half has human bone fused to the boss on the outside, also further small fragments. There is a separate curved iron strip around the lower flange, which was used to attach the wooden shield to the boss. Two small rivets are visible. Another piece of this curved strip is fused to the side of the boss. There are traces of mineralised oak wood on the boss and the riveting strip. Two large headed rivets are also present, with traces of oak, perhaps used to attach the handle to the shield. The shield boss is a 'sugar loaf' or conical form, this is viewed as a developed form of boss from the second half of the 7th-century AD (Dickinson & Härke 1992, 21, see also Evison 1963). Shield boss type SB5-c (Nielsen 2013, 160-161), refined C14 dating from a large dataset indicates dates range from AD 580s-680s (Bayliss et al 2013, 249). This is a transitional period with the re-emergence of Christianity (with fewer grave goods). Shields were generally only buried with adult males of a relatively high social status (Härke 1992).



Figure 43: Shield boss (SF3) photo and drawing

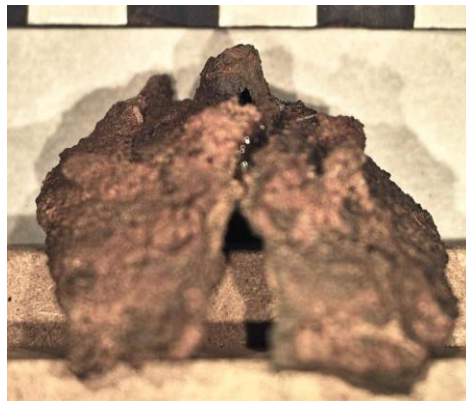


Figure 44: Detailed view showing spike on top



Figure 45: Detail view of mineralised wood on the boss and riveting ring on shield boss (SF3)

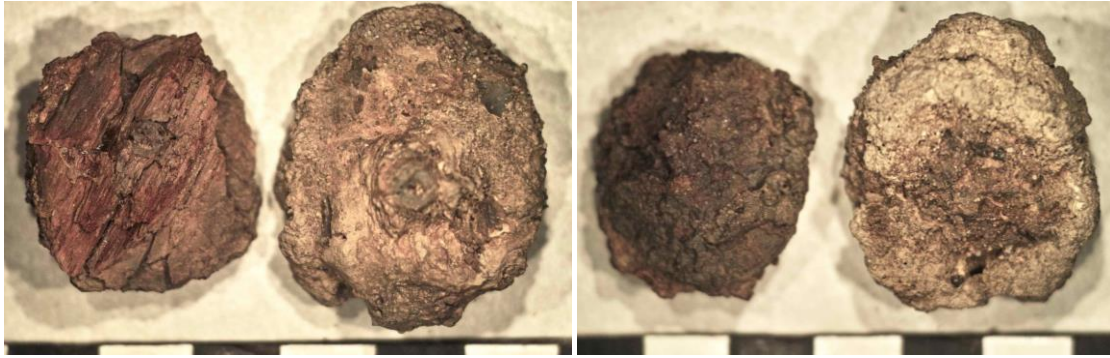


Figure 46: Large rivets on shield boss (SF3)

SF5, iron buckle, length 25mm, width 15mm. Small, oval frame, plain, iron pin with circular cross-section. Class 1 in Marzinzik 2003 classification (Marzinzik 2003), class BU2 (buckle with no plate or associated belt-mount) in Nielsen, other examples of this type AD 450-550 (Nielsen 2013, 137).

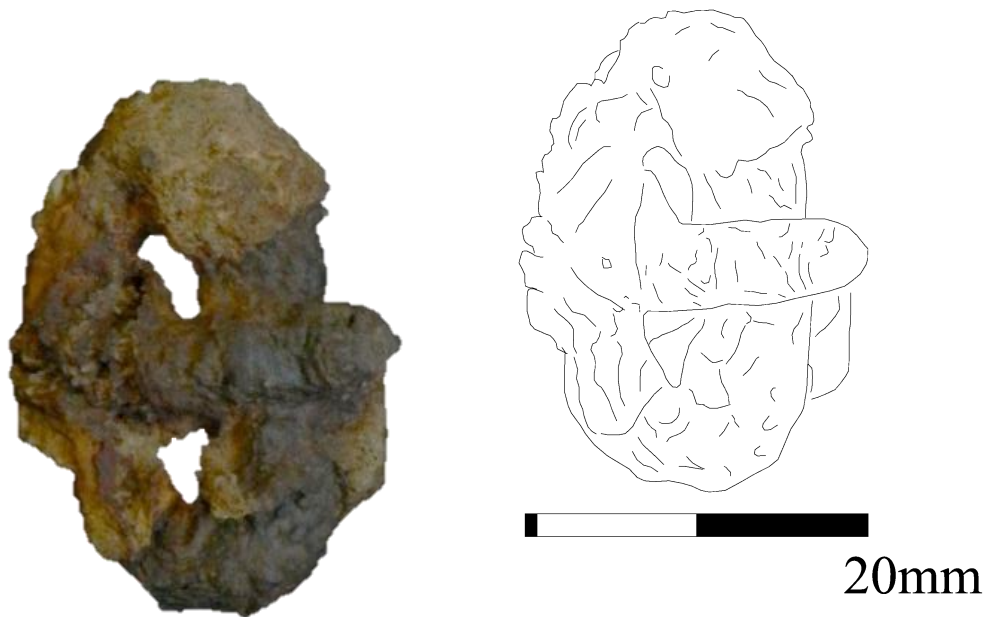


Figure 47: Iron buckle photo and drawing

SF6a, knife, total length 140mm, blade 110mm, socket 30mm, blade width 18mm, 52g weight (with corrosion). This knife has a curved back, and straight cutting edge. It fits within a 'medium' size group in Härke's classification (Härke 1992, 144), and a narrow seax 'Sax1' in Mussemeier et al 2003 (in Nielsen 2013) classification. These are seen as 6th or 7th century in date (Evison 1987, 115). The blade length could indicate that this is a male adult burial (Härke 1989, 145; Walton Rogers 2007, 138).

SF6b, two small rivets, likely part of the shield boss.

SF7, shield mount / fitting consisting, likely part of the shield boss. '8' shaped, length 50mm, width 30mm.



Figure 48: Photo of knife (SF6)



Figure 49: '8'-shaped, shield mount / fitting? 5cm L, 3cm W (SF7)

SF8 & 9, angular spearhead, length 300mm, blade length 225mm, shaft 75mm, width 65mm & 330mm. SF9, spearhead tip (joins with SF8), top broken and fused together (bent over?), 5cm to 2cm. Length of socket (plough damaged): 84mm, blade length: 370mm, maximum width of blade: 71mm. The spearhead fits into the 'SP2-a' class, angular spearheads that have a maximum width located in the lower half of the blade, it is in the 'Long2' size-group (the largest, over 329mm), based on Nielson 2013 who offers a detailed spearhead typology, based on over 500 examples, Nielsen 2013, 164). This type generally in use AD 525- 560s. Slightly earlier date than the shield boss, perhaps the spearhead is 50+ year old when placed in grave. There are remains of the mineralised Ash shaft in the socket. This was cut from a mature piece of timber with at least 25 rings. Fragments of human teeth were found in the soil around the spearhead.

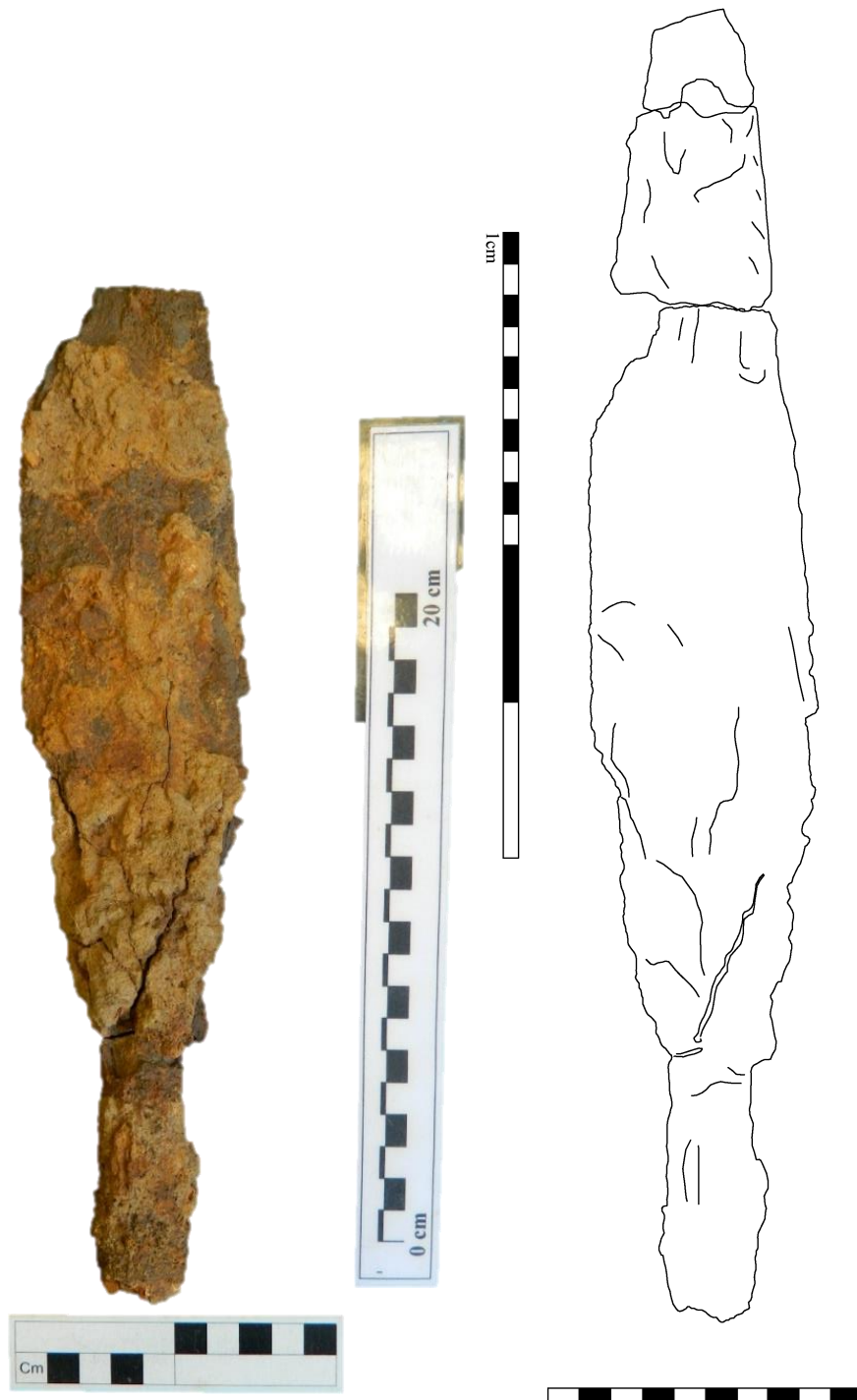


Figure 50: Angular spearhead (SF8 & 9)

Grave [16]

Within grave [16] was a penannular brooch (SF15).

SF15, Anglo-Saxon penannular brooch, this is a narrow copper alloy ring, moulded oval-shaped 25-28mm diameter. Smaller than the average diameter of annular brooches at Cleatham, Lincs (Leahy 2007), smaller examples are presumed to be later in date (7th century), though late examples often have copper alloy pins (this example is iron so contradicts this chronological view - hybrid?). Presumably from a female burial. Nielson brooch type BR3-f (Nielson 2013, 223). Range in date from 5th - 7th century AD.



Figure 51: Anglo-Saxon penannular brooch (SF15)

Grave [109]

Within grave [109] were two objects, consisting of a pin (SF26) and a knife (SF27).

SF26, small pin, 30mm long.

SF27, knife, total length 195mm, blade 160mm, socket 35mm, blade width 25mm, 52g weight (with some corrosion). This knife has a curved back, and straight cutting edge, similar to SF6a. It fits within a 'medium' size group in Härke's classification (Härke 1992, 144), and a narrow seax 'Sax1' in Mussemeier et al 2003 (in Nielsen 2013) classification. These are seen as 6th or 7th century in date (Evison 1987, 115). The blade length could indicate that this is a male adult burial (Härke 1989, 145; Walton Rogers 2007, 138).



Figure 52: Knife (SF27)

Objects found elsewhere

SF 16, fuel ash, found in the upper Bronze Age ring ditch backfill.

SF 17, a small lump of iron, found in the upper Bronze Age ring ditch backfill.

7.9 Charred Plants Remains (Rachel Small)

Introduction

Twenty-eight bulk samples were taken for the analysis of charred plant remains. All except for sample 10 (521)[13], which was a fill of a cremation pit and was damaged in transit, were processed and analysed. The samples dated from the Neolithic to Anglo-Saxon periods and were taken from a variety of features including pit fills (some of which were cremations), gully fills, ditch fills and grave fills. The analysis of the charred plant remains recovered from these samples are presented by period and sample, together with a discussion of what this can potentially tell us about the diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the Site over time.

Methodology

The samples were a light grey orange clay and were processed 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 left to air dry, then sorted in their entirety for plant remains and other artefacts under a x10-40 stereo microscope. The plant remains and artefacts from the flots were retained for archive except for five grains from four samples which were sent off for radio-carbon dating (see section 7.10). The residues were also air dried and the fractions over 4mm sorted in their entirety, whilst the residues under 4mm were scanned for remains. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991).

Results

Charred plant remains, including grains and wild seeds, were present in very low densities in the samples, less than two items per litre (table 1). Preservation of the remains was generally poor. Very little of the outer surface (epidermis) of grains remained and this meant the specimens were only identifiable by gross morphology (Hubbard and Azm's 1990 stage 5). The latter is suggestive of burning at high temperatures and this may also be the reason for the absence of chaff (as glume bases and rachis, for example, are more readily destroyed during charring - see Boardman and Jones 1990). The wild seeds tended to have abraded surfaces and this can result from movement within the soil (due to disturbance). Further evidence for soil disturbance includes the presence of intrusive modern seeds including brambles (*Rubus* spp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.), ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia* L.) and rootlets. These specimens have probably entered the soil through ploughing (a recent activity in the field). Ground disturbance was also noted in the pottery report (sections 7.1 to 7.3) and therefore some doubt is cast over the stratigraphic integrity of the charred plant remains.

The results of the charred plant remains will now be presented by period and sample:

Neolithic

Sample [4] was taken from the fill (519) of a Neolithic cremation pit [11]. No charred plant remains were present.

Bronze Age

Sample 12 was taken from the primary fill (528) of a Bronze Age cremation pit [18]. A single large grass seed (Poaceae) was recovered.

Iron Age

Nine samples were taken from Iron Age features, four of which contained charred plant remains:

Sample 9 (522) [13] Cremation pit. Present in this sample were two cereal grains (which could not be identified to species) and a large grass seed.

Sample 15 (567) [44] Pit. This feature contained three large grass seeds.

Sample 18 (598) [66] Cremation pit. This sample had the densest concentration of remains at 1.2 items per litre. Five cereal grains were present, and it was possible to identify two as glume wheat (*Triticum* spp.) and one as barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.). A small number of wild seeds were also identified including vetch (*Vicia* spp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum* spp.) and large grass.

Sample 22 (662)[95] Gully. This feature contained one probable barley grain and one large grass seed.

Roman

Sample 13 was taken from the Roman fill (530) of a Bronze Age barrow ditch. No charred plant remains were present in this sample.

Anglo-Saxon

Fifteen samples were taken from the backfills of Anglo-Saxon graves and five of the samples contained charred plant remains:

Sample 5 (515) [9]

Five grains were present in this sample; it was possible to identify two as barley and one as possible free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* L.) due to its rounded form. Wild seeds were identified and included a probable sedge (*Carex* spp.) and a dock/sedge seed (*Rumex/Carex* spp.).

Sample 7 (504) [1] and Sample 8 (506) [1]

Both of these samples were from the same feature, sample 8 was from the primary fill (506) of the grave and sample 7 was from the main back-fill (504). In sample 7 (504) a barley grain and a cereal grain/large grass seed were present, and in sample 8 (506) a possible free-threshing grain and a large grass seed.

Sample 14 (541) [25]

One cereal grain, a large grass seed, and an indeterminate wild seed were present.

Sample 20 (622) [80]

A single knotgrass seed was present in this sample.

Table 8: *Plant remains and artefacts present in the flots. Key: underlining indicates extraction for radiocarbon dating.*

Sample	Context	Cut	Feature description	Phase	Volume (L)	Charred grain	Charred seed	Charcoal	Un-charred seeds	Modern roots	Comments
1	510	5	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10			+	++	+	
2	511	5	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	8			+	+	+	
3	513	7	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10			+	+	+	
4	519	11	Cremation pit	Neolithic	10			+	++	+	
5	515	9	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10	+	+	+	++	+	Charred: <u>2 x barley grain</u> , 1 x probable free-threshing wheat grain, 1 x cereal grain, 1 x cereal grain/large grass seed, 1 x dock/sedge seed, 1 x probable sedge seed. Items per litre: 0.7.
6	520	12	Grave	Anglo-Saxon				+		+	
7	504	1	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10	+	+	+	+	+	Charred: <u>1 x barley grain</u> , 1 x cereal grain/large grass seed. Items per litre: 0.2.
8	506	1	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10	+	+	+	++	+	Charred: 1 x probable free-threshing grain, 1 x large grass seed. Items per litre: 0.2.
9	522	13	Cremation pit	Late Iron Age	10	+	+	++	++	+	Charred: <u>2 x cereal grain</u> , 1 x large grass seed. Items per litre: 0.3.
11	525	16	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10			+	++	+	
12	528	18	Cremation pit	Bronze Age	10		+	+	++	+	Charred: 1 x large grass seed. Items per litre: 0.1.
13	530		Ring ditch	Roman	5			++	++	+	
14	541	25	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10	+	+	+	++	+	Charred: 1 x cereal grain, 1 x large grass seed, 1 x indeterminate seed. Items per litre: 0.3.
15	567	44	Pit	Late Iron Age	10		+	+	++	+	Charred: 3 x large grass seed. Items per litre: 0.3.
16	577	30	Gully	Iron Age	10			+		+	
17	595	6	Ditch	Iron Age	10			+		+	
18	598	66	Cremation pit	Late Iron Age	10	+	+	+++	++		Charred: 2 x cereal grain, 2 x glume-wheat grain, 1 x barley grain, 1 x vetch, 5 x large grass seed, 1 x knotweed seed. Items per litre: 1.2.
19	628	92	Pit	Iron Age	10			+	++	+	
20	622	88	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10		+	+	++	++	Charred: 1 x knotgrass. Items per litre: 0.1.
21	635	94	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10			+	+	+	
22	662	95	Gully	Iron Age	10	+	+	+			Charred: <u>1 x probable barley grain</u> , 1 x large grass seed. Items per litre: 0.2.
23	671	109	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10			++		+	Feul ash.
24	671	109	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10			+		+	
25	677	111	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10			+	+	+	
26	701	115	Grave	Anglo-Saxon	10			+	++	+	
27	709	121	Pit	Iron Age	3			Flecks			
28	719	3	Gully	Trasnitional Iron Age /Roman	10			+		+	Feul ash.

Discussion

Very few charred plant remains were found in the samples analysed. It was suggested that burning at high temperatures led to poor preservation of the remains and this could potentially explain the absence of chaff as glume bases and rachis. However, a low concentration of remains is typical of Leicestershire

Iron Age/ Roman sites such as Kirby Muxloe and Enderby (Monckton 2011, 133-134). It has been suggested this is due to a greater emphasis on pastoral rather than arable farming, particularly for those sites which lie on heavy clay soils or in low lying areas (*ibid.*)

It was also suggested that the stratigraphic integrity of the charred plant remains was dubious due to indications of soil disturbance – abrasion to the charred remains and the presence of modern uncharred seeds. One of the four samples sent off for analysis (sample ID SUERC-70779 GU42557), which was from the back fill (515) of Anglo-Saxon grave [9], was residual as its radiocarbon result was 51 BC (at 95% probability), or between 38 BC and AD 38 (68% probability). This could be attributed to the backfilling of this feature. However, the radiocarbon dates of the other three samples were consistent with the Site stratigraphy and pottery evidence.

It is likely the plant remains found in the samples represent waste from small-scale processing of cereal grains for consumption and accidental food spillage in the prehistoric period. The waste may have been deliberately burnt on a hearth, acting as good tinder. Due to the lack of a dense concentration of plant remains, it is unlikely this activity was carried out in the immediate vicinity in which the samples were taken. Instead, ash from a fire situated a distance away would have blown across the Site creating a generic spread and collecting in open features such as pits. It is likely that these prehistoric remains were back filled into the Anglo-Saxon graves.

The charred plant remains provide evidence for the consumption of barley and wheat throughout the periods. There is potentially evidence for the transition from glume wheat to free-threshing wheat in the Anglo-Saxon period, and this is typical of English sites. However, the potential free-threshing grains may represent more rounded forms of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L.) dating to the prehistoric period which were incorporated into the back fills of the Anglo-Saxon graves. There was also no evidence for the consumption of wild foods at the Site but this could be due to the small sample size. The wild seeds present such as docks, are suggestive of agricultural land, whilst the presence of sedge suggests fields with poor drainage.

There is no clear evidence for any ritual deposition of organic remains in the graves. However, uncharred organic material holding cultural significance in the Anglo-Saxon period may have been deposited along with the body and subsequently rotted, and therefore was no longer archaeologically visible.

Conclusion

Due to the small density of charred plant remains and poor preservation, the assemblage has provided limited interpretations as to diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the Site through time. The main conclusion drawn was that the remains present are prehistoric in date and are typical of waste from small-scale processing of barley and wheat for consumption. The waste collected in open features and was backfilled into Anglo-Saxon graves. It was also suggested that the fields in which the crops were grown were likely damp due to poor drainage. The small density of remains is likely due to burning at high temperatures, reducing the quantity of remains found in the archaeological record, or possibly due to a greater focus on pastoralism at the Site. The latter has been suggested for other Leicestershire sites with a similar composition and quantity of charred plant remains (such as at Kirby Muxloe and Enderby).

7.10 Radiocarbon Dating (By Gavin Speed)

Six samples of carbonized residues from environmental samples recovered from features were submitted to Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility (SUERC) for radiocarbon dating, and processed on 16/12/2016.

The below ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal4).

Lab ID	Sample ID	Context	Material	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Radiocarbon Age (BP)	Calibrated Date (95% confidence)
SUERC-70779 (GU42557)	5	515	Grain: hordeum vulgare cf Triticum sp.	-23.8%	1993 \pm 30	51 – 72 BC
SUERC-70780 (GU42558)	7	504	Grain: hordeum vulgare	-25.1%	281 \pm 30	AD 1505-1794
SUERC-70781 (GU42559)	9	522	Grain: indeterminate cereal	-25% assumed	2058 \pm 30	171 BC – AD 5
SUERC-70782 (GU42560)	18	598	Charcoal: corylus avellana / Alnus spp	-25.2%	2037 \pm 30	161 BC – AD 49
SUERC-70783 (GU42561)	22	662	Grain: cf Hordeum vulgare	-22.8%	1998 \pm 30	54 BC – AD 71
SUERC-70784 (GU42562)	24	671	Charcoal: acer campestre	-27.2%	Fraction modern 1.2344 \pm 300.0044	AD 1950+

Table 9: Radiocarbon results

7.11 Industrial Residues (By Heidi Addison)

The excavation produced a total of 916g of industrial material from eight contexts: 504, 506, 595, 598, 677, 711, 737 and 738. The assemblage was subject to visual identification and quantified by count and weight, as detailed in Table 1 below, and summarised in the table below.

Results

Table 10: Quantified record of material by context.

Context	Weight (g)	Description
504	279	5 fragments of ceramic lining- 2 joining fragments are c.40mm thickness-oxidised outer surface and reduced inner surface with vitrification. A partial hole for a tuyère (depth 18mm) on 1 fragment.
506	201	2 fragments ceramic lining with oxidised outer surfaces and reduced inner surfaces-1 with a glassy vitrification- The other has a partial hole for a tuyère (depth 20mm).
595	12	Fuel ash slag. Light grey.
598	183	Fuel ash slag. Some charcoal incorporated.
677	12	Fuel ash slag. Light grey.
711	10	Daub

737	90 33	Ceramic hearth lining with iron fayalite slagging. Flat, dark grey and vesicular. Vitreous glassy remains of hearth or sand on upper and lower surfaces. Morphology may indicate a position around tuyère area Ceramic lining. Sandy, oxidised outer surface and reduced inner surface with vitrification. A slight curve of probable tuyère hole.
738	96	1 oxidised ceramic fragment (86g) of hearth or possibly furnace structure; approximately 35mm thick and 1 reduced fired and vitrified ceramic lining fragment.
Total	916	

Table 2: Quantified list by material

Ceramic lining	699g
Fuel ash slag	207g
Daub	10g

Overview and Discussion

The excavation yielded a small quantity of industrial residues from the eight contexts listed above. The majority of the assemblage consists of ceramic hearth lining including three fragments which present distinctive curves, where a tuyère was positioned from contexts (504), (506) and (737). A ceramic lining fragment 90g with iron slag debris from 737 provides the only evidence for an iron working process which, cannot be determined. The remaining material indicates unknown high temperature activities.

8. Discussion

The Loughborough Road Site lies on the slope of high ground overlooking the confluence of the Rivers Soar, River Wreake, and Rothley Brook. This area is rich in archaeological remains, the earliest human activity from the Site dates to the Late Upper Palaeolithic (a curved longitudinal blade), a Mesolithic bladelet from the same context indicates activity in the area at an early date. The evidence from this excavation has added significantly more to our understanding of the prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon landscapes of this area.

Middle Neolithic	Bronze Age	Late Iron Age	'Belgic'	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Modern
3500-3300 BC	1900-1550 BC	171-159BC	30 BC – AD 60	AD 43-410	AD 410-650	AD 650-1900	AD 1900-2016
Ring ditch & barrow (round mound'), cremation burial	Ring ditch & barrow remodelled?	Enclosures, cremation burials	Enclosures, inhumation burials	none	Inhumation burials, structures	Ploughing, ridge and furrow	Ploughed field, allotments 2000-2016, 2016+ residential housing

8.1 Middle Neolithic: Round Mound Constructed

The first significant human activity saw a ring ditch and mound constructed on the slope of high ground overlooking the confluence of the Rivers Soar, Wreake, and Rothley Brook. Round barrows are the most common form of prehistoric monument in Britain, with over 30,000 known examples (Parker Pearson 1993, 91), of which most are Bronze Age. A far fewer number (around 800) are thought to be from the Neolithic (Kinnes 1979, 49) and these are often termed 'round mounds'. Identification and research into these monuments has recently seen a revival across Britain (see various papers in Leary *et al* 2010). In Leicestershire 250 ring-ditches (likely of varying dates) are known from cropmarks, 27 showing evidence of surviving mounds (Clay 2001), but few have been excavated. The notable excavated examples include Cossington (Thomas 2003), Lockington (Hughes 2000), Melton Mowbray, and Sproxton and Tixover (Clay 1981). Crucially here the Rothley round mound appears to have much earlier origins in the Neolithic.

The Rothley round mound consisted of a ring ditch, 27m in diameter which probably encircled a grassed earthen mound. It was a simple sub-circular single ditch (with evidence for a much later recut), between 3-4m wide and between 1.1-1.5m deep. There was no evidence for a central 'primary' burial, although the significant plough damage may have removed all trace, or else the burial may have been within the mound. The mound soil only survived as an eroded displaced soil layer to the north. The mound may have contained no primary burial and simply acted as a landscape marker, with a cenotaphic function (Thomas 2013, 81). Presumably associated with the round mound were three cremation pit burials, one with an urn ([11]), and two un-urned to the south of the ring ditch ([18] and [53]). The latter two could instead be evidence for disposal (or burial) of pyre material (as seen at Eye Kettleby, see Finn 2011). Charcoal pits found in association with barrows have been noted in examples at Raunds (Healy & Harding 2007, 65).

Dating for the ring ditch and barrow is provided by 8 sherds of early Neolithic Carinated Bowl (from primary silts in Sections D & F on Figure 5) along with 44 sherds of middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware, and a ground stone axe. Carinated Bowls at nearby Temple Grange had an associated radiocarbon date of 3510-3340 cal BC (which lies right at the end of the Carinated Bowl tradition, see Cooper 2015, 13). This is coincident with the start of the Peterborough Ware sequence at Willington, Derbyshire dated 3510-3360 (Marsden *et al.* 2009, 96). The fact that both wares are occurring in the same contexts here might mean that they are broadly contemporary, rather than the Carinated Bowl being residual. A similar Peterborough Ware assemblage has been radiocarbon dated at Ratcliffe on

Soar to 3370 to 3090 cal BC and 3120 to 2910 cal BC (Moore 2008, 5). This would indicate construction of the ring ditch around 3500-3300 BC.

Neolithic occupation evidence is rare both regionally and nationally, however, recent excavations have shown this part of the Soar valley was a significant and active place throughout the Neolithic with varied lithic scatters, ceremonial areas, and settlement evidence identified (Thomas 2008, Speed 2015, Clay & Hunt 2016). Immediately adjacent to the north of the Loughborough Road Site, at Temple Grange, nationally significant early and late Neolithic remains, including buildings, pits containing 'structured deposits'; and associated activity and pottery were discovered (Speed 2011, 2015).

The location of the Neolithic round mound on a high ridge, would have made the monument visible from miles around in the surrounding river valleys. It may have acted as a draw or focus to settlement and activity 100m downslope (at Rothley Grange, Speed 2015). There, a Neolithic sunken-pit structure, and numerous pits contained the formal disposal of lithic objects (often in pristine condition) and unabraded pottery vessels. One pit was radiocarbon dated to 3510-4430 cal BC date (Speed 2015, 2). Intriguingly pieces of a deliberately broken-up ground axe were found in the structure and three other pits. Similar activity has been paralleled within the round mound ring ditch, where a ground axe was deposited on the east side (Figure 3).

The deliberate act of burying these objects indicates structured deposition, perhaps a ritual. These may have reinforced links between communities and places in the landscape (Edmonds 1999, 29); the burial of 'transformed' materials perhaps symbolising renewal and regeneration, integral to a process of 'place making' (Pollard 1999; Harris 2009; Carver 2011). Such depositional practices have been recorded across the later prehistory of Europe, and there is the suggestion by some scholars (Pollard (2001, 323; Thomas 1999) that the burial of *transformed* materials is an act of special treatment bound up in ideologies of symbolic renewal and regeneration. The deposition of axes in special places is well known in the Neolithic as is their deliberate destruction. Just like human remains, axes were brought and deposited in these special places (Fowler 2003, 49). The acts of destruction and deposition at Rothley, along with the prominent round mound on the ridge, allowed such references, and helped to forge a link between people and place. The Rothley round mound and 'ritual pits' to the north may not have been contemporary, but the product of repeated activity in the same spot over a prolonged period of time. The Neolithic round mound permanently marked a place in the landscape. Certainly it seems likely that this developed as a 'special place' from quite early on, and the repeated use of the area would have enhanced that.

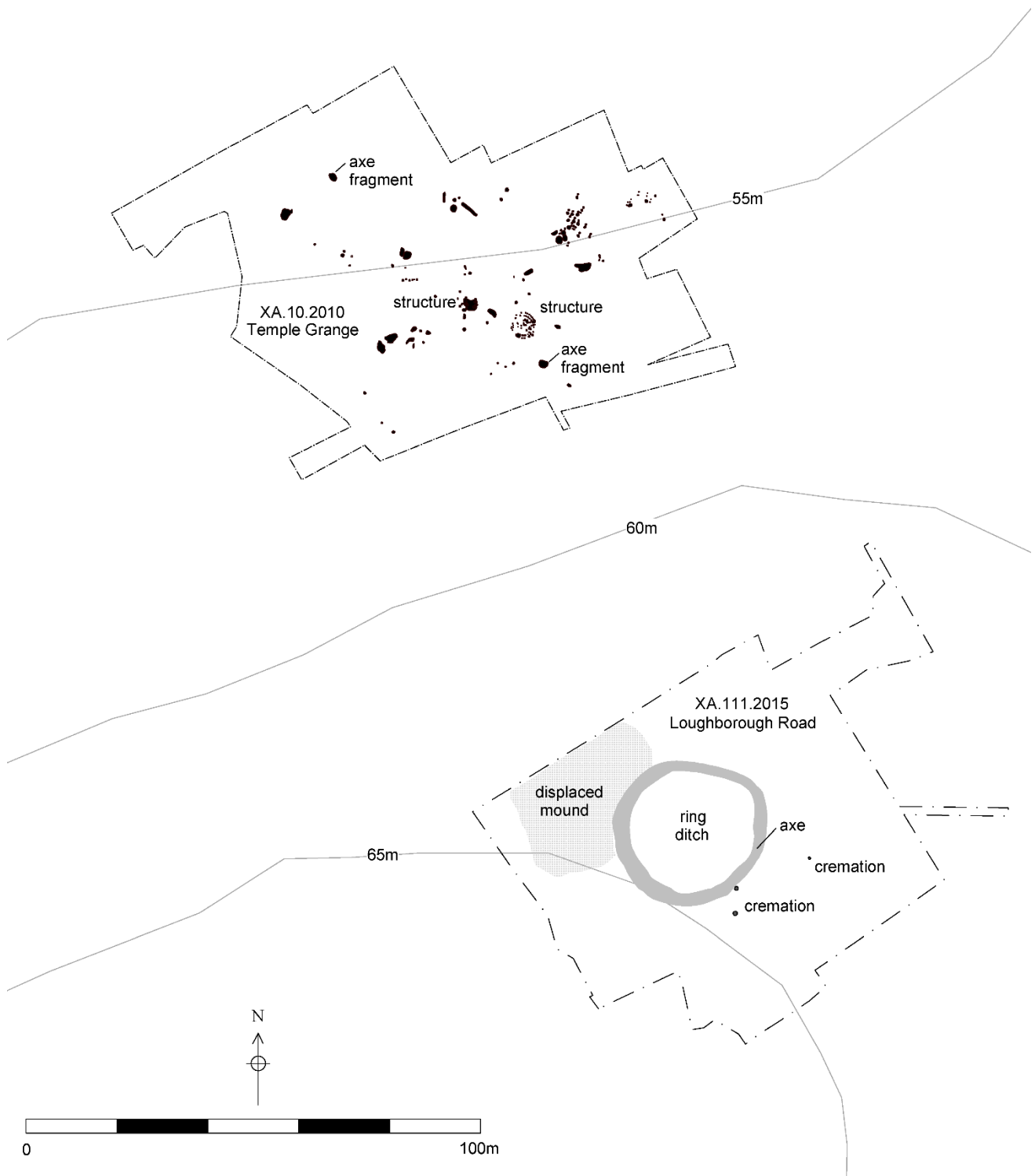


Figure 53: Neolithic activity in relation to Neolithic features at Temple Grange downslope.

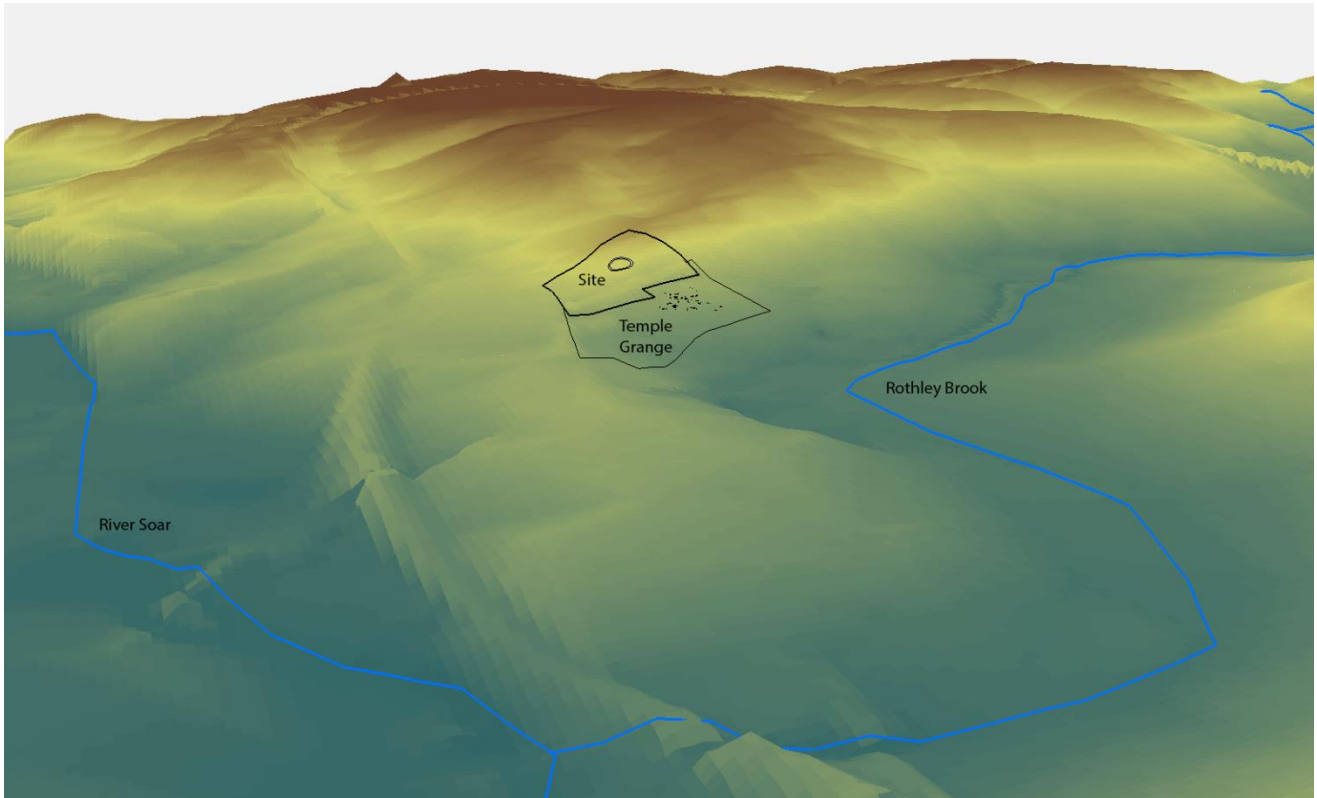


Figure 54: View of Neolithic activity on elevation model, in relation to Neolithic features at Temple Grange in foreground, with Loughborough Road barrow in background, looking south-west.

8.2 Bronze Age: Remodelling the Round Mound

The Neolithic round mound was remodeled in the Bronze Age, and lies close to three Bronze Age barrows 1km north-east in the lower ground at Cossington (Thomas 2008). The Rothley barrow overlooks the three Cossington barrows, and clearly has an important relationship with them and the intersection of the river valleys. Once established in the Neolithic, the barrow mound likely became a landscape marker, visible for centuries.

The barrow is much earlier than the Early Bronze Age Cossington barrows. These are dated relatively well with a large C14 dating sequence, indicating the cemeteries began around 1900-1700 BC, and were in use to around 1650-1550 BC (Marshall et al 2008, 96-97). At Loughborough Road, the recut ditch contained Beaker pottery. The recut contained a notably darker soil than the earlier phase deeper ditch cut. It is possible therefore that the barrow was recut and reused in the Bronze Age. The occurrences of Beaker pottery in the ditch fill mirrors Barrow 2 at Cossington (Allen 2008, 28, fig.31.1-2). Earlier Neolithic activity preceding the Bronze Age evidence was also seen at Cossington and Lockington (Thomas 2013, 92).

At roughly 27 metres in diameter it is remarkably similar (slightly larger) in shape and size to Barrow 3, 1km north-east at Cossington (Thomas 2008, 47), and another elsewhere in the county at Lockington (Barrow VI, Hughes 2000, 99-100). The ring ditch had a pronounced ‘angularity’ in its construction, similar to Cossington Barrow 2, where it was suggested that the monument was dug as a series of conjoined segments. These may have been dug by different individuals or families, as part of a community responsibility or effort, and a clear statement in the landscape (Thomas 2008, 127).



Figure 55: View of the ring ditch (archaeologists standing over the backfilled ditch), looking east towards the Cossington barrows downslope. The nearby downslope Neolithic activity was located where the new houses can be seen on the left.

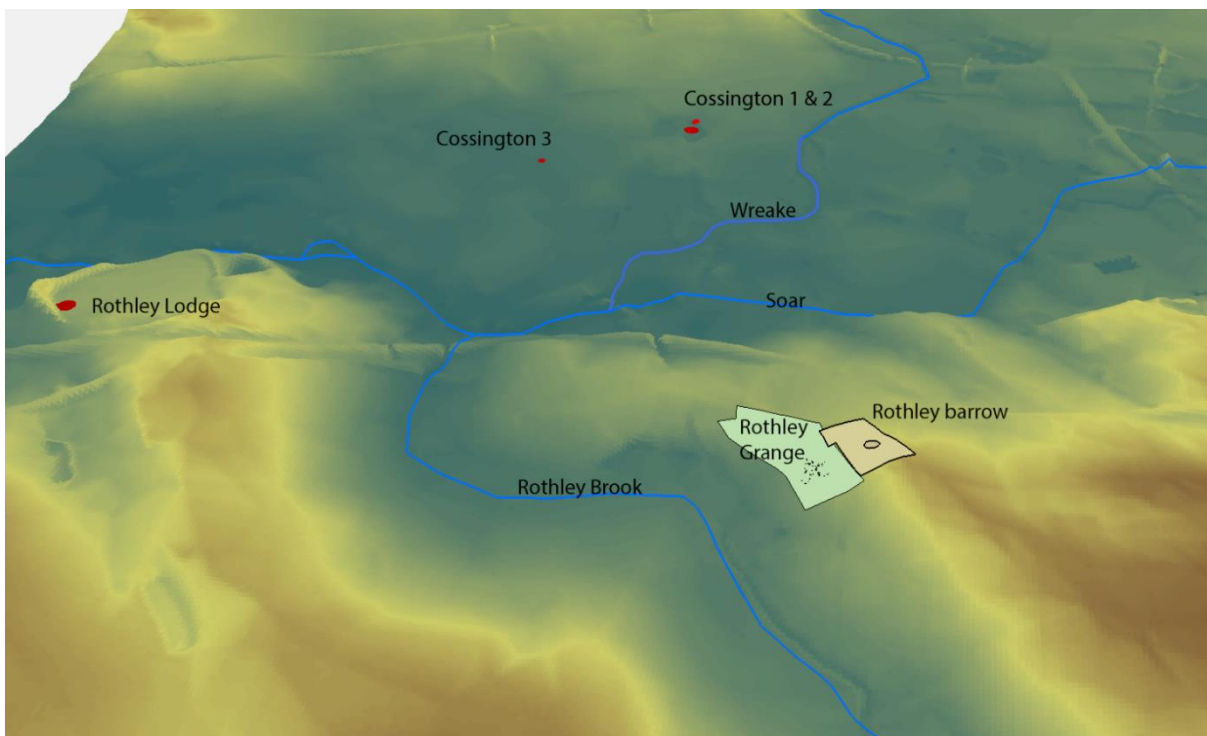


Figure 56: The Site ('Rothley barrow') in relation to Temple Grange, Rothley Lodge, and Cossington barrows, looking east.

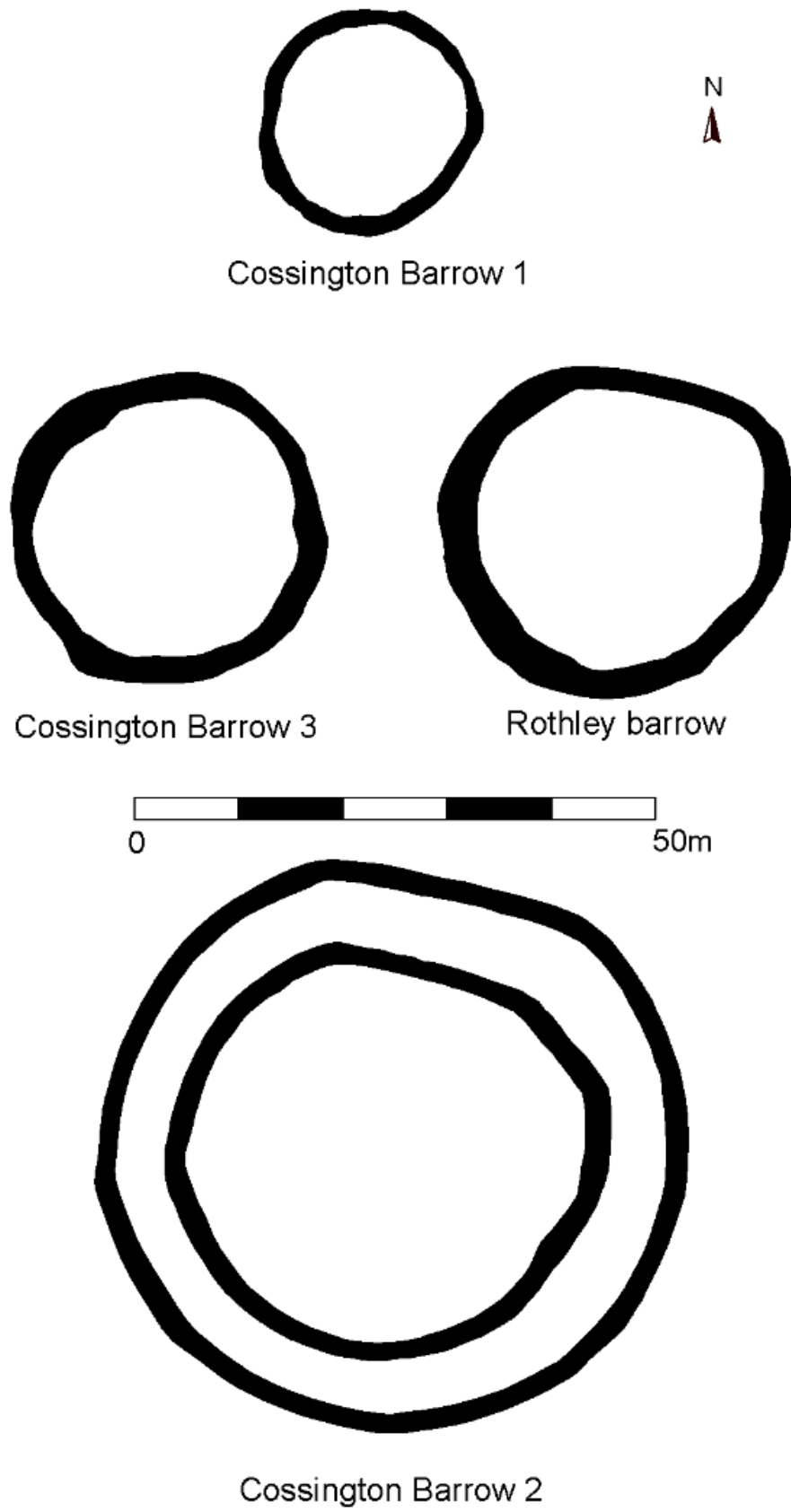


Figure 57: Rothley barrow compared to the Cossington barrows

8.3 Iron Age: Enclosing the landscape

By the late Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) the Bronze Age re-modelled mound had partly eroded and its ditches had silted up, but some of the mound was likely still upstanding, thus the ancient mound must have remained a landmark in the local landscape (even if its original purpose / meaning may have changed). Three clear phases of Iron Age activity can be discerned from the archaeological evidence.

The earliest Iron Age activity (Phase 3.1) consisted of a linear ditch to the north of the barrow ditch. A second phase of more intense activity (Phase 3.2) replaced the earlier linear ditch, and extended it with a large rectangular enclosure ditch. The enclosure ditch was on the same alignment as Iron Age ditches found at Temple Grange to the north (Speed 2011, 13). This was constructed partly along the alignment of the barrow ditch and avoiding the central area of the mound. It contained a cluster of pits in one corner (to the side of the mound).

Intriguingly the area was utilised as a small cremation cemetery around 171-159BC (based on C14 dates). Two small cremation burials were inserted into the remaining mound. This could indicate a continued perceived importance to the monument, despite 1000s of years separating the Neolithic burials, Bronze mound, and the Iron Age burials. The surviving earthwork may have held some significance, the seemingly deliberate re-use of earlier prehistoric monuments is known across the UK (Hutton 2011), but is rarely seen in Leicestershire, with the notable exception of Cossington Barrow 3 where Iron Age pots were dug into the mound (Thomas 2008, 57).

A third phase of Iron Age activity can be seen to date to the ‘Belgic’ period, roughly AD 30 to AD 60, dated by the Belgic pottery from a small L-shaped ditch, and other small enclosure ditches. There is still a degree of respect of avoiding the barrow mound area. Again in this phase of activity human burials (this time inhumations) occur within the latest sinuous enclosures.

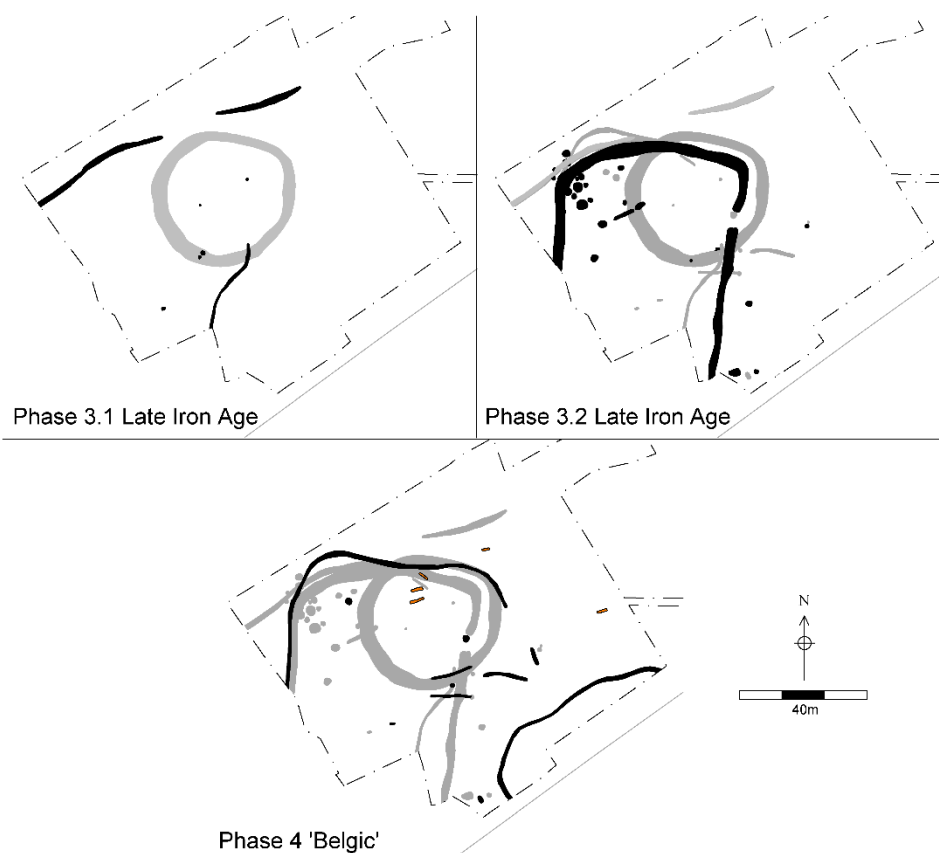


Figure 58: Phased Iron Age activity (Bronze Age barrow shown for reference)

8.5 Roman (lack of) activity

A small Roman settlement at Rothley, with significantly large-sized high status buildings known within the village. A villa is located on the western end of the Ridgeway (Upson-Smith 2011), and the central focus of the settlement is thought to be on the eastern side of the present village (Hunt 2010, 5), Roman structures of 2nd to 4th century date were discovered in 2007 at The Grange in the village centre (Upson-Smith 2011, 2016), and archaeological excavations at Temple Grange in 2010, immediately to the north of the Site, identified Roman ditches and associated pottery indicating a high-status villa in the vicinity to the north (Speed 2011). The Loughborough Road excavation only located a very small assemblage of Roman pottery, some sherds came from the Bronze Age barrow ditch (showing the ditches were partially visible during the Roman period). The remaining sherds were residual, from Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves. Given the low amount of Roman material, in contrast to the high quantity of Roman evidence further north under the current village, it seems likely that this area was not utilised in the Roman period, or else under cultivation.

8.5 Anglo-Saxon cemetery: ‘Rothley Warrior’ and the Reuse of an Ancient Landscape

In the early Anglo-Saxon period (AD 450 - 650), the area had become the focus for a small inhumation cemetery. Around a quarter of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are related to ancient monuments in the UK, most of these are Bronze Age barrows (Williams 1998, 92; Lucy 2000, 125, Crewe 2008). The discovery at this Site is the largest discovered in Leicestershire, and only the second known example, the other being 2km north-east at Cossington barrow 3 (Thomas 2008).

At least 14 inhumations were discovered, it is probable that there were further burials, but due to the high levels of plough truncation (and virtually non-existent bone survival due to the acidic soil) these did not survive. The buried people seem to date roughly to AD 550 to AD 650, they were all buried in a pagan tradition, and consisted of a mixture of men, women, and children. The orientation is evenly split, six were roughly south-north, and seven were roughly west–east.

The individual buried within grave [25] was the only burial to contain weapons. The location of the objects indicate the individual was buried south-north, holding a spear with the blade over (or close to) the face. The date of the burial is uncertain, though the items in the grave would perhaps indicate AD 580-600. The buckle and spear may have been quite old possessions when buried, whereas the shield may have been a newer item. The oak shield lay in the middle of the grave, shields were generally only buried with adult males of a relatively high social status (Härke 1992). The weapons and shield indicate this was a burial for a male warrior. The grave was buried over the silted up ditch of the former barrow, and also close to the ditch terminus of a late Iron Age enclosure, perhaps indicating a connection to the past. The grave appears to have been marked with a post close by, perhaps it acted as a grave marker.

At least two female graves can be identified, one grave (close to the ‘warrior’ grave) contained an annular brooch, positioned in the central part of upper body, head at SSE-end. Another grave contained a complete early Anglo-Saxon globular vessel placed in the base at the north-end, and on the west edge (midway long the length of the grave, i.e. at the waist /hip) were a chatelaine chain and hoops, along with a chisel and small knife.

Child burials are indicated by the short length of the grave cut, and the narrow width preventing any crouched adult burial, grave [7] forms two separate cuts, perhaps indicating this was a double (child?) grave, with the bodies positioned end on end. There are three occasions where a second burial is added immediately adjacent to a former (or partly cutting it (e.g. grave [33])). Two graves lay adjacent to one another ([88] and [94]). These graves indicate they could be familial, a parent and child perhaps.

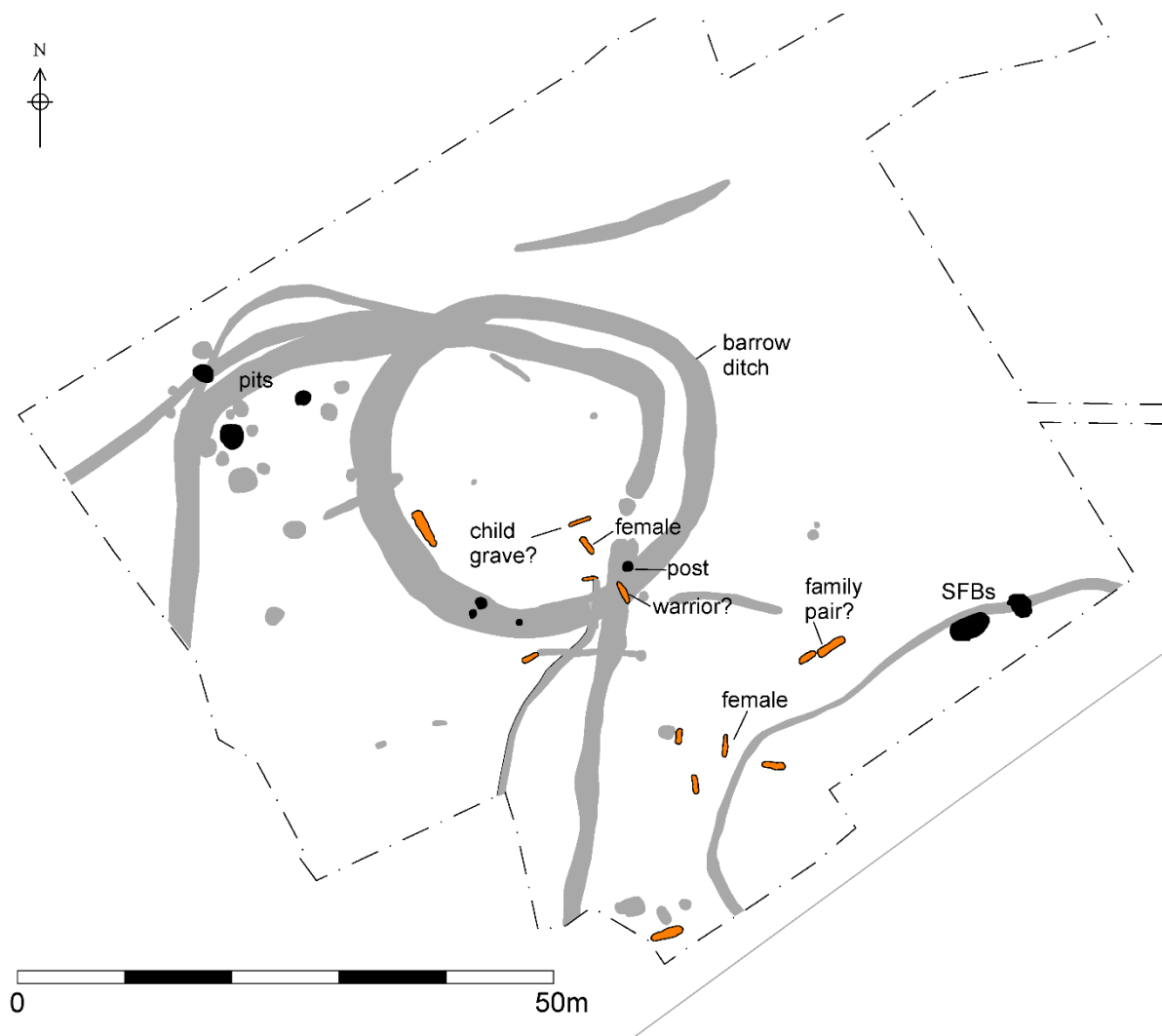


Figure 59: Anglo-Saxon cemetery and other features

It seems probable that an associated Anglo-Saxon settlement to the cemetery lay immediately to the north and to the south. Two possible Sunken-Featured Buildings (SFBs) were located towards the south-east of the barrow, further scattered pits also attest to more general Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity. Indeed, in 2010 in the adjacent field (250 metres north, now under the aptly named Saxon Drive) an Anglo-Saxon SFB was discovered (see Speed 2011). The Anglo-Saxon settlement at Rothley may have been focused on this area to the south of Rothley brook (close to the former A6 Woodcock Farm crossroads area). This was very close to the small Roman settlement that lay just to the north, in the area of the east side of Rothley village.

An Anglo-Saxon settlement close to a Bronze Age funerary monument (and Iron Age activity) can be paralleled at Cossington Barrow 3 (Thomas 2008). The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at the Cossington Site, just 2000m north-east, is remarkably similar to the Rothley example, though the cemetery seems much smaller in size, there are only five burials identified, though finds indicate further burials, up to around 12 (Thomas 2008, 58). There is also evidence for associated settlement activity in the vicinity (an SFB and pits). The grave goods are similar (knives, spearhead, annular brooch). Like the Loughborough Road Site only one burial contained a shield boss, indicating a warrior status. Perhaps the two separate cemeteries at Rothley and Cossington could be from different contemporary extended family groups? A single head warrior burial, and associated secondary males and female adults and child burials.

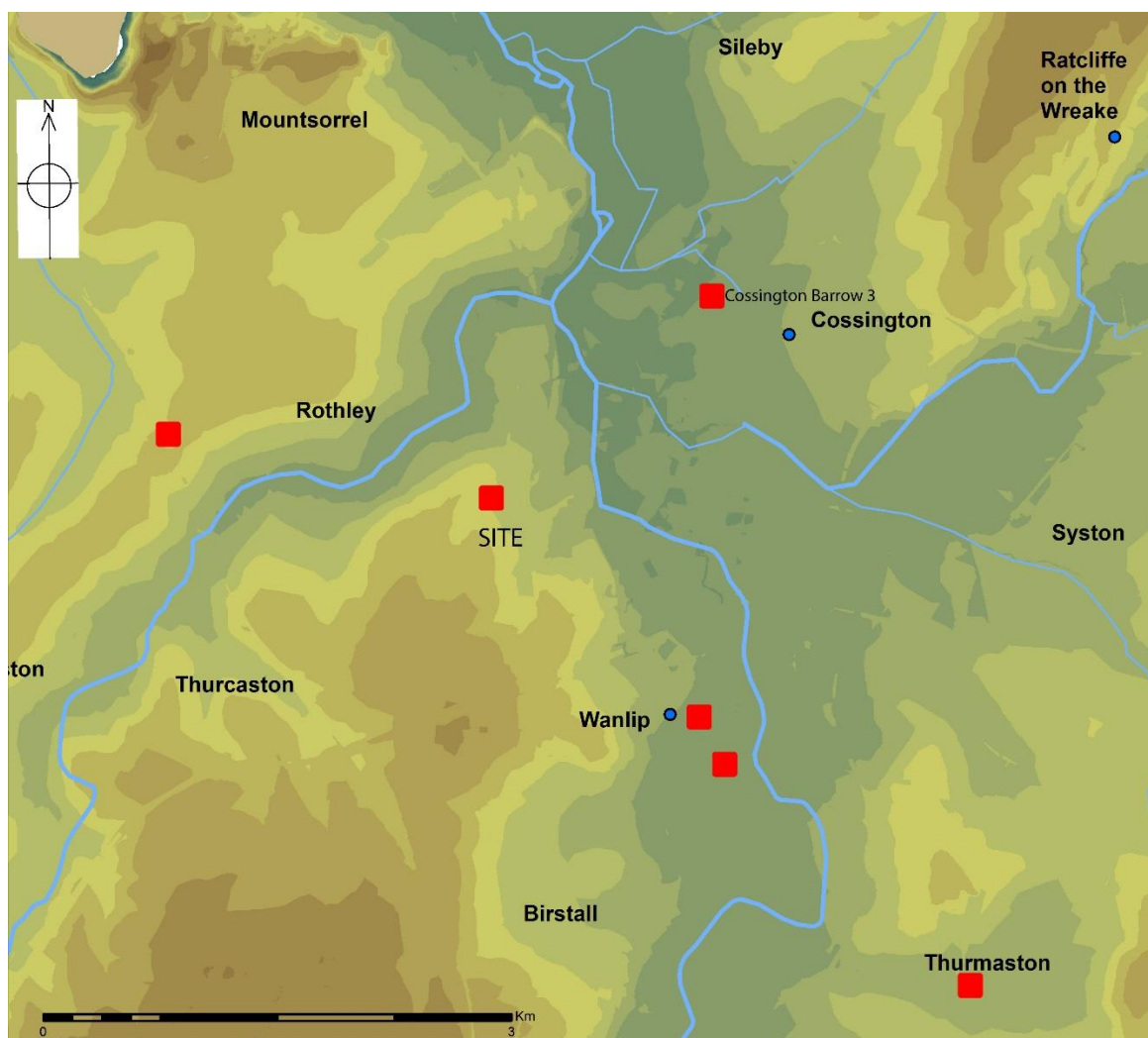


Figure 60: Landscape view showing known Anglo-Saxon settlements and cemeteries in the area (red squares)

This area of Leicestershire (the Soar valley and its tributaries, particularly the Wreake), have a relatively high density of early/mid Anglo-Saxon settlements (see Hawkes 2007). Notable settlements include Leicester with a number of SFBs within and outside of the Roman town walled area, along with cemeteries in areas of former late Roman burials (Speed 2014, 79-83). Close to the Site structural evidence has been found (SFBs and pits), also at Wanlip (Ripper 1998), and an early Saxon bridge at Watermead (Ripper 2004). The largest Anglo-Saxon settlement excavated in the county is at Eye Kettleby further north-east up the River Wreake. There the settlement dates to the late 5th to early 6th century, and continues through to the 7th century AD. It consisted of over 45 Anglo-Saxon structures, in an area of former Bronze Age funerary monuments (Finn 1999 & *forthcoming*; Hawkes 2007, 104).

There is evidence for a number of early/mid Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the area: An Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery was discovered 2km (1.4 miles) north-west in the late 19th century during construction of the Great Central Way railway, this cemetery was located close to a Roman villa (located on the western end of the Ridgeway) (Tucker 1896). Thus indicating that Anglo-Saxon settlement was taking place close to (but not in the same location) as earlier Roman settlement. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery discovered in the 1960s, 4.5km (2.84 miles) south-east at Colby Road, Thurmaston (Williams 1983) located 119 cremation urns (likely to have been 200 – 300 urns in total). They date from the 5th century through to the mid-6th century. The early phase of the cemetery sees a concentration of urns close to a presumed Bronze Age barrow. The later phases seem more haphazard (*ibid*, 26). An early Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery was excavated 2km (1.84 miles) south at Longslade School, Wanlip (Liddle 1981), and a probable Anglo-Saxon cemetery is known at Queniborough (Nicholls 1815 app. 145-146).

The practice of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries sited close to earlier burial monuments could have been undertaken in an attempt to link to ancestors, perhaps supporting claims to land and resources (Lucy 2000, 130). Alternatively, the Rothley barrow could have been utilised for its geographical location on high ground overlooking the valley, the remnants of the barrow mound simply acting as a convenient landscape marker.

This small early Saxon cemetery pre-dates the Christian mid to late Saxon cemetery (early 8th century through to the 10th century) located north at the Grange, Rothley (Upson-Smith 2016). There the Rothley minster is believed to have been established in the later 7th century AD (McLoughlin 2018), and it became a significant settlement with a royal manor, church with priest.

9. Conclusion

The archaeological investigation has successfully addressed the aims and objectives and the highest confidence can be placed in the data recovered and this report. There were no physical constraints, leading to a satisfactory application of the methodological approach.

The results from the Loughborough Road Site have added significantly more to our understanding of the prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon landscapes of this area, showing the multi-period occupation and burial use of the Site in the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, and Anglo-Saxon periods.

10. Archive

The Site archive will be held by *Leicestershire Museums Service*, under accession no. *XA.111.2016*.

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-304443		
	Project Name	Former allotments, Loughborough Road, Rothley		
	Start/end dates of field work	01-10-2015 - 30-01-2016		
	Previous/Future Work	No		
	Project Type	Excavation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Allotments		
	Monument Type/Period	Pit/ Neolithic, cremation/ Bronze Age, Ditch/Bronze Age, Ditch/Iron Age, Burial/Anglo-Saxon		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery / Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition			
Planning Ref.				
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Loughborough Road, Rothley LE7 7SZ		
	Study Area	2.1ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK5893712193		
	Height OD	57-69m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Charnwood Borough Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Dr Gavin Speed		
Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer / Persimmon			
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC MusService	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	XA111.2015	XA111.2015	XA111.2015
	Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photos Survey data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trench recording sheets context summary records context sheets photographic recording sheet

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample records sheet • Drawing Index sheet • CD containing digital photographs and report • Survey data • Unbound copy of this report • Thumbnail print of digital photographs, 33mm black and white contact sheet and negatives (x? films)
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Excavation at Loughborough Road, Rothley, Leicestershire		
	Author	Speed, G.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2017-203		
	Date	2017		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
Description	Developer Report A4 pdf			

11. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for Volume 92 (2018). The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York (see archive above).

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Appendix: Contexts listed by cut with phases

CUT	SAME AS	FEATURE TYPE	FILLS WITHIN	PHASE
1	-	grave	504, 505, 506	3 (Belgic)
2	49, 79, 150	gully	507, 578, 613, 743	2 (late Iron Age)
3	130 (terminus), 135, 137 (recut)	gully	508, 719, 720	2 (late Iron Age)
4	-	grave	509	3 (Belgic)
5	-	grave	510, 511	5 Anglo-Saxon
6	43, 61, 62 (terminus 1st phase), 63 (terminus 2nd phase)	ditch	512, 542, 570, 571, 572, 573, 587, 588, 593, 594, 595	2 (late Iron Age)
7	-	grave	513	5 Anglo-Saxon
8	-	pit	514	2 (late Iron Age)
9	-	grave?	515	3 (Belgic)
10	20, 23, 35, 58, 59, 72, 73, 82, 86, 96, 100, 104, 106, 107, 108, 110, 112, 113, 114, 118	ring ditch (phase 1)	501, 502, 540, 552, 553, 554, 559, 591, 592, 606, 607, 616, 619, 624, 639, 644, 645, 646, 647, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 663, 664, 665, 668, 669, 672, 673, 674, 675, 678, 679, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 705	1 Neolithic
11	-	cremation	519	1 Neolithic
12	-	grave	520	5 Anglo-Saxon
13	-	cremation pit	521, 522	1 Neolithic
14	-	cremation pit	523	1 Neolithic
15	-	grave / pit	524	3 (Belgic)
16	-	grave	525	5 Anglo-Saxon
17	-	gully	526	2 (late Iron Age)
19	-	pit	529	2 (late Iron Age)
21	28, 37, 60, 70, 71, 74, 75, 103 (terminus), 123, 141	ditch	531, 532, 533, 547, 548, 560, 561, 562, 585, 586, 601, 603, 604, 605, 608, 609, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 711, 731	2 (late Iron Age)
24	64 (terminus), 77, 78, 87	ditch	540, 596, 611, 612, 621	2 (late Iron Age)
25	-	grave	541	5 Anglo-Saxon
26	42, 80	gully	543, 565, 614	2 (late Iron Age)
27	-	pit	544, 545, 546	2 (late Iron Age)
29	-	pit	549	2 (late Iron Age)
30	48, 52	gully	550, 569, 577, 581	2 (late Iron Age)
33	-	grave / gully	555	5 Anglo-Saxon
34	31, 32, 102	ring ditch (phase 2)	516, 517, 518, 530, 539, 551, 552, 557, 624, 640, 641, 642, 648, 666, 667, 676, 680, 690, 704	1 Neolithic
38	-	pit	556	2 (late Iron Age)

CUT	SAME AS	FEATURE TYPE	FILLS WITHIN	PHASE
39	22, 36, 46, 50, 76, 85, 131	gully	534, 535, 536, 558, 563, 574, 575, 579, 610, 620, 722	2 (late Iron Age)
40	-	void	564	1 Neolithic
41	-	pit	566	2 (late Iron Age)
44	-	pit	567	2 (late Iron Age)
45	-	pit	568	2 (late Iron Age)
47	69, 117, 125, 133	ditch	576, 600, 703, 713, 724	2 (late Iron Age)
51	-	pit	580	5 Anglo-Saxon
53	-	pit	582	1 Neolithic
54	83, 89 (terminus)	gully	583, 617, 623	2 (late Iron Age)
55	-	grave	584	5 Anglo-Saxon
56	-	pit	589	2 (late Iron Age)
57	116, 136	short linear	590, 702, 721	2 (late Iron Age)
65	-	grave	597	5 Anglo-Saxon
66	-	cremation pit	598	1 Neolithic
67	-	pit	599	2 (late Iron Age)
81	-	pit	615	2 (late Iron Age)
84	-	grave	618	5 Anglo-Saxon
88	-	grave	622	5 Anglo-Saxon
90	-	post-hole	625	2 (late Iron Age)
91	-	pit	626	2 (late Iron Age)
92	-	pit	627, 628, 629	2 (late Iron Age)
93	-	pit	630, 634	2 (late Iron Age)
94	-	grave	635	5 Anglo-Saxon
95	98, 105 (terminus)	gully	636, 643, 662	2 (late Iron Age)
97	-	pit	500, 637	2 (late Iron Age)
99	-	pit	638	2 (late Iron Age)
109	-	grave	670, 671	5 Anglo-Saxon
111	-	grave	677	3 (Belgic)
115	-	grave	700, 701	5 Anglo-Saxon
119	-	pit	706, 707	2 (late Iron Age)
120	-	pit	708	2 (late Iron Age)
121	-	pit	709	2 (late Iron Age)
124	138	re-cut of ditch 123	712, 726	2 (late Iron Age)
126	-	pit	714	2 (late Iron Age)
127	-	pit	715	2 (late Iron Age)
128	148	pit	716, 739, 740, 741	2 (late Iron Age)
129	-	pit	717	2 (late Iron Age)
132	-	pit	723	2 (late Iron Age)
134	-	pit	725	2 (late Iron Age)
139	-	pit	728, 729	2 (late Iron Age)
140	-	pit	730	2 (late Iron Age)
142	-	grave / pit	732	5 Anglo-Saxon
143	-	pit	733, 734	2 (late Iron Age)
144	-	pit	735	2 (late Iron Age)
145	-	pit	736	2 (late Iron Age)

CUT	SAME AS	FEATURE TYPE	FILLS WITHIN	PHASE
146	-	pit	737	2 (late Iron Age)
147	-	pit	738	2 (late Iron Age)
149	-	pit	742	2 (late Iron Age)
151	-	pit	744	2 (late Iron Age)
152	-	pit	-	2 (late Iron Age)
153	-	pit	-	2 (late Iron Age)
503	-	layer	-	MODERN
564	-	layer	-	1 Neolithic
602	-	layer	-	1 Neolithic
631	-	layer	-	MODERN
632	-	layer	-	MODERN
633	-	layer	-	MODERN
699	-	layer	-	1 Neolithic



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