

**An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation
for a proposed Development at Main Street,
Market Overton, Rutland (SK 8913 1624)**

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For:

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Martin Shore (with contributions from Lynden Cooper, Elizabeth Johnson, Heidi Addison and Angela Monckton)

1. Summary

An archaeological strip plan and sample excavation was carried out between 20th February and 16th March 2007 by University Of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Main Street, Market Overton, Rutland (SK 8913 1624), on behalf of T. Denham and Sons (Melton Mowbray) Ltd. The site rises to the north, and is located on the edge of the medieval village of Market Overton, Rutland. A prehistoric site, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval sites have been located mainly to the west of the development area. Initially four exploratory trenches 20m x 2m were excavated, using a JCB mechanical excavator to a depth of 0.30-0.40m to the natural reddish brown Northampton Sand ironstone and clay substratum. Archaeological deposits and Roman pottery were noted in all of the four trenches. In view of this the remainder of the area which was to be impacted on by the proposed development was stripped by machine to the natural substratum, totalling of 1751 square metres. On further inspection of the stripped area, it was noted that although Roman pottery was present throughout the area, the site had been extensively quarried for the ironstone in the early to middle part of the 20th century to a depth of 1.00m-1.50m, leaving a north-west to south-east spine of 632 square metres of unquarried ground. This area included a network of ditches and gullies, two probable structures, pits and post holes of Iron Age and Roman date. In the north-eastern part of the area, an early Mesolithic flint scatter was located. Roman wall plaster and flue tile suggests the site lay near to a Roman villa. Subject to confirmation the finds and records will be deposited with Rutland County Museums Accession Number: RT03.2007.

2. Introduction

The proposed development site is located on land at Main Street, Market Overton, Rutland (SK 8913 1624) and comprised an area of rough pasture land. Planning permission had been granted for the construction of nine residential dwellings, with associated car parking, access road, services and landscaping.

A desk-based assessment has been conducted for an adjacent the site, which highlighted that the area has a moderate to high potential for containing archaeological remains (Bocock 2006). In view of the archaeological potential the planning authority had included a planning condition for a scheme of archaeological work. The scope of this work was outlined in the 'Brief For Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan & Sample Excavation) At Land North Of Main Street, Market Overton, Rutland' (Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team. 12.02.2007; Appendix 2). All work followed the *Design Specification for Archaeological work at Main Street, Market Overton, Rutland (SK 8913 1624)*(ULAS 15.02.2007 Ref 07/619; Appendix 3)

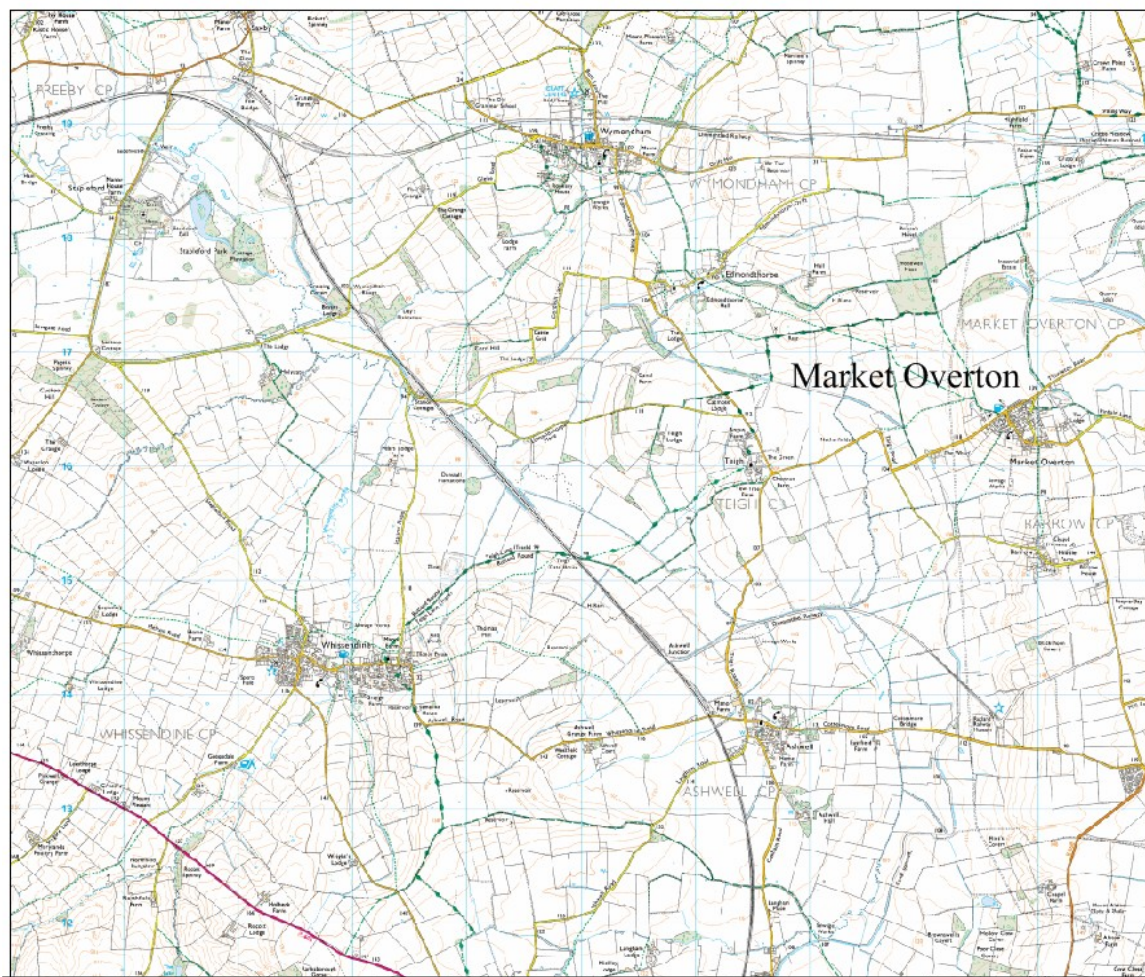
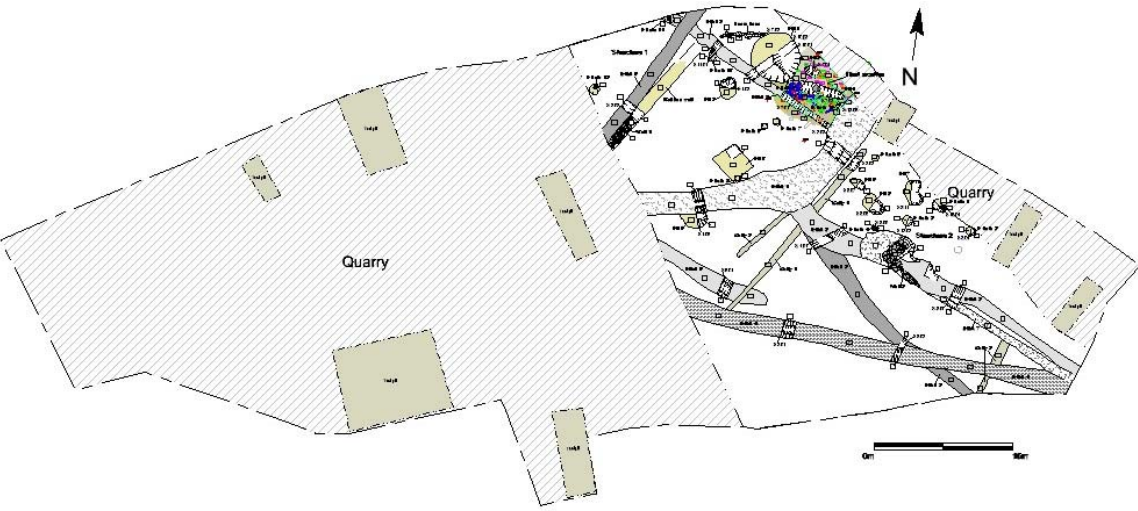
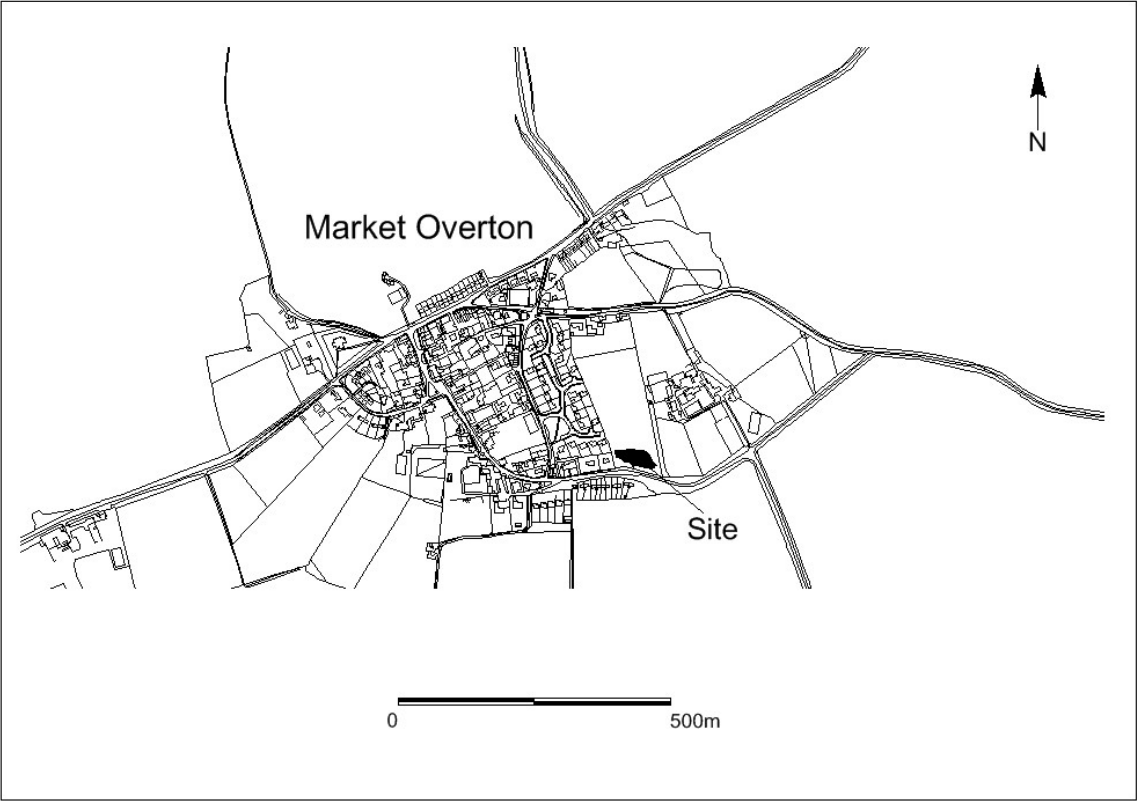


Figure 1: Location map

The site lies at height of approximately 145m OD. The Ordnance Survey Geological survey of Great Britain Sheet indicates that the underlying geology was likely to comprise of Northampton Sand ironstone and clay.

3. Aims and objectives

The purpose of the archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was to ascertain if any archaeological deposits were present and if so, to establish their nature, extent, date and significance in order that an appropriate recording strategy was implemented to mitigate for the impact of the development proposals. Recording of these archaeological deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.



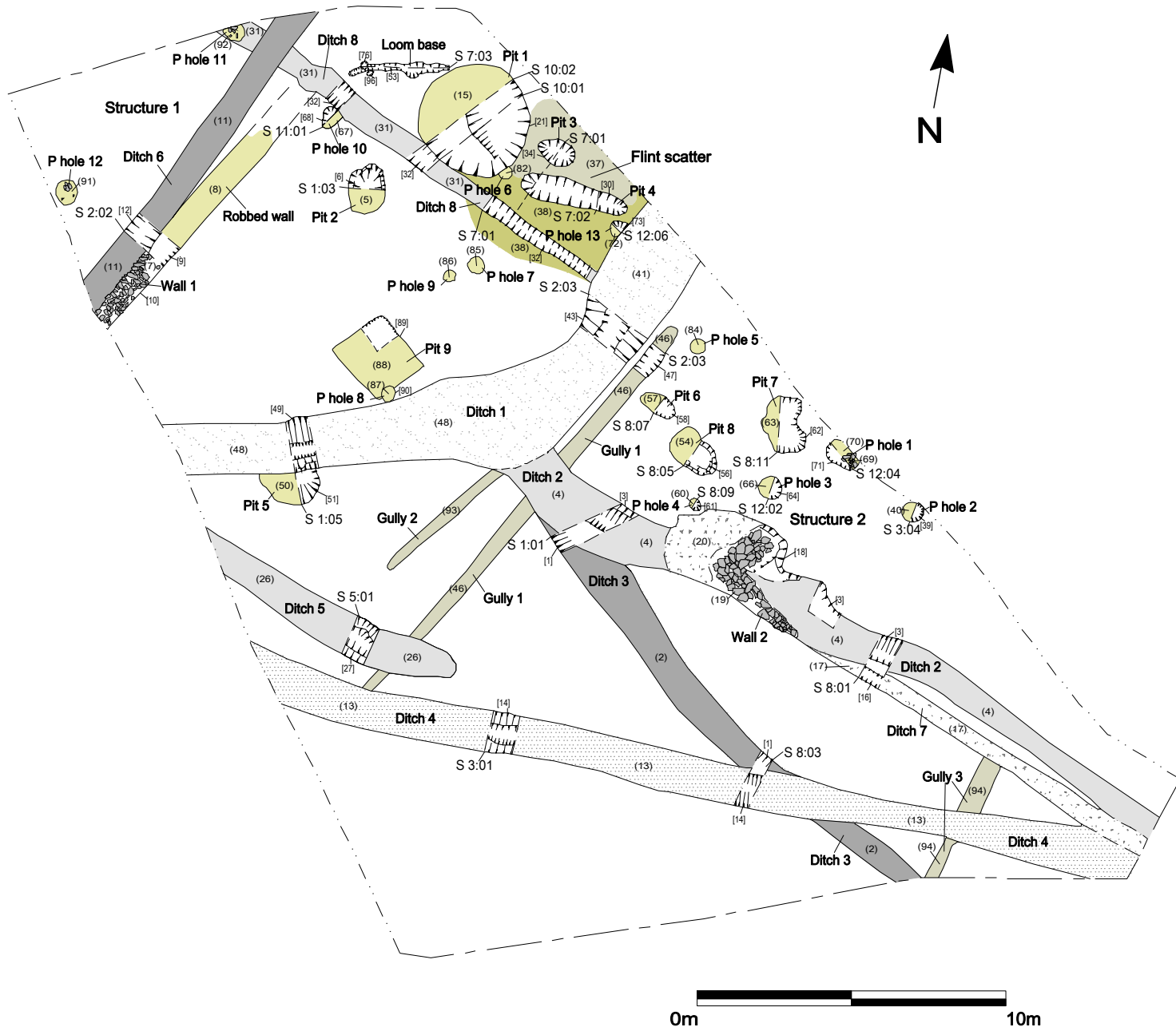


Figure 4: Plan showing area of surviving archaeological deposits

4 Results

After the machine strip of the area, undisturbed areas were subject to hand cleaning by trowel, to define the archaeological features evident on the stripped surface. Sections were excavated to retrieve any dating evidence from the features, and also to determine the width and depth. These were recorded by section and plan drawings and also plotted using an EDM (Electronic Distance Measurer). The archaeological features are described

with the cut numbers in square brackets e.g [15] and fills/deposits in curved brackets e.g (24). Lengths quoted are surviving lengths visible within the excavation.

Ditch 1

This feature [43] was curvilinear, and had a length of 18.92m, a width of 3.43m, and a depth of 0.62m, (Figs 4; 8. section 2:03). The feature was situated on higher ground in the north of the area, running from the eastern edge which had been truncated by quarries, then curving to the north at the western edge, where again it had been truncated by quarrying. The upper fill (41), a mid-brown silty sandy clay, contained 21 sherds of late 2nd-3rd century pottery and overlay (42) a mid-greyish brown silty sandy clay which contained five mid-late 1st century pottery sherds. The feature cut an earlier ditch, (44) [45], 0.28m deep, visible in section (Fig 8. 2:03) which also contained five mid-late 1st century pottery sherds. At the north-western end of the feature [49], (Fig 8; section 1:05) the mid-orange brown silty sandy clay fill (48), which contained six late 1st – early 2nd century pottery sherds, did not show any signs of re-cutting but did cut pit 5, fill (50).

Ditch 2

Ditch 2 [3], was 23.46 in length, 3.43m wide, and 0.59m deep. The fill (4) was dark orange brown silty sandy clay and contained 20 sherds of mid-late 1st century pottery (Fig 8; section 1:01 and Fig.9; 8:01). The feature ran north-west to south-east, in the southern area of the site, was cut by wall 2 [18], and appeared to be cut by ditch 1, [43]. The feature also cut ditch 3, [1] (2) and ditch 7, fill (17).

Ditch 3

At the southern end of the area, ditch 3 [1] ran north-west to south-east, having a length of 16.79m, a width of 1.50m, and a depth of 0.49m. The fill (2), was mid brown silty sandy clay. This feature was cut by ditch 4, [14], in the southern area of the site, (Fig 9; section 8:03), and by ditch 2, (4), to the north (Fig. 8, section 1:01).

Ditch 4

Ditch 4, [14] had a mid-reddish brown silty sandy clay fill which contained one sherd of Late Iron Age and four sherds of late 1st century pottery (13). With a surviving length of 28.77m, a width of 1.34m, with a depth of 0.47m, it ran east-west in the southern end of the area, (Fig. 8; section 3:01 (west), and Fig.9; 8:03 (east)). This feature cut the fills of ditch 3, (2), gully 1, (46), and gully 3, (94), and possibly Ditch 7 in the south-eastern corner of the area.

Ditch 5

Ditch 5, [27] had a mid-grey brown silty sandy clay fill (26) which contained five sherds of late 1st-early 2nd century pottery (Fig 8 section 5:01) and was 9.16m long by 1.31m wide and 0.28m deep. Running west-east where it terminated with a butt end it was cut by gully 1 [47], just west of the butt end and was truncated by quarrying to the west.

Ditch 6

At the northern end of the area, ditch 6 [12], truncated by quarrying in the south-east of the area, ran south-east to north-west with a length of 11.80m, 0.95m width, and a depth of 0.47m. Fill (11), was a darkish brown silty sandy clay (Fig 8; section 2:02). The ditch cut ditch 8 (31) and was cut by wall 1 [10], and robbed wall [9].

Ditch 7

Ditch 7 [16], contained a dark-greyish brown silty sandy clay fill (17) (Fig.9; section 8:01) and was situated in the south-east corner of the area. It was 12m in length, 0.56m in width, with a depth of 0.26m. This feature was cut by ditch 2 [3] and may have cut gully 3 (94). It was uncertain if the feature was cutting or cut by ditch 4.

Ditch 8

This feature [32] ran north-west to south-east from the northern edge of the area, was 14.19m in length, had a width of 0.96m at its widest point, and a depth of 0.31m, tapering to 0.38m at the south where it cut the flint scatter (38). Fill (31), was mid-greyish brown silty sandy clay, containing 30 sherds of mid 2nd - possibly 3rd century pottery and one early Saxon pottery sherd, (Fig 8 section 7:01, Fig 9; 10:01, 10:02). The feature was cut by post hole 10 [68], pit 1 [21], and possibly ditch 1 [43].

Gully 1

Gully 1 [47] ran from ditch 4, in a north-eastern direction for 15.34m partly alongside ditch 1 before butt ending or having been truncated to the northeast (Fig.8; section 2:03). The feature had a width of 0.61m, and a depth of 0.13m. Its fill (46) was a mid-brown silty sandy clay containing a very abraded sherd of late 1st century pottery and was cut by ditch 2 [3] and possibly ditch 4 [14].

Gully 2

Unexcavated gully 2, fill (93), was mid-brown silty sandy clay, and ran from ditches 1 and 2 towards the south-west for 4.75m before terminating with a butt end. On a similar alignment to gully 1, the feature appears to be cut by ditches 1 [43], and 2 [3].

Gully 3

In the south-eastern corner of the area, unexcavated gully 3, (94) with a mid-brown silty sandy clay fill, 0.66m wide, ran for 4.23m to the north from the southern edge of the excavation, terminating or cut by ditch 7 [16]. The feature was also cut by ditch 4 [1].

Pit 1

Pit 1 [21] was situated in the north-eastern corner of the area at the edge of the flint scatter (38). It was sub-circular measuring 3.62m x 3.48m, and had a depth of 1.19m. All the fills were silty sandy clays with slight colour variations. The top fill (59) was mid-grey brown over (15) a mid-yellow brown fill which contained 21 sherds of 4th century pottery, 55kg of painted wall plaster and 43 tile fragments. Below (15) was mid-greyish brown fill (22) which contained 45 sherds of 4th century pottery, over a light yellow brown fill (23) which contained three sherds of 2nd century pottery while below (23) was

mid-brown grey clay (25) sealing the mid-greyish brown primary fill (24). The pit cut posthole 6 (82), ditch 8 (31) and the northern edge of flint scatter (37) (38).



Plate 1 Painted wall plaster in Pit 1

Pit 2

South-west of pit 1, an oval pit 2 [6] measuring 1.61m x 1.21m x 0.35m, (Fig 8; section 1:03) had a dark reddish brown silty sandy clay fill (5) which contained one late Iron Age and five mid-late 1st century pottery sherds.

Pit 3

This oval feature was situated 0.46m south-east of pit 1, in the north-east corner of the site, cutting the flint scatter area (37), and measuring 1.24m x 0.80m. The fill (33), was mid-greyish brown silty clay, and had a depth of 0.15m, (Fig 8; section 7:01).

Pit 4

Also cutting the flint scatter (37) & (38), was an elongated pit 4, aligned west to east with rounded butt ends. Adjacent to pits 1 and 4, this measured 3.52m x 0.89m, with a depth of 0.43m, (Fig 8; sections 7:01 & 7:02). Fills (28) and (29) were similar very dark grey brown silty sandy clays which contained 10 and 12 sherds of late 1st century pottery respectively, (29) lying within the eastern butt end of the feature.

Pit 5

Sub-circular pit 5 [51] was to the central west of the area, measuring 1.87m x 1.06m, with a depth of 0.35m, (Fig 8; section 1:05). Fill (50) a mid-greyish orange brown silty sandy clay contained one sherd of late 1st-early 2nd century pottery and was cut by curvilinear ditch 1 [43].

Pit 6

Oval pit 6 [58] was situated to the central east of the stripped area, measured 1.22m x 0.62m, with a depth of 0.18m, (Fig 9; section 8:07). Fill (57) was a mid-grey orange brown silty sandy clay.

Pit 7

Pit 7 was very irregular in shape, and situated in the central east of the area. It measured 1.79m x 1.16m, with a depth of 0.29m, (Fig 9; section 8:11). The fill (63), was dark greyish brown silty sandy clay which contained one shred of early-mid 1st century pottery.

Pit 8

Pit 8 [56] was situated close to pits 6 and 7, again in the central east of the area. This feature was an irregular oval and had dimensions of 1.73m x 1.12m, with a depth of 0.48m, (Fig 9; section 8:05). The feature had two fills, (54) mid-greyish brown silty clay containing one sherd of late 2nd – early 3rd century pottery, and the mid-grey orange brown silty sandy clay primary fill (55) which contained 33 sherds of mid – late 1st century pottery.

Pit 9

A rectangular pit 9 [89], was located immediately to the north of ditch 1 and cut by post hole 8. With dimensions of 2.18m x 1.97m, this was partially excavated in the north-east corner to a depth of 0.75m. The light brown silty sandy clay fill (88), was similar to the natural sub-soils.

Post holes 5 – 9

Post hole 5 (84), was situated in the north-eastern part of the area close to pit 6 and gully 2, and did not appear to relate to any structure. Post holes 6, 9 and 8 were in a line running south-west to north-east, while post hole 7 was just off-line close to post hole 9. These again did not appear to be part of any structure, and it is most probable that they formed some type of fence complex. All the post holes had a similar fill of dark greyish silty sandy clay; none of the features were excavated.

Post hole 13

Post hole 13 [73] was located in the north-eastern part of the area, on the southern edge of the flint scatter, and cut by ditch 1 [45]. With dimensions of 0.53m x 0.45m x 0.29m, (Fig

9; section 12:06), its fill (72), was mid-grey orange silty sandy clay. This feature appeared pre-date post holes 5 – 9.

Structure 1 (Fig 5)

Structure 1 was situated in the far northern section of the area, on the highest point of the site and consisted of a partially robbed limestone wall (wall 1), running north-east to south-west. Three post holes that may have been contemporary with the wall. The part of the wall which had not been robbed out had a length of 2.64m, a width of 0.74m, with a depth of 0.15m, (Fig 8; section 2:02). The wall had only one course of un-bonded limestone course surviving, over foundation layer (7), made up of light off-white coloured limestone pieces ranging in size from 0.11m x 0.6m to 0.39m x 0.12m, contained by construction cut [10]. The remainder of the wall [9] had been robbed out, and contained a light yellow brown silty sandy clay fill (8). This showed up as a linear outline within an area of plough truncation in the north-east of the area. Both wall [10], and robbed wall [9], cut ditch 6, which was on a similar alignment.

To the north-west of, and on a similar alignment to, wall 1 and the robbed wall were two post holes (11 and 12). Post hole 11 had dimensions of 0.60m x 0.66m, was situated to the north-west of the robbed wall [9], and was partly under the north baulk of the area. The fill (92) was a dark greyish brown silty sandy clay, with limestone pieces. Post hole 12 was 6.83m south-west of post hole 11, and had a similar fill with dimensions of 0.71m x 0.78m. Neither of the post holes were excavated. Post hole 10 [68] was situated 3.64m south-east of post hole 12. With dimensions of 0.79m x 0.58m and a depth of 0.16m, (Fig 9; section 11:01) its fill was a mid-orange brown silty sandy clay which contained one 2nd century and one early Saxon pottery sherd (67). It is possible that pit 9 may have been associated with structure 1, possibly as a well or sump.

Structure 2 (Fig 6)

4.24 To the south-east of the area was an L-shaped limestone wall 2, built within ditch 2, possibly to consolidate foundations over the ditch. The wall was revealed after the partial removal of fill (20), a dark orange brown silty sandy clay, which partly obscured the wall. Also evident were three post holes, and perhaps a fourth, which may have been contemporary with wall 2. The limestone wall ran north-west from the southern edge of ditch 2, cutting the ditch, then turned at right angles to the north-east, having an overall length of 5.65m, ceasing at the northern edge of ditch 2. Foundation fill (19), contained by construction cut [18], was made up of roughly hewn off-white limestone pieces with dimensions ranging from 0.20m x 0.10 to 0.39m x 0.31m, and made up a single course. Three sherds of late 1st-early 2nd century pottery were recovered from (19).

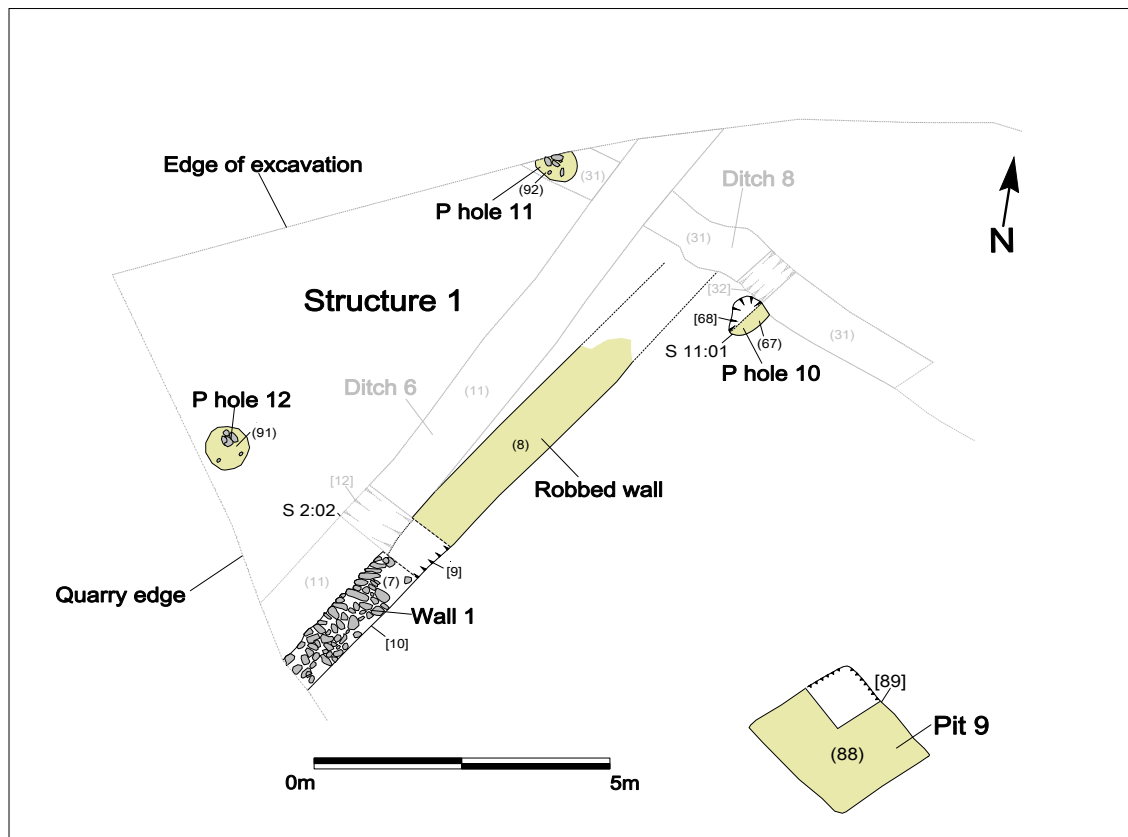


Figure 5 Structure 1

Post hole 1 [71] was situated 3.20m north-east of wall 2, and was partially truncated by quarrying at the north-eastern end. It had dimensions of 1.15m x 0.69m, with a depth of 0.18m, (Fig.9; section 12:04). Fill (70) was dark greyish brown silty sandy clay, which appeared to be the fill of a post pipe, with the mid orange brown silty sandy clay primary fill (69), containing limestone pieces probably used as post packing.

Post hole 2 [39] was 1.98m south-east of posthole 1, adjacent to the edge of the quarry, and measured 0.68m x 0.64m, with a depth of 0.20m, (Fig 8; section 3:04). Its fill (40), was mid-greyish brown silty sandy clay.

Post hole 3 [64] was situated 1.04m north of wall 2 and 1.75m south of post hole 1, with dimensions of 0.75m x 0.72m x 0.17m, (Fig 9; section 12:02). The feature had two fills, (66) a dark greyish brown silty sandy clay over the mid greyish brown silty clay primary fill (65).

Also probably relating to the structure was post hole 4 [61], measuring 0.43m x 0.36m, with a depth of 0.13m, (Fig 9; section 8:09). This was situated 1.61m north-west of wall 2 and 1.92m west of post hole 3, and contained a dark greyish brown silty sandy clay fill (60).

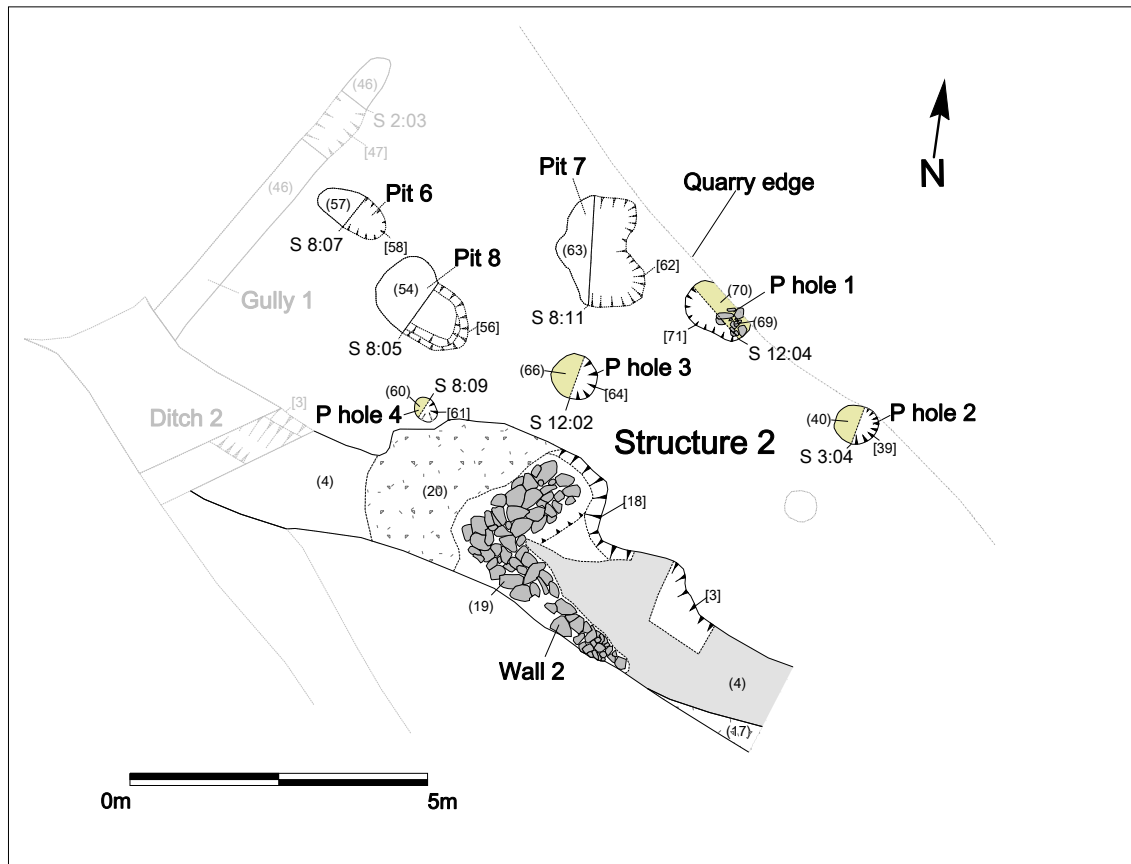


Figure 6: Structure 2



Plate 2 Structure 2 from the southeast

The Loom base (Figure 7)

4.25 In the north-eastern section of the area, immediately north of pit 1, a linear feature was evident orientated west to east [53]. This was 3.27m in length, with a width varying from 0.23m to 0.51m, and had a depth of 0.11m, (Fig 8; section 7:03). The fill of the feature (52), was a mid-greyish brown silty clay which contained one abraded sherd of late 1st century pottery. At the western end of the feature, two small post holes were revealed after the excavation of fill (52). A post hole [76] at the north-west end and partially within the feature, had dimensions of 0.27m x 0.22m, with a depth of 0.14m, (Fig 8; section 7:03). Post hole [96], (95) was located 0.11m south-east of posthole [76], at the southern edge of [53]. It measured 0.21m x 0.17m, with a depth of 0.13m.

The feature and the two post holes are evidence of a weaving structure. Triangular loom weights made of low fired clay, (small finds 87 & 173), were found in post hole [76], and in the main linear feature [53].

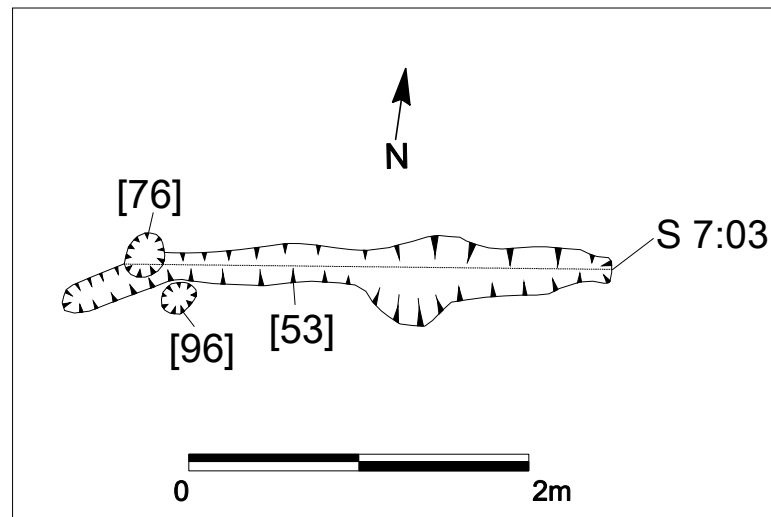


Figure 7: The loom base

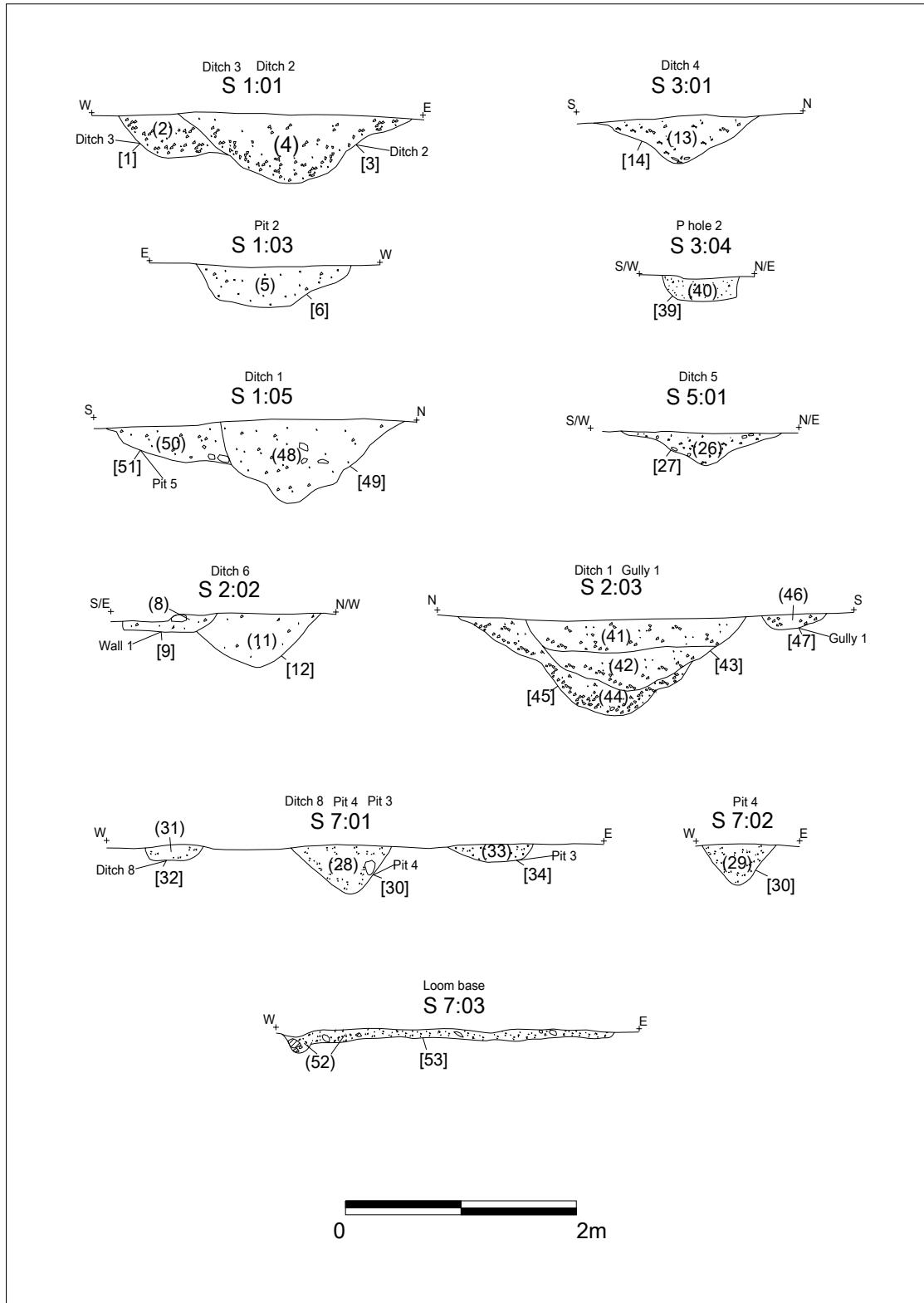


Figure 8: Sections of features 1:01-7:03

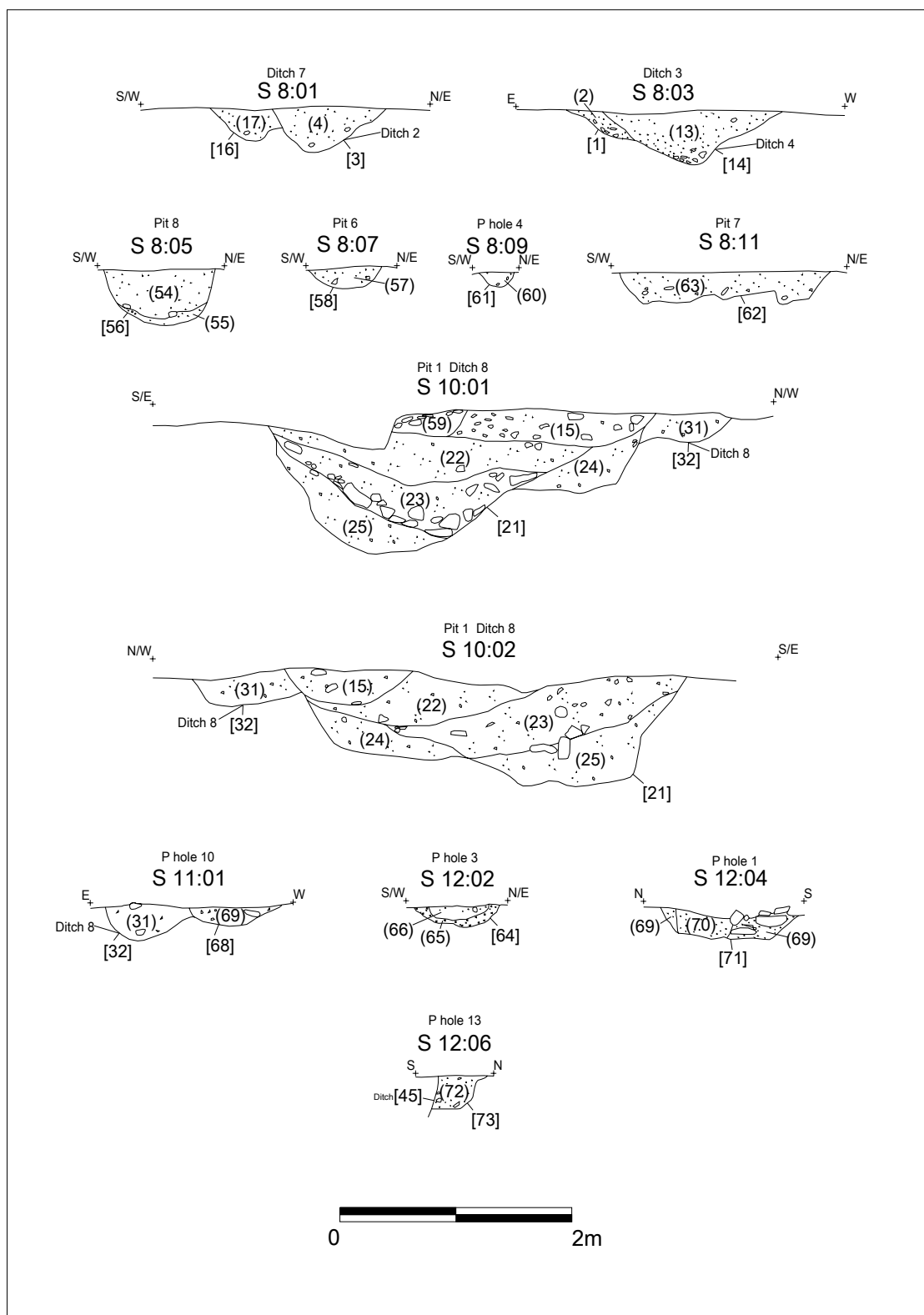


Figure 9: Sections of features 8:01-12:06

The early Mesolithic flint scatter

In the north-eastern extent of the area, partially truncated by quarrying, was an area of 19.28 square metres, made up of layers (37), a mid-reddish brown silty sandy clay, partially overlying (38), a mid-orange brown silty sandy clay.. The layers were cut by ditch 1 [43], ditch 8 [32], pit 1 [21], pit 3 [34], pit 4 [30], post hole 6 [83], and posthole 13 [73]. Worked flint was evident in both of these layers, including tools, cores and blades. The layers were excavated in five spits, each about 0.05m, and the flint material was plotted using an EDM (Electronic Distance Measurer). Two elongated pits [79], 2.21m x 0.85m, and [81], 1.97m x 0.66m were located after the removal of spit 3, visible after the partial removal of layer (38) in the south-western section of the flint scatter, pit. Both of these were about 0.30m deep, and had mid orange brown silty sandy clay fills, (78) (80) similar to the surrounding layer (38), again containing flint material. These may be later insertions, cutting (38) although not visible higher in the feature.

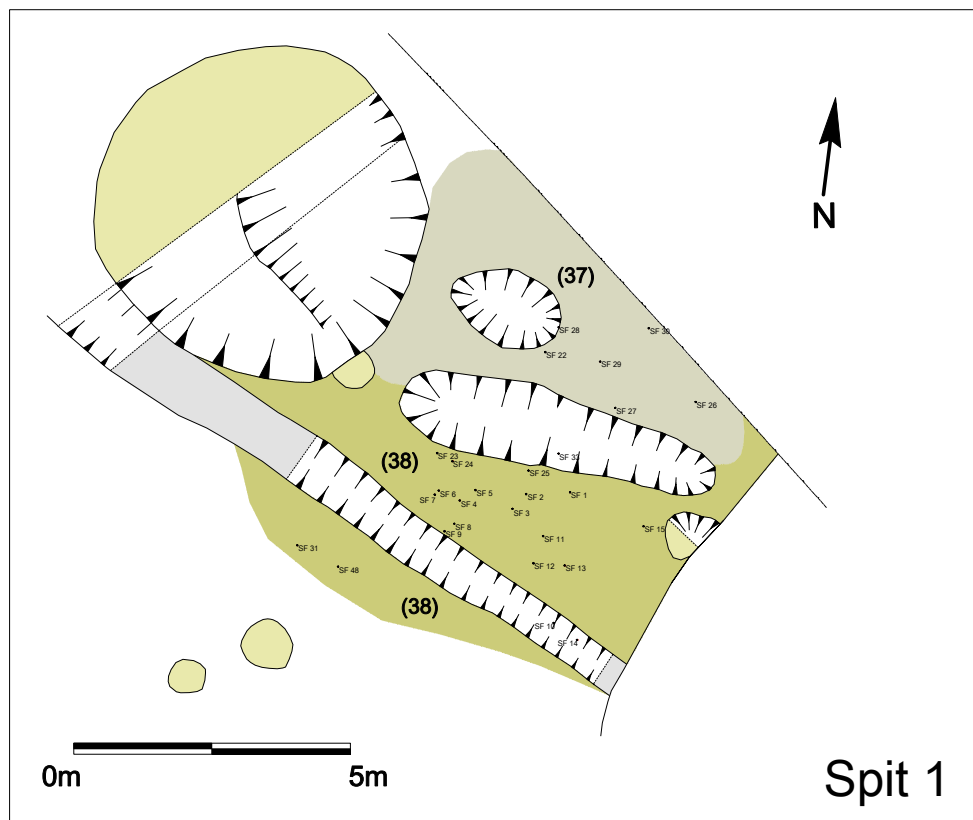


Figure 10: Area of flint (Spit 1)

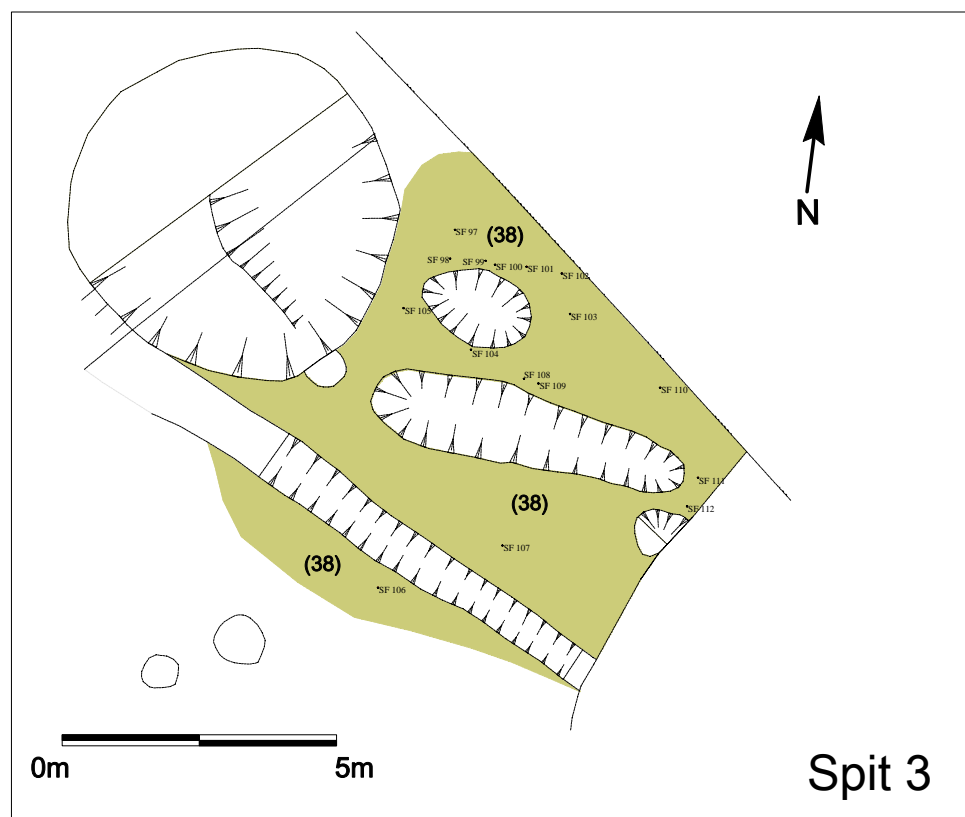
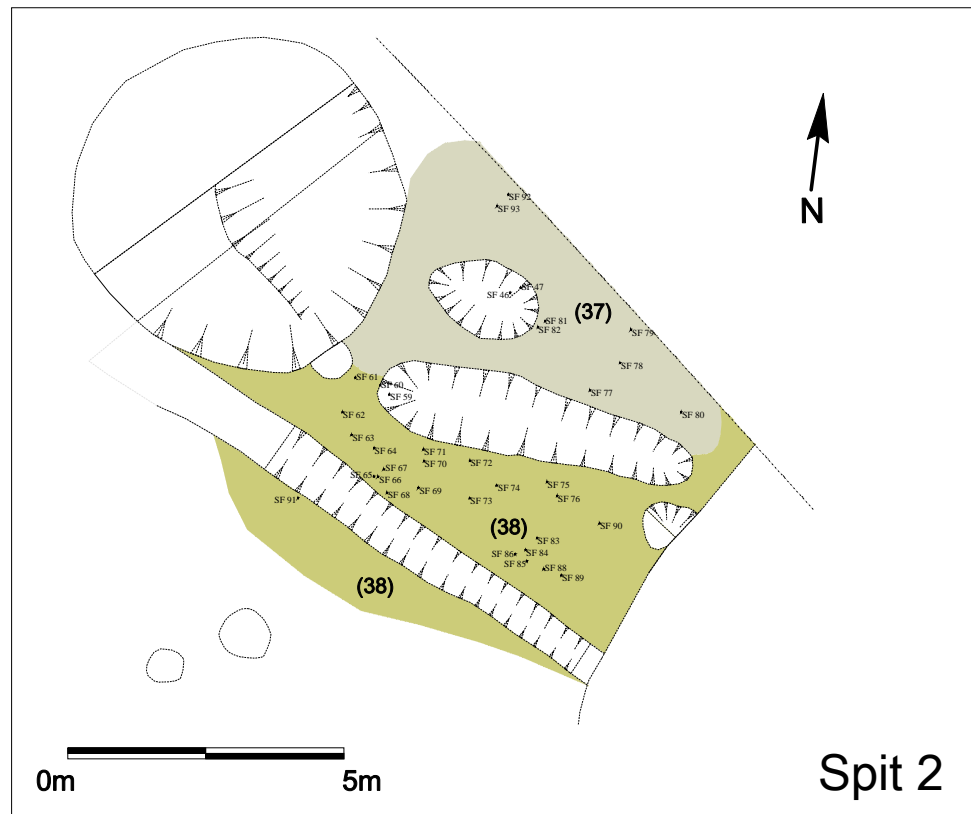


Figure 11: Area of flint (Spits 2 & 3)

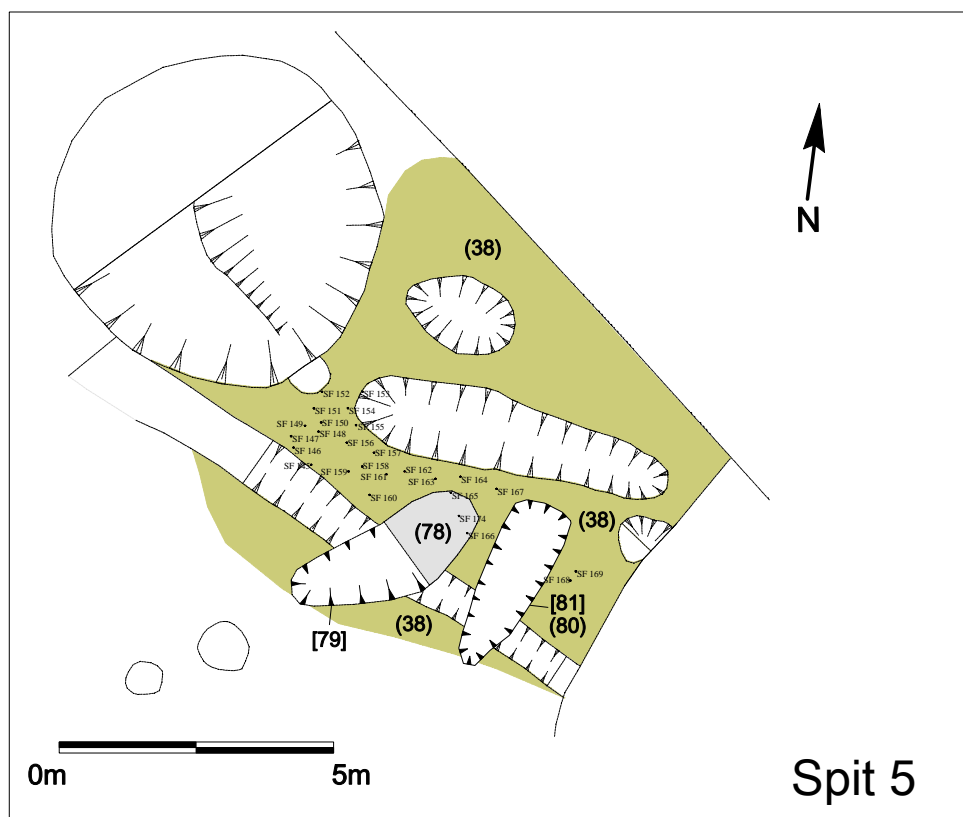
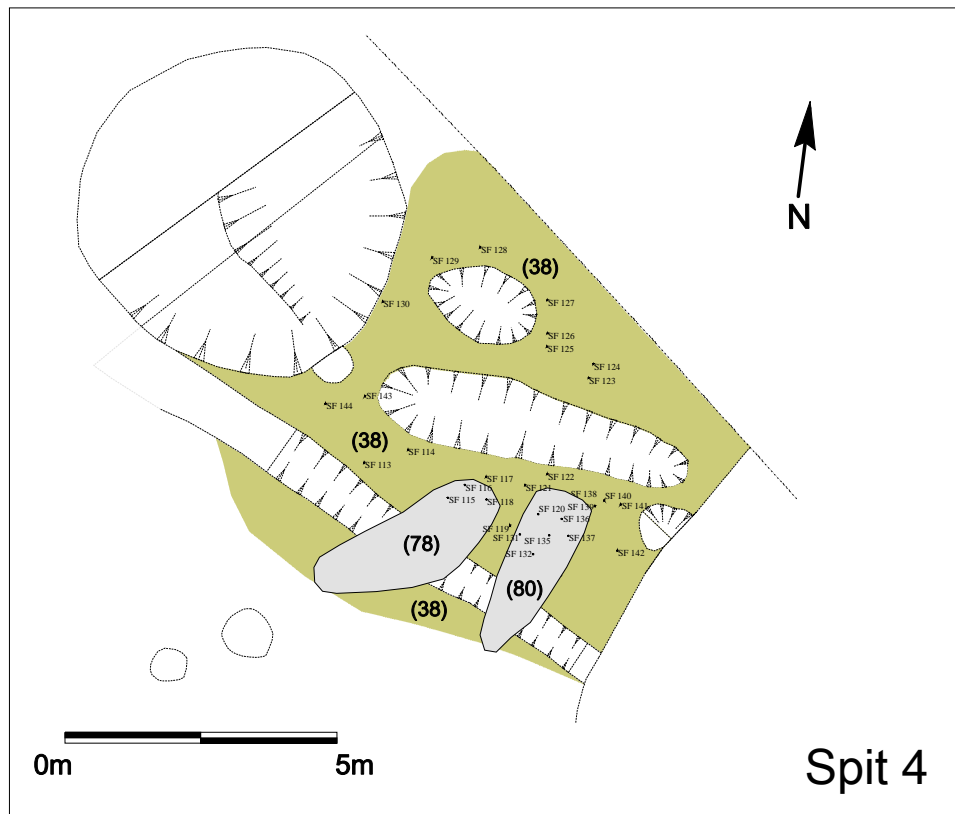


Figure 12: Area of flint (Spits 4 & 5)

5. The Lithics

Lynden Cooper

The site assemblage comprises 223 pieces of which 152 pieces were from deposits (37) and (38) and 28 pieces residual in later features or unstratified. Most of the residual pieces were recovered from features cutting into (37) and (38) and from their condition and technological tradition can be regarded as being derived from such. Some 43 pieces were recovered from pit fills (78) and (80), revealed following the removal of (37) and (38). It is suggested below that the two features may have been later features that were not recognised when excavation of deposit (38) occurred. The raw material of the majority of flints from deposits (37) and (38) was a good quality semi-translucent flint with a thin shell of cortex. A majority of this flint was patinated often to a deep white with several pieces showing additional mottling. Similar mottling was a distinctive feature of the Terminal Palaeolithic site at Launde. There were also 36 pieces of Wolds flint, mostly from pit fills (78) and (80).

Technological characteristics of the assemblage are typical of the British Early Mesolithic. The blade and bladelet cores were carefully prepared by the removal of small chips and/or rubbing at the front of the core. The lack of platform faceting is evident from the predominance of plain butts. The platforms of the cores showed that platform preparation involved the removal of core tablets. The principal knapping objective was the production of bladelets. Although several blades were recorded these were generally small and only just exceeded the metrical criterion of bladelets. Two microburins attest to the production of microliths at the site. It is possible that microlith blanks were also produced by simply snapping the bladelets. Several bladelet segments appear to be the right size and shape for the production of obliquely truncated points.

Tools included six obliquely truncated points, a piercer on a bladelet support, a truncated bladelet, a truncated blade, a retouched flake, and a denticulate. An unstratified retouched flake, a utilised flake from context (41) and a straight-edged scraper from the surface of context (38) are each clearly later prehistoric in date.

	Blade	Blade core	Bladelet	Bladelet Core	Flake	Flake core	Core rejuven. flake	Crested piece	Shatter	Chips	Microlith (microburin)	Other tool
37/38	13	-	35	1	73	-	2	-	8	8	5 (2)	5
78	3	1	7	1	15	-	-	1	3	-	1	1
80	2	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other	1	1	2	-	13	4	1	-	1	-	-	5
TOTAL	19	2	45	2	107	4	3	1	13	8	6 (2)	11

Table 1: Assemblage breakdown

Discussion

Initial assessment of the overall assemblage suggested a clean Early Mesolithic assemblage of Star Carr type. However, there may be some evidence for a slight palimpsest with slightly later occupation by a Deepcar group. A distinctive sub-group of Wolds flint was found in two adjacent hollows (tree throw scars?) apparently beneath the main deposit of (38). It has been noted that the Deepcar type assemblages in the

Midlands often used Wolds flint. In support of this designation is a single microlith from (78) which is notably more slender than those in the main group. There were ten pieces of Wolds flint from the main deposits (37) and (38). Of these seven were immediately or closely above the hollows suggesting that the hollows may have been negative features, but unidentified as cutting deposit (38).

The Market Overton flints are a rare example of an Early Mesolithic assemblage, thought to represent the earliest manifestation of the true Mesolithic in the UK. There are few sites for comparison: Myers (2006) noted the lack of chronological distinction of Mesolithic sites and findspots in the SMRs of the Midlands. While there has been an exponential growth of Mesolithic sites in Leicestershire and Rutland, mainly the result of fieldwalking survey, there has been little attempt to refine their chronology. Some resolution of dating has occurred recently e.g. an Early Mesolithic surface scatter is reported from Uppingham (Cooper and Jones 2005) while recent analysis of the Cossington barrow 3 assemblage identified an Early Mesolithic component (Cooper forthcoming). The Uppingham scatter produced 12 obliquely truncated points of Star Carr type while Cossington produced a bladelet scatter associated with a slender obliquely truncated point with additional retouch at the tip, a microlith of Deepcar type. Recent radiocarbon dating of Star Carr and Deepcar type sites suggests there is a chronological difference with the former dating from 9,700 radiocarbon years BP and the latter from *c* 9,300 BP (Reynier 1998).

6. The Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery

Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage size and condition

A stratified assemblage of 236 sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 4.035kg was retrieved from the excavations. The material is well preserved with an average sherd weight of 17.1g. In addition, three sherds of Late Iron Age pottery (28g) and two sherds of Early Saxon pottery (6g) were also recovered.

Methodology

The Romano-British material was classified using the ULAS/Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994). Within the archive database, specific fabrics were assigned to all sherds wherever possible, however in this report the generic ware groups summarised below in table 2 are used for clarity of quantified data presentation.

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:	Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
Samian	Samian ware	SW	Sandy wares
C	Colour-coated wares	GT	Grog tempered wares
WW	White wares	MG	Mixed gritted wares
GW	Grey wares	CG	Calcite gritted (shelly)

Table 2: Summary of Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994: 112-114).

Quantification was by sherd count and weight. Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Form Series and other published typologies (Howe *et al* 1980; Holbrook and Bidwell 1991; Pollard 1994; Tyres 1996;

Webster 1996; Cooper 2000a). The complete dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

Summary of major pottery fabrics within the assemblage

Table 3 and chart below details a summary of the major pottery fabrics within the assemblage as a whole. Grey, shelly, grog-tempered, mixed-gritted and sandy coarse wares account for 89% of the assemblage. The majority of these are most likely locally made and predominantly provide the utilitarian jars and bowls for general household use. Shelly ware jars constitute the largest single fabric group at 44.5%, most of which date within the first and second centuries. A few later Roman shelly wares from the Rutland/Lincolnshire border and the South Midlands are also present (Bolton 1968: 1-3; Brown 1994; Pollard 1994: 114). The grey wares (35.2%) are also mostly jars ranging from cordoned Belgic styles dating to the late first century through to Nene Valley grey wares dating to the later second and third centuries (Howe *et al* 1980: 12-15).

Grog-tempered, mixed-gritted and sandy wares are sometimes known as “transitional” fabrics, largely dating within the first century but possibly continuing into the very early second century (Pollard 1994: 74-75). The forms present here include cordoned, scored and combed decoration suggesting a date largely within the later first century.

Fabric	No of Sherds	% Sherds	Weight (g)	% Weight (g)	Average Sherd Weight (g)
C	20	8.5%	295	7.3%	14.8
CG	105	44.5%	1539	38.1%	14.7
GT	9	3.8%	194	4.8%	21.6
GW	83	35.2%	1645	40.8%	19.8
MG	4	1.7%	68	1.7%	17.0
Samian	3	1.3%	17	0.4%	5.7
SW	9	3.8%	240	5.9%	26.7
WW	3	1.3%	37	0.9%	12.3
Total	236	100.0%	4035	100.0%	17.1

Table 3: Major fabric groups present within the assemblage as a whole.

The white wares are flagons dating to the late-1st and 2nd centuries including an example from Verulamium. Likely sources for the rest include Mancetter-Hartshill or Northamptonshire (Swan 1984: 95-101; Pollard 1994: 113-114).

Fine wares account for 9.8% of the assemblage. Romano-British colour-coated wares from the Nene Valley form the majority of the fine wares (8.5%). Beakers, bowls, jars and flagons ranging in date from the late 2nd century through to the 4th are present (Howe *et al* 1980: 16-25). The remaining fine wares are small amounts of imported Gaulish Samian tableware (dishes and bowls), typical of the late first and second centuries (Webster 1996).

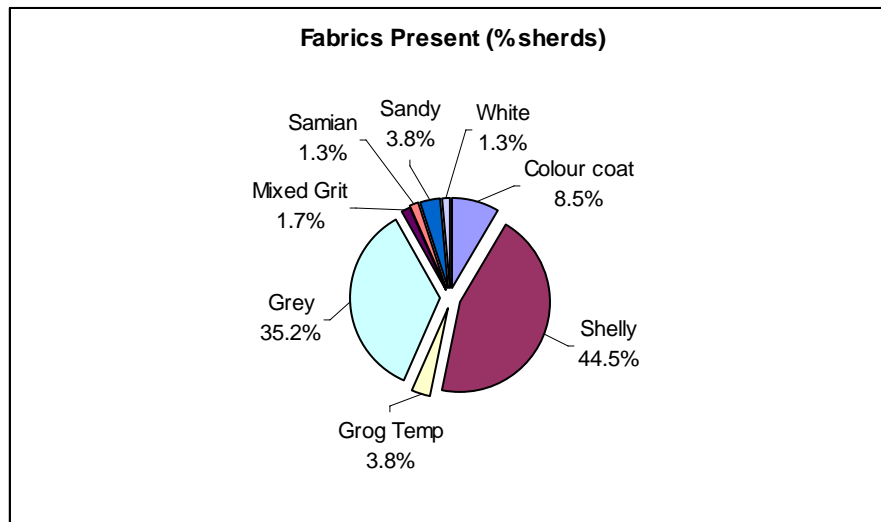


Figure 12: Proportion of fabrics present within the whole assemblage (% sherds).

Features

The features recorded on the site comprise a series of ditches, pits, gullies and structures with more than one phase of activity clearly represented. Features from which pottery was recovered are discussed below.

Ditches and gullies

One of the largest features on the site was Ditch 1 running across the site from east to west. Although two separate sections of the ditch were investigated, only 37 sherds of pottery were recovered in total. Towards the eastern edge, the lowest level revealed an early ditch cut [45], from which a single sherd of very abraded and leached shelly ware was recovered from (44) most likely dating to the mid-late 1st century. Above this, evidence for a second ditch phase [43] was found. The shelly and sandy ware jars from lower fill (42) date to the late first century. A more varied group of 21 sherds was recovered from upper fill (41) including Bourne-Greetham shelly ware and Nene Valley grey ware jars dating to the later 2nd-3rd century as well as local grey wares dating from the 2nd century onwards (Bolton 1968: 1-3; Howe *et al* 1980: 12-15; Pollard 1994: 114). The early shelly wares in (41) are abraded and may well be residual from the lower fills. The presence of earlier pottery in lower fill (42) suggests that either the ditch was re-cut in fairly quick succession or the material is residual upcast from the first ditch phase. Apart from the abraded early shelly wares, the group of material from (41) clearly dates well within the 2nd century. The section taken at the western side of Ditch 1 [49] (48) revealed six sherds of pottery dating to the late 1st or possibly early 2nd century, including an unusual grog-tempered almost barrel shaped jar. The fabric is similar to grog-tempered fabrics found in Northamptonshire and this may be a possible source.

Ditch 2 was also a large feature and 21 sherds of pottery were recovered from [3] (4). The group comprises at least eight separate jars in grey, sandy, mixed-gritted and shelly fabrics. The grey ware narrow mouthed jar with cordoned decoration dates to the mid-late 1st century as do the Belgic style sandy and mixed-gritted ware jars. The shelly

wares have combed zoned decoration also dating to the mid-late 1st century (Pollard 1994: 74-75). Gully 1 was a small linear feature running parallel to Ditch 1 and cut by Ditch 2. Unfortunately only one sherd of abraded shelly ware most likely dating to the mid-late 1st century was recovered from [47] (46).

Five sherds of pottery were found in Ditch 4 [14] (13). A sandy ware jar dates to the late 1st century. The grey ware jar may also be as early as the late 1st century or possibly very early 2nd century. In addition one sherd of Late Iron Age shelly ware was recovered from (13). All the material in this context was abraded.

Pottery from Ditch 5 [27] (26) comprised an early shelly ware jar, Verulamium white ware dating to the late 1st-early 2nd century and a sandy ware jar. The sandy ware jar has a slightly hooked rim and regular combing over the top half comparable with shelly ware jars found at Empingham dating to the late 1st-early 2nd century (Cooper 2000a: 73-74).

Ditch 8 [32] (31) in the northern half of the site produced 20 sherds of pottery dating to the mid-late 2nd century. Most of the vessels were grey wares including a dish imitating a Black Burnished ware form dating from the mid-2nd century onwards (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991: 111-112). A single sherd of Early Saxon rock tempered pottery dating to c. AD 450-650 was also recovered from (31).

Pits

Pit 1 [21] (15), (22) and (23) to the north-east of the site, produced the largest group of pottery comprising 69 sherds weighing 1.234kg. The character of the group is very different to all the other features on the site and dates to the 4th century. Grey and shelly coarse wares are still dominant however there are no earlier transitional fabrics present. Regional coarse wares are present including Nene Valley grey ware jars and a dish dating to the later 2nd and 3rd centuries (Howe *et al* 1980: 12-15). The shelly ware jars from Bourne-Greetham date to the later 2nd and 3rd centuries and the South Bedfordshire shelly wares date to the late 3rd and 4th centuries (Brown 1994). A substantial quantity of painted wall plaster, flue tiles and stone was also found in this pit suggesting it represents a demolition dump relating to a fairly high status building in the vicinity, possibly Structure 1. With the exception of one sherd from the top of Pit 8, (54), all the fine wares within the assemblage were found in Pit 1. Only three sherds of imported Samian ware were recovered including a Drag. 18/31 dish, dating to the early-mid 2nd century in (22), and a decorated bowl in (23) dating to the late 1st-early 2nd century. The Samian ware was abraded and is residual in this group (Webster 1996: 35; 47-48). The remaining fine wares are Nene Valley colour-coated wares. Beakers dating from the late 2nd century through to the 3rd and possibly 4th centuries were found in (15) and (22). Jars, flagons and bowls common during the later 3rd and 4th centuries were also found in these contexts (Howe *et al* 1980: 16-25).

Pit 2 [6] (5) was also located in the northern half of the site. Sandy and shelly ware jars dating to the mid-late 1st century were found alongside a sherd of Late Iron Age shelly ware. One sherd from a grog-tempered ware jar dating to the late 1st century was recovered from Pit 5 [51] (50). Pit 5 was situated to the western central area of the site and was cut by Ditch 1 [43].

Pit 4 [30] (28), (29) cut the flint scatter in the north-eastern part of the site. All of the 22 sherds were early shelly ware jars dating to the mid-late 1st century. The forms present include Belgic styles with burnished outer surfaces, cordons and a bead rim. Two inturned rim jars comparable to vessels found recently at Rearsby in Leicestershire most likely date to the mid-1st century. In addition, a Late Iron Age shelly ware inturned rim jar dating to the first half of the 1st century was recovered from Pit 7 [62] (63). Late Iron Age inturned rim jars were also found at Rearsby alongside early Roman material (Johnson 2007: 3-6). Jars with inturned rims in sandy and shell-tempered fabrics have been found in Leicester dating to the mid-1st century AD and it is accepted that the transition during the 1st century from “Belgic” wares to Romano-British wares is not at all clear-cut (Pollard 1992: 72-74; 98-105). This is the second rural site in recent times at which Late Iron Age and early Roman inturned rim jars have been found together, which is something to note for future reference. In time it may be possible to see patterns developing which will help our understanding of the transitional period during the first century AD.

Pit 8 [56] had two fills. The lower fill (55) comprised early shelly ware jars with bead and everted rims. A small, globular jar with a slightly rounded everted rim is comparable to jars found at Empingham and Great Casterton in Rutland dating to the mid-first century (Corder 1961: 42-43; Cooper 2000: 74-75). One sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware dating to the late 2nd-early 3rd century was recovered from the upper fill (54).

Structures

Two structures were found on the site, neither of which had much ceramic dating evidence. Post-hole 10 [68] (67) associated with Structure 1, produced one sherd of undiagnostic grey ware, which could date any time from the 2nd century onwards. A sherd of Early Saxon pottery dating to c.AD450-650 was also recovered from this post-hole. Structure 2 was associated with a wall built into Ditch 2. Three sherds of pottery were recovered from construction fill (19) comprising grey, grog-tempered and mixed-gritted ware jars dating to the late 1st-early 2nd century.

Loom base

One sherd of abraded, leached shelly ware dating from the late 1st century was recovered from the loom base [53] (52).

Summary of dating evidence

The ceramic evidence suggests activity on the site ranging from the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age through the Roman period and probably into the Early Saxon period. The features can be divided into four broad phases of activity as follows:

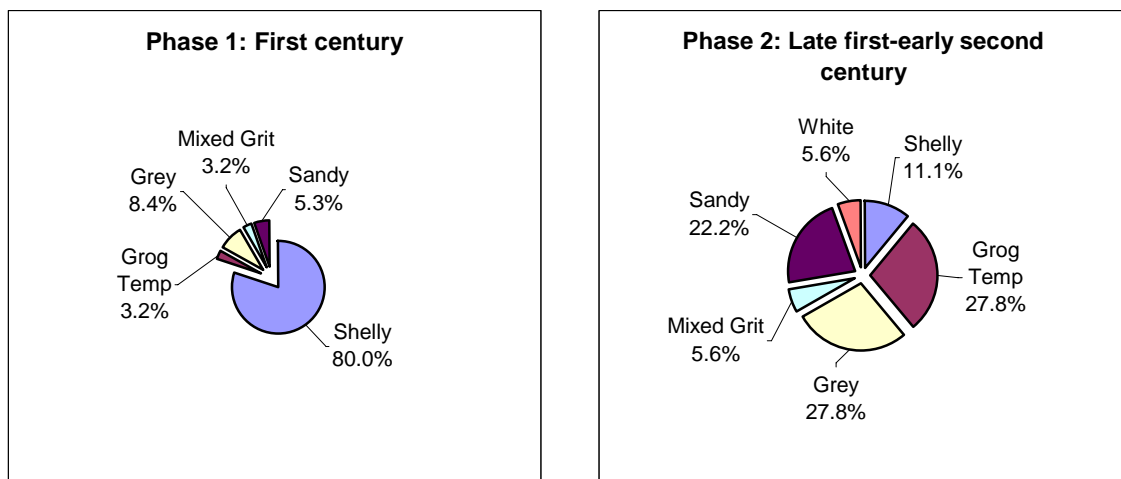
Feature	Date Range (century AD)
Phase 1: 1st century	
Pit 7	Late Pre-Roman Iron Age early-mid first century
Ditch 1 [45]	Mid-late 1st century
Ditch 2	Mid-late 1st century
Gully 1	Mid-late 1st century
Pit 2	Mid-late 1st century

Pit 4	Mid-late 1st century
Pit 8 lower fill (55)	Mid-late 1st century
Ditch 1 [43] lower fill	Late 1st century
Pit 5	Late 1st century
Phase 2: Late 1st-early 2nd century	
Loom base	Late 1st century, possibly early 2nd century
Ditch 4	Late 1st century, possibly early 2nd century
Ditch 1 [49]	Late 1st-early 2nd century
Ditch 5	Late 1st-early 2nd century
Structure 2	Late 1st-early 2nd century
Phase 3: 2nd and 3rd centuries	
Ditch 8	Mid-late 2nd century
Pit 8 upper fill (54)	Late 2nd-early 3rd century
Ditch 1 [43] upper fill	Late 2nd-3rd century
Structure 1	2nd century onwards (not closely dateable)
Phase 4: 4th century and Saxon	
Pit 1	4th century
Ditch 8 (top of ditch fill)	Early Saxon
Structure 1 (post-hole 10)	Early Saxon

Most features date within the 1st century or late 1st-early 2nd century. Structure 1 does not appear to date before the 2nd century. Pit 1 is the latest Roman feature and as previously discussed most likely represents a demolition dump as a nearby building fell into disuse. The two sherds of Early Saxon pottery were recovered from the top fills of Ditch 8 and Post-hole 10. The post-hole cuts the ditch and it may be that the Saxon material is associated with the post-hole.

Discussion

The character of the ceramic assemblage changes between phases as illustrated in figure 2 below.



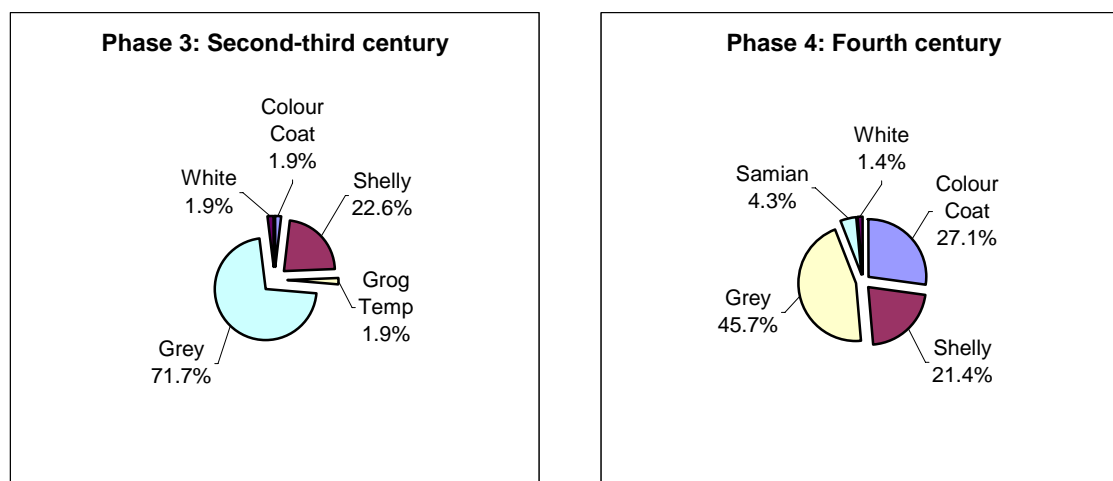


Figure 13: Fabrics present within each phase (% sherds).

Early Roman shelly wares dominate Phase 1 accounting for 80% of the assemblage, with transitional grog-tempered, mixed-gritted and sandy wares constituting a further 11.7%. Phase 2 illustrates the transition from early Roman fabrics with Late Iron Age antecedents to a more recognisable Romano-British assemblage. Although transitional fabrics are still present in substantial quantities, the proportion of grey ware is significantly larger than in Phase 1 and white wares from regional pottery industries such as Northampton and Verulamium are present. By Phase 3, grey wares are dominant and colour-coated wares appear for the first time indicating a date range into the later second and third centuries. Phase 4 is characterised by the substantial increase in Romano-British colour-coated wares and later Roman regional shelly wares.

Phases 1 to 3 show overwhelming local pottery supply of well over 90%, with no imports and only 5-6% regional wares in Phases 2 and 3. Phase 4 differs with 4.3% imports, 47.2% local and 48.5% regional wares. Phases 1-3 are comparable with other rural farmstead sites in the region particularly those at Empingham, whilst Phase 4 is more comparable to rural villa sites (Cooper 2000b: 80-81).

An interesting point is the complete absence of Black Burnished ware, oxidised ware, amphora or mortaria. Most of the regional traded wares present are from the Nene Valley, with small amounts from the Lincolnshire/Rutland border and South Midlands, which may be a reflection of the proximity to pottery industries to the east and south of the county. At Empingham in Rutland the proximity of the sites to the Nene Valley industry and dominance of its wares is such that it is considered a local supplier (Cooper 2004: 90-91) and the same could perhaps be said here with regard to the colour-coated wares and regional grey ware. Market Overton is very close to the small town of Thistleton which could have provided a local market and not too far away from comparable sites at Empingham or the small town and villa at Great Casterton (Corder 1954, 1961; Cooper 2000a).

The proportions and variety of vessel types within the assemblage also change between phases. It was possible to assign a general vessel form type to 79.2% of the assemblage and figure 3 below illustrates the forms present within each phase. All the vessels identified from Phase 1 are jars, which typifies a first century rural farmstead site and is as expected. Phases 2 and 3 are also typical of Romano-British rural farmstead sites

where jars dominate with few table wares and few or no fine or specialist wares. As with the fabrics discussed above, the forms present in Phase 4 display a wider variety than the other phases and include ranges of table wares including drinking vessels and bowls equating to approximately 68% jars and 32% table wares. These proportions are comparable to other rural sites in the Wreake Valley in Leicestershire where farmsteads were dominated by jars whilst villa and small town sites displayed a wider variety of vessel type and much higher levels of table wares (Johnson 2005: 32-36). Phase 4 is also comparable to the small town at Medbourne and other sites in the South Midlands (Evans 2001: 27-29; Johnson 2007: 4).

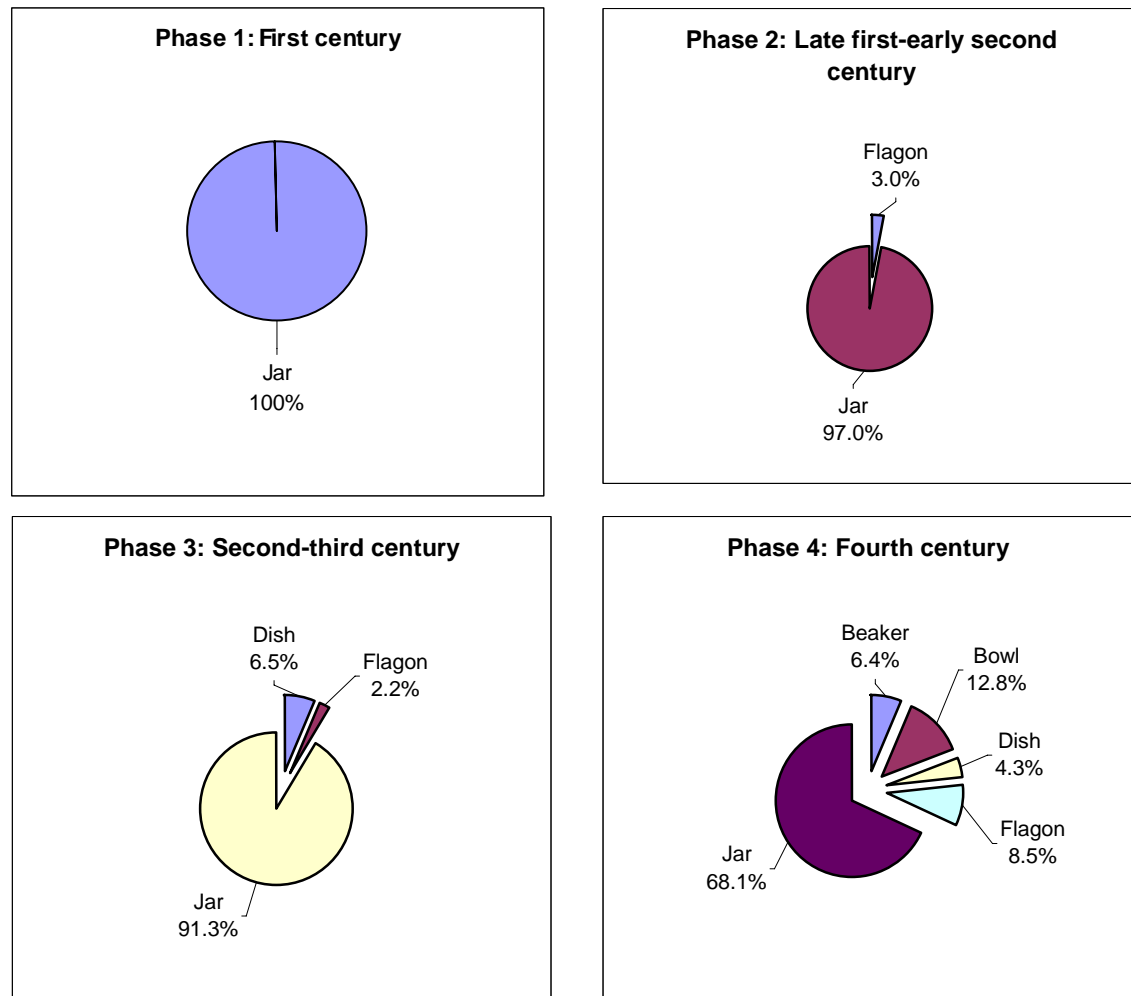


Figure 15: Forms present within each phase (% classified sherds).

Taken together, the variety of fabrics and forms within the assemblage and across phases reveals some interesting points relating to the nature of activity on the site over time. Phases 1-3 most likely represent typical rural farmstead type occupation ranging from the middle of the 1st century through the 2nd and possibly the 3rd century. Earlier occupation during the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age is also possible. Phase 4 is essentially represented by Pit 1 which appears to be a demolition dump associated with a late Roman building with at least one room heated and decorated with painted wall plaster, and as such reflects a change in the nature of occupation from rural farmstead to probable villa. The likely villa, Structure 1, is located in the northern half of the site with the earlier

Structure 2 south of the probable enclosure ditch, Ditch 1. This could represent a change or break in occupation, but not necessarily so as generations of the same family groups may have continued to occupy the area, perhaps changing their habitation as fortunes and desires changed. There is also some evidence for Early Saxon occupation, though it is not possible to say if occupation was continuous or if the site was re-occupied some time after the abandonment of Structure 1 which probably took place during the later 4th century.

7. The small finds Martin Shore

The small finds were surprisingly few in number, only four being located, two of which came from pit 4, cut [30]. Small find 39 (29) was a small fragment of silvered bronze, unfortunately too small for any positive identification but was presumed to be Roman in date. Also from the same pit, context (28), was a large stone object, small find 49, 0.55m x 0.45m, x 0.11m. Positioned off centre was a cupped indent measuring 0.13m x 0.13m, having a depth of 0.06m. The use of this was unsure, but may have been a door pivot for a post, or possibly used as a mortar. This may have been Roman in date.

The other two finds comprise a complete clay triangular loom weight, small find 87, and also loom weight fragments, small find 94, both from the loom base fill (52), cut [53]. Triangular loom weights are Iron Age or Roman in date and nearby examples are known from Empingham (Fraser 2000, 115, fig 55 nos. 44 and 45).

8. The Painted Wall Plaster Heidi Addison

Methodology

Approximately 55kg of painted wall plaster was recovered, primarily from a single pit fill Pit 1 (15) containing a coherent demolition deposit including flue tile. The material was separated into categories according to colour and design elements comprising panel schemes, figurative, angled borders and stripes and corner pieces.

Constructional and Painting techniques

Reed impressions on the reverse of a number of fragments are indicative of internal walls or ceiling plaster. The painted surfaces look quite crude, resembling the *tempera* technique rather than the true fresco method of applying paint to a damp plaster surface. Given that *tempera* is a method used more for 'building up' detailed work, it is possibly an unskilled attempt at fresco, whereby the crucial timing and application of the paint was not very successful. There are a few examples of scored straight lines in the paint surface which indicate where the plasterer marked out areas for *giornata di lavoro* (a day's work).

Decorative Schemes

The schemes represented within the assemblage conceivably belong to one room and one decorative phase. A panel scheme comprising graded olive green and cream bands and stripes represents the bulk of the wall plaster from the site. The olive green borders are graded, varying in width from 3mm to 30mm. Graded vertical colours were typically used as a perspective device within panel schemes. Over 35kg of stripe and border

fragments were recovered from this panel scheme (Plate 1). In addition there were 6.6kg of plain cream fragments and 1.5kg of plain olive green. A possible candelabrum fragment with a broad green zone hints at a vegetal motif (Plate 2) and the presence of many fragments with free form design elements indicates a frieze above the panels incorporating stylized leaves and flora. An interesting detail found on a corner fragment might suggest a swag tie-back (Plate 3). Seven fragments were polished, or at least extremely smooth, of which six were olive green striped and one plain cream (See below). Three architrave fragments were also present in a uniform olive green coming from either a door or window.



Plate 3 Panel scheme



Plate 4. Possible candelabrum



Plate 5 Possible swag tie-back

An impressive medallion scheme is represented by 11 fragments with a reddish purple ground. These all show the remains of concentric circles; a pale blue/grey or white inner circle and a pale yellow outer circle, finished with central yellow paint 'blobs'. Another fragment from the same scheme has a green border. It also has a compass point mark in the centre of one of its yellow paint 'blobs', presumably to aid the drawing of the circle design. The design is very similar to other medallion schemes, most notably used as ceiling plasters.

There are 26 fragments (1.1kg) in contrasting greens with arcs remaining and vegetal and floral motifs; again reed impressions are present on a few and one or two have tile fragments in the plaster (Plate 5). Two joining fragments with a circular theme may also belong to this scheme and show a scored guide line and also a compass point mark (Plate 6). They also have reed impressions on the reverse.



Plate 6 Medallion scheme fragments (top)

Plate 7 Greens with arcs and vegetation

Plate 8 Joining fragments motifs

Seventeen (1037g) fragments of pseudo-marbling were found which, probably originate from the dado area of a wall; 12 are an almost faded pale pink colour with black and red paint splats; one has a white stripe. Some of these are quite crude and rough and perhaps are from the base-zone of the wall. Five other fragments are dark blue with black and red paint splats; two of which have a pale blue/grey line.

Catalogue

Plates 9-13. Figurative elements possibly from the olive green and cream panel scheme



Pseudo-marbling

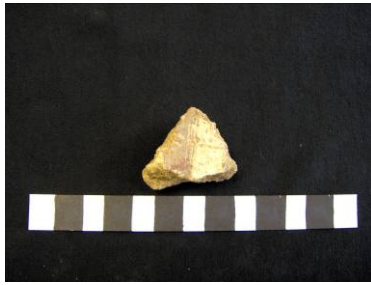


Plate 14 Pink pseudo-marbling with part of a cream border.



Plate 15 Blue pseudo-marbling



Plate 16 Polished fragments from the panel scheme



Plate 17 Fragments with scored guidelines including a blue fragment with a slight lip



Plate 18 Red and cream fragments, 1 or 2 possibly relating to the red medallion scheme



Plate 19 Green with vegetal and circle design



Plate 20 Two cream fragments with thin black line.

Architectural fragments



Plate 21 Possibly the very base of the dado



Plate 22 Side view of the fragment



Plate 22 Opus signinum architrave

9. Roman Ceramic Building Material Terri Davies

A stratified assemblage of 58 fragments, weighing 12kg was recovered from three context groups and primarily from the large circular pit (15), which also contained a large dump of painted wall plaster. The material was recorded by tile form on an MS Excel spreadsheet and quantified by fragment count and weight (summarised in Table 1). No detailed fabric analysis was undertaken, as all the material was manufactured in the variety of orange sand tempered fabrics typical of products found across the East Midlands.

Type	No.Frags	Wght(g)	AvFrag Wt	%wt
Boxflue	52	9977	191.8654	84
Imbrex	4	1854	463.5	15
Tegula	2	109	54.5	1
Total	58	11940	100	100

Table 4 Quantification of Ceramic Building Material

The assemblage is atypical in that it is dominated by boxflue with very little roof tile (*tegulae and imbrex*) and no wall tile. Only two different combs were used for the keying patterns on the boxflue tiles. It would therefore appear to be a very specific deposit from the demolition of a hypocausted building.

10. The charred plant remains Angela Monckton

Introduction

Samples were taken from features with the potential to contain charred plant remains which may indicate agriculture or occupation. One Mesolithic and three Roman samples were taken and processed.

Methods

Samples were wet-sieved in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and air dried. The residues were also air dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted for all finds which are included in the relevant sections of this report. The fraction of the residue below 4mm was reserved for analysis stage if required. This work was carried out at ULAS by Anita Radini.

The flots were sorted for plant and animal remains using a x10-30 stereo microscope and the remains were removed to glass specimen tubes. The plant remains were identified by comparison with modern reference material at ULAS and were counted and tabulated below (table 1). The plant names follow Stace (1991), both botanical and common names. For samples with over 50 items the proportions and ratios of the different types of remains, i.e. cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds were considered to help interpret the samples (van der Veen 1992). Land snails were also recovered from some of the samples. The results are described and discussed below.

Results

The plant remains

Cereals: Cereal grains were few and were mainly broken and abraded. The identifiable cereal grains were of glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare*) were also found, this was of a hulled form including some twisted grains which showed that six-row barley was present. Occasional wheat chaff fragments (glumes) were found and most were identifiable as glumes were of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) with prominent minor veins, one prominent wide angled keel and wide bases. Glumes which were broken too short to distinguish these features or were of intermediate type were identified only as the glume wheats either emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*).

Other plants: Weed seeds were mainly of plants of arable or disturbed ground. The large grasses including brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) are the most common weed as is often the case at this period. Of the other weeds here a few seeds of sedges (*Carex* sp.) and blinks (*Montia* sp.) suggest the presence of wetter areas of the fields. Weeds of spring sown crops or disturbed ground include the ubiquitous goose-foots (*Chenopodium* sp.) and docks (*Rumex* sp.), while grassy vegetation is suggested by (*Plantago lanceolata*) and tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*). Field poppy (*Papaver rhoeas/dubium*) is present as an additional arable weed also found in the corn driers at Ridlington, while henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) is a plant of polluted ground such as is found near rubbish pits and manure heaps and is a poisonous plant. Grass stem fragments and tiller bases, and seeds of smaller grasses were also present perhaps from nearby vegetation as burnt fodder or kindling. However, most of the above plants can grow as arable weeds.

Results by feature

Roman – Mid –late 1st century AD

Ditch, sample 1 [42] (43): The samples contained a few grains of wheat and barley with a few weed seeds. The charred plant remains were typically Roman (Greig 1991) and were found together with charcoal so were likely to be contemporary with the feature. Grains included glume wheat and barley in similar numbers but no chaff was present. The sample was dominated by weed seeds probably representing a scatter of cereal cleaning waste. Grassy material was also present as stems and tiller bases, probably from the surrounding vegetation used as kindling.

Pit 4 sample 3 [30] (28): The sample contained a few cereal grains with a few chaff fragments including spelt, no barley was identified. There were more weed seeds than grains suggesting that this represented cereal cleaning waste as in sample 1.

Pit 3, sample 4 [34] (33): This sample contained the most cereal grains, mainly barley with some wheat grains and a little chaff including spelt. Weed seeds were present in similar numbers to grains. The sample may represent domestic waste from food preparation, burnt in a hearth and dumped in the pit.

In all the samples roots and uncharred seeds were present from modern disturbance and snails included numerous shells of the burrowing snail, *Cecilioides acicula*. However other snails may have been archaeological and include open ground snails *Vallonia* sp. and widespread snails found amongst rocks and vegetation.

Mesolithic

Mesolithic pit, sample 2 (37): No charred plant remains were recovered from this sample except for very small charcoal fragments. Roots and modern snails were present.

Discussion

Charred cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds were found in the three Roman samples and the relative proportions of these remains can indicate activities carried out on the site by consideration of what is known about the cereals themselves. The ears of glume wheat (spelt) only break into segments called spikelets when they are threshed. The straw fragments would be raked away and the spikelets could be stored because the chaff protects the grain from insect and fungal attack (Hillman 1981). In the spikelet the grain is still held in the chaff and requires parching and pounding to free the grain, then the chaff and small weed seeds can be removed by sieving in a sieve which retains the grains. The spikelet of spelt consists of two glumes and two grains, so samples with more chaff than grains, and abundant weed seeds, indicate the presence of cereal cleaning waste. Very little chaff was found here although two samples dominated by weed seeds may represent some of this cereal cleaning waste (samples 1 and 3). At other sites samples with cleaned grain with little chaff and few weeds, may represent accidental burning of the cereal product for a variety of reasons, no grain rich samples were found here. However, samples with low densities of grain and seeds may represent waste from hand sorting of cereals before consumption, such remains, which can include grains spilled during food preparation may represent domestic waste burnt in the hearth. This waste may be raked from hearths and dumped as found in the pit here (sample 4). This type of waste can accumulate as a scatter on occupation sites. Plant materials for other purposes such as for fodder, thatch and kindling may be represented by the grassy remains here

(samples 1 and 3). The distribution of remains can assist in defining areas where certain activities were carried out, although there are too few samples to investigate this here.

Comparison with other sites

Around only a dozen Roman rural sites have been sampled in Leicestershire and Rutland which seem to fall into two types, those with few remains and those with abundant cereal processing evidence dominated by spelt chaff including the sites with corn driers (summarized in Monckton 2004, 160). The plant remains from Market Overton are similar in quantity and type to the local sites with plant remains below 10 items per litre which now includes Rearsby. This group includes some farmsteads as at Normanton 2, Kirby Muxloe, Desford and Gimbro Farm, and some where only part of a larger site was sampled such as at Drayton villa II. Possible explanations are that some of these sites may be more concerned with animal husbandry such as at some farmsteads, or may be from the parts of the settlement concerned with animal husbandry as is possibly the case at Rearsby site 6 where grassy remains were also found. Some low density plant remains may be from parts of a site further away from sites of cereal processing where the extent of the site is unknown, such as at Stamford Rd Oakham, this may be the case here. Some may be the areas of domestic occupation as at Drayton Villa II. This site is unusual in having early Roman samples, at Rearsby the only early Roman sample was from a gully on site 2 which had very few remains, a barley grain, a wheat glume and a brome grass seeds at a density of 0.3 items per litre. More evidence is needed from this Early Roman period.

Conclusions

The samples contained charred plant remains but in fairly low densities up to 7 items per litre of sediment with similarities to a few other Roman sites in the county but distinct from the sites with cereal processing evidence from sites with corn driers. The plant remains were typically Roman and included occasional grains of glume wheat and barley with single numbers of chaff fragments (glumes) mainly of spelt. Charred seeds included, docks, goosefoots and large grasses, and all known as arable weeds of the time. The cereal remains were abraded and these together with the weed seeds, may represented a scatter of waste from either domestic activity in pit 1 sample 4, or even from cereal processing at some distance from the area in two other samples dominated by weed seeds. Some of the remains could equally represent remains from grassy material and weeds used as kindling perhaps from waste fodder. The samples produced fairly low densities of charred plants from the features sampled, possibly near the edge of domestic activity, or perhaps at some distance from where the cereals were being processed.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Martin Shore for taking the samples and to Anita Radini for their efficient processing.

Table 5. ROMAN. Charred Plant Remains from Roman contexts.

Feature type	Ditch	B.slot	Pit	
Cut number	43	28	34	
Context	42	28	34	
Sample	1	3	4	
GRAINS				
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i>	3	2	3	Glume wheat
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. Hulled	4	-	20	Barley
Cereal indet.	7	6	16	Cereal
Cereal embryos	1	-	1	Cereal
CHAFF				
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. gb	-	2	2	Spelt
<i>T. dicoccum/spelta</i> gb	-	2	3	Glume wheat
Awn frags, twisted	-	-	2	Awns
WILD PLANTS				
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	5	5	2	Goose foot
<i>Papaver</i> sp.	-	-	2	Poppy
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	-	-	2	Dock
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A.Love	3	-	-	Black bindweed
<i>Persicaria</i> sp.	-	1	-	Wild Radish
<i>Potentilla</i> sp.	1	-	1	Cinque-foil
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i>	-	1	1	Legume (medium)
<i>Medicago/Trifolium</i> type	1	-	2	Clover type
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	-	1	2	Henbane
<i>Montia</i> sp.	4	-	1	Water-blinks
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	1	-	-	Plantain
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> L.	1	-	-	Silverweed
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	8	1	-	Heath grass
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	1	-	-	Spike-rush
<i>Carex</i> sp.	2	2	-	Sedges
<i>Bromus hordeaceus/secalinus</i>	-	1	1	Brome grass
Poaceae large	6	2	10	Grasses
cf <i>Phleum</i> sp.	-	-	1	Grass
Poaceae small	5	-	3	Grasses
Indetermined seeds	4	7	8	Seeds
OTHER				
Capsule fragments	-	3	1	Capsule/fruit fragments
Tiller bases	9	5	-	Grass roots
Culm fragments small	3	1	-	Grass stem
Tubers	8	2	-	Tubers ?grass
TOTAL	77	45	84	Items
Vol sample	15	11	12	Litres
Vol flot	57	30	50	Mls
Items/litre	5.1	4.1	7.0	Items/litre
Ratio weed seeds : total grains	3.1	2.6	0.9	seeds : grains
PROPORTIONS of REMAINS				
% GLUMES	0	12.1	6.3	%
% GRAINS	25.0	24.2	49.4	%
% SEEDS	75.0	63.7	44.3	%

Key. gb = glume base, + = present, ++ = abundant. B.slot = beamslot
Remains are seeds in the broad sense unless described otherwise.

11. Discussion

Because of the truncation by extensive quarrying, it was difficult to determine the pattern of archaeological deposits; the area remaining between the quarries contained numerous ditches and gullies, also pits and post holes were evident along with an area of Mesolithic flint. It appears that the remains were part of a much larger complex since destroyed by ironstone quarrying.

Ditch 1 may have been an enclosure ditch, which had been re-cut in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD; cutting the earlier phase of the ditch which appeared to date from the mid to late 1st century AD. Of a similar date was ditch 2, which ran from ditch 1 to the south-east, and also ditch 4 in the south of the area. Both ditches 2 and 4 cut ditch 3, which ran south-east from ditch 2, this may have been linked to ditch 1 in its earlier phase, there was no dating evidence was found for this feature. Ditch 7 was on a south-east to north-west alignment, cut by ditch 2, and may have been contemporary with Ditch 3, although again there was no dating evidence to be certain.

Pits 7 and 8 to the north of structure 2, all contained 1st century pottery, pit 6 also in the area of pits 7 and 8, appeared to be of a similar period, although no dating evidence was found for this feature. It is possible that the three pits may have been associated with structure 2. To the north of ditch 1, possibly within an enclosure, pits 2 and 4 were situated, elongated Pit 4 cut the Mesolithic flint scatter, and was dated as 1st century AD, as was pit 2, situated west of pit 4. Neither of the pits could be associated with any structure. Also close to pit 4, cutting the flint scatter, was pit 3 and post hole 13, which was partially cut by the later phase of ditch 1. These features appeared to relate to pit 4, but lack of any dating made this uncertain.

Gullies 1-2 also seemed to be part of the earlier phase of the site, although there was no dating evidence for any of these features, gully 1 was cut by ditches 2 and 5 and probably ditch 4, gully 2 was also cut by ditch 2, and probably ditch 1. The three gullies may have been some of the earliest features seen within the stripped area, apart from the Mesolithic flint scatter. The exact use of these features were unknown, they may have been for fence lines or partitions for cattle. Notwithstanding the incomplete dating a suggested sequence of activity can be suggested as follows:

Early Mesolithic 10000-9000BP (c 8000-7000BC)

The earliest evidence of activity within the stripped area was the early Mesolithic flint scatter, which was in a confined area in the north-eastern edge of the site. This area, made up of two spreads or layers, showed good evidence of localised flint knapping, with flint cores, tools and flint waste material. It shows characteristics of the Starr Carr and Deepcar traditions dating from the 10th century BP and is a rare example of evidence from this period in the region.

Late Iron Age – 1st century AD (Ceramic Phase I)

Late Iron Age pottery was present in small quantities in Ditch 4 and Pits 2 and 7 while the early phases enclosure Ditch 1 and Ditch 2 contained mid-late 1st century Roman material. Although only a small area was revealed settlement originating in the Late Iron Age and continuing in the early Roman period is evident.

Late 1st – early 2nd century AD (Ceramic Phase 2)

The loom base in the north-east corner of the area, just north of pit 1, may be of late 1st century date from the presence of one abraded sherd. The loom weights typologically could be of Iron Age or Roman date.

Structure 2 to the south-east of the area, incorporating wall 2, post holes 1, 2, 3, and probably post hole 4, was on a south-west to north-east alignment, similar to later structure 1. From dating evidence from the wall, this can be dated to be late 1st to early 2nd century AD, cutting ditch 2. Due to truncation by quarrying on the north-eastern edge of the area it was difficult to determine the nature of the structure.

Cutting gully 1 to the south-west of the area, ditch 5 terminated with a butt end to the south-east close to ditch 4, truncated by quarrying to the north-west. This feature appeared similar in date to structure 2, as did the later re-cut of Ditch 1. Unfortunately due to quarry truncation it was uncertain if these ditches were related.

2nd – 3rd century AD (Ceramic Phase 3)

The probable enclosure ditch 1, appeared to have finally silted up in the late 2nd to early 3rd century AD. It is also possible that ditch 8, running north-west to south-east, was contemporary with this feature, this appeared to join it to the south east.

4th century AD – Saxon (Ceramic Phase 1)

Structure 1 in the north-western corner of the area, appeared to be of the later Roman period. Aligned south-west to northeast this could have been part of a much larger dwelling, possibly a 4th century farmstead or villa, most of this appeared to be destroyed by the widespread quarrying. To the south-east of structure 1, was pit 1, a large circular feature, with fills of painted wall plaster, flue tile, pottery and limestone. The pottery was mainly of 4th century date, and from the plaster and flue tile it seemed evident that a dwelling of quite high status had been close by, possibly including structure 1. A Roman villa is known from excavations undertaken at The Lodge, 50m to the north and it is likely that it formed part of the same complex. The presence of early Anglo-Saxon pottery in Post hole 10 and the upper fills of Ditch 8 suggests some activity during this period after the Roman settlement had gone out of use.

12. Conclusion

The fieldwork, therefore, has located evidence of archaeological activity in the areas of surviving land which was had not been quarried for ironstone. Previous evidence for ironstone quarrying (Fig 15) would have suggested that the area would have been entirely disturbed and much of this was. However there were pockets of survival where the deposits survived. The relatively undisturbed scatter of early Mesolithic flint is a significant group from a period of time which is rarely represented. Settlement in the Late Iron Age continued into the Roman period and by the 4th century AD the presence of a high status Villa nearby is attested from the material located in Pit 1, possibly replacing the earlier settlement which appears to have gone out of use in the late 2nd-early 3rd century.

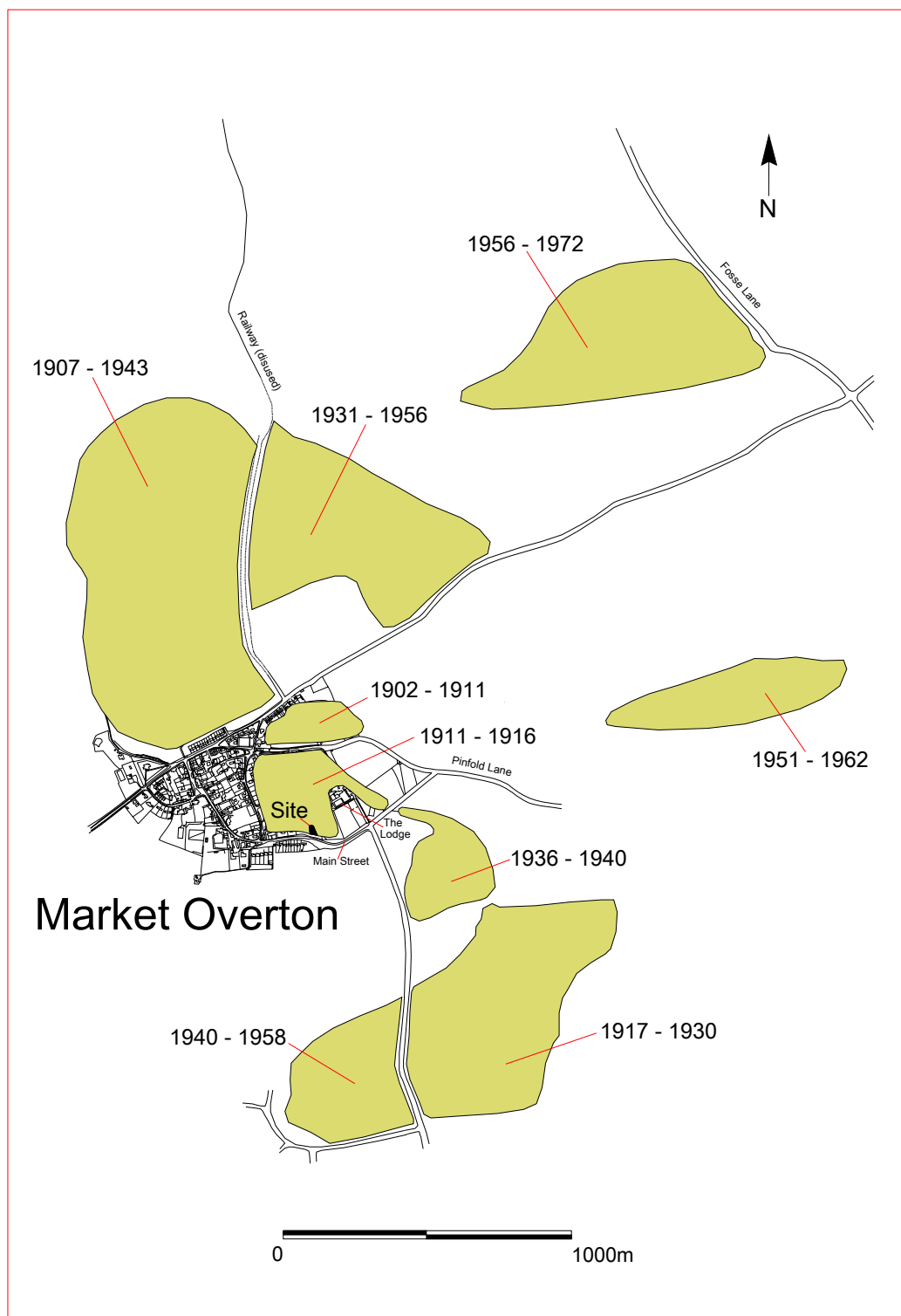


Figure 15: Quarrying in the Market Overton area 1902-1972 (from Tonks 1992)

The pottery from ceramic phases 1-3 were based on local production with no imports suggesting that the settlement was of a lower status with local contacts. In the 4th century (Ceramic Phase 4), however the pottery displayed a wider variety of vessel type and much higher levels of table wares and imports from the continent. This reflects the change from a rural farmstead to a higher status villa also supported by the presence of wall plaster and tile destruction debris in Pit 1. Both the earlier settlement and villa

would have traded with the nearby Roman small town of Thistleton. The charred plant remains again suggested that the site was on the periphery of a larger settlement and that crop processing was taking place nearby

The site lies within an area rich in archaeological remains with a particular concentration of nearby Roman sites and find spots. Excavations in 1903, 250m to the north-east, north of Lodge Farm located masonry, 1900 sherds of Roman pottery, Roman tile and Roman coins consistent with the presence of a villa type farmstead (Historic Environment Record ref: MLE5516). To the north-west of the site Roman pottery, masonry and a 1st century Roman coin has been located (MLE5524; MLE8104) while a settlement (MLE5511) and pottery kilns (MLE5512) adjacent to the line of a probable Roman road (MLE5508) are recorded 0.8km to the north. Two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries were also located during ironstone quarrying c. 600m to the north-west of the site (MLE 5517-8).

The excavations therefore although only revealing part of a larger Roman settlement since destroyed by quarrying has provided further important evidence of the occupation of this part of Rutland.

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14 Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment team with accession number RT03 2007, and consist of the following:

B/W photographs

CD of digital photographs

96 Context recording sheets

15 Permatrace sheets with plans and sections 1:20 1:50

15 Acknowledgments

ULAS would like to thank Stephan Kotacha of T. Denman and Sons (Melton Mowbray) Ltd, and Kate Don (Parish Archaeologist) for their help and co-operation. The project was managed and report edited by Patrick Clay.

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18.06.2007

Appendix 1 Context and feature index.

Context	Feature no	Deposit	Description	Feature type	Plan no	Section No
1	Ditch 3	Cut	Linear	Ditch	1:02 8:04	1:01 8:03
2	Ditch 3	Fill	Mid brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	1:02 8:04	1:01 8:03
3	Ditch 2	Cut	Linear	Ditch	1:02 3:03 8:01	1:02 8:01
4	Ditch 2	Fill	Dark orange brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	1:02 3:03 8:01	1:02 8:01
5	Pit 2	Fill	Dark reddish brown silty sandy clay	Pit	1:04	1:03
6	Pit 2	Cut	Oval	Pit	1:04	1:03
7	Wall 1	Construction	Linear	Wall	2:01	
8	Robbed wall	Fill	Light yellowish brown silty sandy clay	Robbed wall	2:01	2:02
9	Robbed wall	Cut	Linear	Robbed wall	2:01	2:02
10	Wall 1	Construction cut	Linear	Wall	2:01	
11	Ditch 6	Fill	Darkish brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	2:01	2:02
12	Ditch 6	Cut	Linear	Ditch	2:01	2:02
13	Ditch 4	Fill	Mid reddish brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	3:02 8:04	3:01 8:03
14	Ditch 4	Cut	Linear	Ditch	3:02 8:04	3:01 8:03
15	Pit 1	Fill	Sub circular	Pit	4:01	10:01/2
16	Ditch 7	Cut	Linear	Gully	8:02 3:03	8:01
17	Ditch 7	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay	Gully	8:02 3:03	8:01
18	Wall 2	Construction cut	L shaped	Wall	3:03	
19	Wall 2	Construction	L shaped	Wall	3:03	
20	Wall 2	Fill	Dark orange brown silty sandy clay	Pit/wall construction	3:03	
21	Pit 1	Cut	Sub circular	Pit	4:01	10:01/2
22	Pit 1	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay	Pit	4:01	10:01/2
23	Pit 1	Fill	Light yellow brown silty sandy clay	Pit	4:01	10:01/2
24	Pit 1	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay	Pit	4:01	10:01/2
25	Pit 1	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty sandy clay	Pit	4:01	10:01/2
26	Ditch 5	Fill	Mid grey brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	5:02	5:01
27	Ditch 5	Cut	Linear	Ditch	5:02	5:01
28	Pit 4	Fill	Very dark grey brown silty sandy clay	Oblong feature	6:01	7:01
29	Pit 4	Fill	Very dark grey brown silty sandy clay	Oblong feature (Butt end)	6:01	7:02
30	Pit 4	Cut	Linear	Oblong feature	6:01 9:01	7:01/2
31	Ditch 8	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay	Gully	6:01	7:01 11:02
32	Ditch 8	Cut	Linear	Gully	9:01	7:01 11:02
33	Pit 3	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	Pit	6:01	7:01
34	Pit 3	Cut	Irregular oval	Pit	9:01	7:01

Context	Feature no	Deposit	Description	Feature type	Plan no	Section No
35	/	Not real			6:01	
36	/	Not real			6:01	
37	Flint scatter	Layer/spread	Reddish brown silty sandy clay	Layer with flint	6:01	
38	Flint scatter	Layer/spread	Orange brown silty sandy clay	Layer with flint	6:01	
39	P hole 2	Cut	Sub circular	Posthole	3:05	3:04
40	P hole 2	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay	Posthole	3:05	3:04
41	Ditch 1	Fill	Mid brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	2:04	2:03
42	Ditch 1	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	2:04	2:03
43	Ditch 1	Cut	Linear	Ditch	2:04	2:03
44	Ditch 1	Fill	Mid brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	2:04	2:03
45	Ditch 1	Cut	Linear	Ditch	2:04	2:03
46	Gully 1		Mid brown silty sandy clay	Gully	2:04	2:03
47	Gully 1	Cut	Linear	Gully	2:04	2:03
48	Ditch 1	Fill	Mid orange brown silty sandy clay	Ditch	1:07	1:06
49	Ditch 1	Cut	Linear	Ditch	1:07	1:06
50	Pit 5	Fill	Mid greyish orange brown silty sandy clay	Pit/tree throw	1:07	1:06
51	Pit 5	Cut	Sub circular	Pit/tree throw	1:07	1:06
52	Loom base	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay	Loom base	7:04	7:03
53	Loom base	Cut	Linear	Loom base	7:04	7:03
54	Pit 8	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	Pit	8:06	8:05
55	Pit 8	Fill	Mid grey orange brown silty sandy clay	Pit	8:06	8:05
56	Pit 8	Cut	Oval	Pit	8:06	8:05
57	Pit 6	Fill	Mid grey orange brown silty sandy clay	Pit	8:08	8:07
58	Pit 6	Cut	Oval	Pit	8:08	8:07
59	Pit 1	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	Pit	4:01	10:01/2
60	P hole 4	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	8:09	8:10
61	P hole 4	Cut	Oval	Posthole	8:09	8:10
62	Pit 7	Cut	Irregular oval	Pit/natural	8:11	8:12
63	Pit 7	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Pit/natural	8:11	8:12
64	P hole 3	Cut	Circular	Posthole	12:03	12:02
65	P hole 3	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	12:03	12:02
66	P hole 3	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	12:03	12:02
67	P hole 10	Fill	Mid orange brown silty sandy clay	Posthole	11:02	11:01
68	P hole 10	Cut	Oval	Posthole	11:02	11:01

Context	Feature no	Deposit	Description	Feature type	Plan no	Section No
69	P hole 2	Fill	Mid orange brown silty sandy clay	Post pad	12:01/5	12:04
70	P hole 2	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Post pad	12:01/5	12:04
71	P hole 2	Cut	Oval	Post pad	12:01/5	12:04
72	P hole 13	Fill	Mid grey orange brown silty sandy clay	Posthole	12:07	12:06
73	P hole 13	Cut	Sub circular	Posthole	12:07	12:06
74	/	Fill	Mid greyish red brown silty sandy clay	Posthole	Sketch only	Sketch only
75	/	Cut	Sub circular	Posthole	Sketch only	Sketch only
76	Loom base	Cut	Circular	Posthole	7:04	7:03
77	/	Context not used	/	/	/	/
78	Natural	Fill	Mid red brown silty sandy clay	Pit/natural disturbance	15:01	/
79	Natural	Cut	Linear/oblong	Pit/natural disturbance	15:01	/
80	Natural	Fill	Mid red brown silty sandy clay	Pit/natural disturbance	15:01	/
81	Natural	Cut	Linear/oblong	Pit/natural disturbance	15:01	/
82	P hole 6	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	Area plan	Not excavated
83	P hole 6	Cut	Circular	Posthole	Area plan	/
84	P hole 5	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	Area plan	/
85	P hole 7	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	Area plan	/
86	P hole 9	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	Area plan	/
87	P hole 8	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	Area plan	/
88	Pit 9	Fill	Light yellow brown silty clay	Pit	Area plan	/
89	Pit 9	Cut	Square	Pit	Area plan	/
90	P hole 8	Cut	Oval	Posthole	Area plan	/
91	P hole 12	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole with stone	Area plan	/
92	P hole 11	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole with stone	Area plan	/
93	Gully 2	Fill	Mid brown silty sandy clay	Gully	Area plan	/
94	Gully 3	Fill	Mid brown silty sandy clay	Gully	Area plan	/
95	Loom base	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Posthole	Area plan	/
96	Loom base	Cut	Oval	Posthole	Area plan	/

Appendix 2

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (STRIP, PLAN & SAMPLE EXCAVATION)

AT

LAND NORTH OF MAIN STREET, MARKET OVERTON, RUTLAND

Planning Reference: FUL/2006/0553

Erection of 9 affordable housing units and associated works, etc.

**Historic & Natural Environment Team, Community Services Department,
Leicestershire County Council**

19 July 2007

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (STRIP, PLAN & SAMPLE EXCAVATION) AT LAND NORTH OF MAIN STREET, MARKET OVERTON, RUTLAND

1. Summary of Brief

- 1.1 The proposed development site, at the south-east end of Market Overton, north of Main Street, Rutland, has been identified as an area of significant archaeological potential based upon an assessment of information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.2 In consequence the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) has recommended the need for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording prior to the commencement of construction works. This shall comprise an initial exploratory trial trenching programme, followed by a soil strip under archaeological control and supervision of the development footprint, planning of the exposed surface and sample excavation of features identified. All archaeological work shall be undertaken in accordance with this brief and an approved Specification/Written Scheme of Investigation, as secured by condition on the current planning permission FUL/2006/0553.

2. Appendices for reference as part of this Brief (to be supplied by the developer to the archaeological contractor)

- 2.1 General location plan;
- 2.2 Site layout plan(s);
- 2.3 Architect's plans to show areas of ground impact;

3. Site location and description

- 3.1 The development area is located on the south-eastern edge of Market Overton, north of Main Street, at NGR SK89131624. The site is approximately rectangular and totals some 0.03 ha in area.
- 3.2 The site is currently a pasture field, with adjacent (to west) residential properties and gardens.

4. Geology & Topography

- 4.1 The development site lies upon solid Jurassic ironstone of the Northampton Sand Formation (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Bourne, Sheet 143). The site appears to be relatively level, at c. 135-140m aOD.

5. Site Constraints

- 5.1 The Senior Planning Archaeologist has not determined the location of any on site underground services. No site geotechnical information was available to inform the writing of this brief.

6. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 6.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site is located to the south-east and outside the projected medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village of Market Overton (HER Ref: MLE 9004), but within an area of archaeological interest. It is close to a potentially very significant Roman site (HER Ref. No. MLE5516). Fragments of masonry, 1,900 sherds of pottery, 43 pieces of Roman brick and tile, 33 pieces of bone and teeth and a few coins were recorded. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the proposed development.

- 6.2 Appraisal of aerial photographs taken during the early summer of 2006 indicate the potential presence of a complex coaxial field system and/or set of enclosures c. 125m to the south-east of the application site.

- 6.3 A lack of previous development on the site suggests that any archaeological remains present, will survive in a relatively good state of preservation. The proposed works, construction of a dwelling, associated garage and creation of access could impact detrimentally upon any archaeological remains encountered during the works.

7. Previous work and archaeological survey

- 7.1 No known previous archaeological work has been carried out within the application area.

8. Planning Background and Requirement for Work

- 8.1 In response to a full planning application submitted to Rutland District Council (Plan App No.: FUL/2006/0553) for the erection of 9 affordable housing units and associated works, etc., the Senior Planning Archaeologist advised that planning permission should be granted subject to an archaeological investigation secured by condition upon any planning approval.

- 8.2 The archaeological investigation, a 'Strip, Plan and Sample' record forms the "programme of archaeological work" specified in that condition. The requirement for archaeological work is in accordance with PPG 16 "Archaeology and Planning". The purpose of the work is to identify and record archaeological deposits during development.

9. Methodology

- 9.1 Arrangements for the deposition of the project archive should be made prior to the start of the archaeological project.

- 9.2 Where deposition with the local museums service or approved archiving repository is proposed, an accession number (or similar) **must** be applied for prior to the start of the project. The accession number covers all components of the project as defined by this brief. (*See 22. below for contact details*).

- 9.3 Where demolition of standing buildings/structures or site clearance is required, prior to the start of such works the developer will liaise with the archaeological curator and contractor to determine the need for and level of archaeological attendance.

- 9.4 The main project will involve the archaeological control of overburden stripping, followed by sample investigation and recording of exposed archaeological deposits. This work shall be undertaken by an experienced professional archaeologist in relation to the permitted development detailed above (8.1). Where mechanical excavation is required all such works will be undertaken using a bladed bucket. Soil will be excavated to the proposed formation level, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever is first identified. Where archaeological deposits/features are located, an appropriate plan record and archaeological investigation will be completed prior to further mechanical excavation. The developer will make provision for the necessary archaeological investigation (fieldwork, post-excavation analysis and reporting).

- 9.5 In order to clarify the archaeological potential of the application area, an initial trial trench or trenches, will be excavated across the area to provide an indication of the location, depth, extent and character of any archaeological deposits present.

- 9.6 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work

- 9.7 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and recorded as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where

appropriate. All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

- 9.8 Archaeological deposits will be 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. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with a specialist environmental officer.
- 9.9 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The landowner and/or developer, the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, and the coroner will be informed immediately of their discovery.
- 9.10 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits by representatives of the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council.
- 9.11 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the archaeological investigation there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Senior Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council and the planning authority.

10. Site Access: Health and Safety

- 10.1 The archaeological Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that all works are conducted in accordance with a defined Health and Safety Policy. Contractors must observe all current safe working practices, whether required by their own policy or those of the principal development contractor (see SCAUM *Manual, Health & Safety in Field Archaeology, 1997*).
- 10.2 Before commencing work the Contractor **must** carry out a Risk Assessment in accordance with the requirements the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992. The assessment should as appropriate include liaison with the site owner and the Senior Planning Archaeologist in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised and their implications properly understood. A copy of this must be given to the Senior Planning Archaeologist **before** commencement of Site works.
- 10.3 The developer must provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before commencement of Site works.

11. Environmental Sampling

- 11.1 Contractors are to adhere to the recommendations in the '*Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2. Environmental archaeology evaluations, September 1995*'.
- 11.2 If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from features to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described and analysed. Samples should be taken from the fills of features where organic materials may be preserved, such as pits, ditches and other deposits, especially if waterlogged.

12. Treatment of finds

- 12.1 All finds will be exposed and as appropriate, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) First Aid For Finds, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 12.2 Finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal can not take place on the same working day as

discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

- 12.3 In line with an agreed discard strategy, all identified finds and artefacts will be retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is recommended by the recipient museum's archive curator.

13. Post-excavation work

- 13.1 According to standard procedure, the archaeological fieldwork will be followed by a period of post-excavation analysis and reporting. This will include the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and its subsequent deposition.

14 Reports

- 14.1 A full written report combining all stages of the investigation shall be prepared, at least two copies of which should be sent to the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council. If this report is to form part of the planning process, it is in the developer's interest to ensure this report is prepared to an adequate standard (see 'Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland') in order that a judgement of the archaeological value of the site can be made as quickly as possible and the Senior Planning Archaeologist can recommend the archaeological condition is discharged.

- 14.2 The report/s will:

- i) Include:
 - a) All plans tied into the Ordnance Survey data
 - b) Drawing and plans
 - c) A summary of any artefacts together with their interpretation
 - d) Any specialist reports
 - e) A concise non-technical summary of the project results
 - f) A full listing of the archive contents
- ii) Assess:
 - a) The archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during the fieldwork
 - b) The evidence in its local, regional and national context, as appropriate, also aiming to highlight any research priorities where applicable

- 14.3 The final report/s will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland HER no later than six months after completion of the project. As a minimum this will comprise two full colour paper copies of the report including its relevant accompanying plans.

- 14.4 Results of the project, even if negative, will be submitted for publication in the appropriate academic journals. Contractors are to provide a summary of findings to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society'.

- 14.5 If significant results are obtained a copy of the final report/s will be deposited in the National Monuments Record, English Heritage, Swindon.

15. Archive

- 15.1 The archive consists of all artefacts, written records, drawn and photographic records. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It should also contain Site matrix, site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. The site accession number will be appropriately marked on all elements forming part of the site/project archive (See 9.2. above).

- 15.2 Archive will be prepared in line with UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) and the current version of Leicestershire Museums Services' document "The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service".

16. Deposition

- 16.1 The integrity of the site archive should be maintained. All find and records should be properly curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation.
- 16.2 Subject to the landowner's agreement, arrangements for deposition of the full site archive ought to be made with the appropriate collecting body, (e.g. Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service, County Hall, Glenfield, LE3 8TB). The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 9 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Senior Planning Archaeologist and Archive Curator.
- 16.3 It should be noted that the Senior Planning Archaeologist will not recommend the discharge of any planning conditions until he/she has approved the report, has received confirmation that the archive meets current standards by the Archive Curator and has received written confirmation that a summary of the archaeological work has been forwarded to the above mentioned journals.

17. Requirements (including responsibilities of prospective developer and Archaeological Contractor)

17.1 Appointment of Archaeological Contractors

- 17.1.1 The professional archaeological Contractors invited to tender for the work must be able to demonstrate within their Specification that they can provide staffing and expertise with the appropriate experience in dealing with technology of the type and nature required in this Brief.
- 17.1.2 Contractors will operate in line with professional guidelines and standards as stated in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA):
- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (1994, revised 1999),
 - IFA Code of Conduct (1985, as revised 1997) and,
 - IFA By-Law Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (IFA, 1990 as revised, 1998).

17.1.3 Pre-tender site visit

- 17.2.1 The Contractor must visit the site before completing any Specification, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. This visit must be noted, along with any other relevant site details, within the Specification.

17.2 Specification

- 17.2.1 The Specification will cater for full post-excavation analysis, reporting and deposition of the site findings.
- 17.2.2 The Specification must:
- a) be prepared within a defined research context (e.g. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, ed. N Cooper, 2006), and set out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works,
 - b) detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, and where appropriate, indicate clearly on plan their location and extent,
 - c) include details, including name, qualifications and experience of the Site director and all other key project personnel, including any specialist staff and sub-contractors, will be included in the Specification. The ratio of on-site voluntary assistance must not exceed a ratio of more than 1:2 employed experienced staff,

- d) detail archive deposition, publication and presentation,
- e) provide a timetable for proposed works.

17.3 Approval of the Specification

- 17.3.1 The Specification must be forwarded to the Senior Planning Archaeologist for approval prior to the start of the proposed development.
- 17.3.2 Any changes the Senior Planning Archaeologist recommends to a preferred Specification might have financial implications for the costing of the archaeological Contractor, changes to the Specification will be discussed and agreed in writing by the Senior Planning Archaeologist and the archaeological Contractor, and submitted in writing to the Local Authority.

17.4 Agreement

- 17.5.1 There must be a written archaeological agreement that satisfactorily implements the approved format and provides sufficient financial support for all aspects of the work including fieldwork, finds processing, conservation, specialist analysis, archiving, cataloguing, report work and long-term storage curation. The archaeological Consultant/Contractor must confirm with the Senior Planning Archaeologist that the prospective developer has signed such an agreement before the commencement of works on site.

18. Monitoring

- 18.1 The work undertaken by the archaeological Contractor, will be monitored under the auspices of the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist, or their appropriate representative, who is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Monitoring includes reviewing site work, the progress of excavation reports, archive preparation and final deposition.
- 18.2 Before the commencement of the project the Contractor must inform the Senior Planning Archaeologist, in writing, of the timetable of proposed works and ensure that the Senior Planning Archaeologist is kept regularly informed about developments during site and subsequent post-excavation work.
- 18.3 The Senior Planning Archaeologist will be given at least one week's written notice of commencement of archaeological work.

19. Alterations to this Brief

- 19.1 This Brief is valid for three months (from the date below). If not tendered within this period the prospective developer will seek confirmation from the Senior Planning Archaeologist of its continued validity. In addition the following apply:
- 19.2 Prior to the formal appointment of an archaeological Contractor, the Senior Planning Archaeologist reserves the right to alter this Brief if additional information comes to light that may have a bearing on the scope and methods of work currently required (e.g. site construction constraints, foundation details etc).
- 19.3 After formal appointment, any alterations recommended by the Senior Planning Archaeologist which may affect the archaeological Contractor's agreed Project Design (whether this be before commencement, or during the project), will be made in consultation with the archaeological Contractor and submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

20. Key Definitions

Senior Planning Archaeologist

Responsible for providing an archaeological curatorial planning service to Leicestershire districts. Advises on the nature of the work required and monitors projects from implementation to completion.

Archive Curator:

Responsible for the long-term curation of the archive in the recipient Museum.

Prospective Developer:

Person/group/developer commissioning the archaeological work.

Contractor:

Archaeological Contractor tendering to carry out the archaeological work and as appointed by the prospective developer.

Specification or Written Scheme of Investigation:

Written document detailing the proposed work and as provided by a Contractor in line with the Brief provided by the Senior Planning Archaeologist.

21. Contact details:

Senior Planning Archaeologist:

Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, Room 500, County Hall, Leicester Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8TE. Telephone No.: 0116 2658322. Fax: 0116 2657965. Email: riclark@leics.gov.uk.

Regional Science Advisor (English Heritage):

English Heritage, 44, Derngate, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN1 1UH. Telephone No.: 01604 735451. Fax: 01604 735401. Email: Jim.Williams@english-heritage.org.uk.

Assistant Keeper Archaeology (Leicestershire Archives):

Collections Resources Centre, Leicestershire Museums Services, c/o County Hall, Leicester Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8RA. Telephone No.: 01509 815514. Fax: 01509 813934. Email: rpollard@leics.gov.uk.

Curator of Rutland County Museums Service (Rutland Archives):

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, LE15 6HW. Telephone No.: 01572 758440. Fax: 01572 758445. Email: sdavies@rutland.gov.uk.

Date: 19 July 2007

Appendix 3

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Main Street, Market Overton, Rutland (SK 8913 1624)

Planning Application: 06/0553/9

Planning authority: Rutland County Council

For: T. Denman and Sons (Melton Mowbray) Ltd

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological strip plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the construction of nine affordable housing units and associated works at land north of Main Street, Market Overton, Rutland (SK 8913 1624) for T. Denman and Sons (Melton Mowbray) Ltd..

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological work involves an intermittent archaeological watching brief during the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the *Brief for Archaeological investigation (strip plan and sample excavation) for land north of Main Street, Market Overton, Rutland* (LCC 12.02.2007).

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that various archaeological sites have been located within 1km of the development area. These include a prehistoric site (**MLE9398**), Roman sites (**MLE5508**, **MLE5511**, **MLE5512**, **MLE5513**, **MLE5514**, (**MLE5516**)**MLE5524**, **MLE8104**, **MLE8105**, **MLE8106** and **MLE9002**) and three Anglo-Saxon sites (**MLE5509**, **MLE5517** and **MLE5518**). In addition, eight medieval (**MLE5026**, **MLE5027**, **MLE5510**, **MLE5519**, **MLE5522**, **MLE6945**, **MLE8634** and **MLE9004**) and three post-medieval (**MLE5525**, **MLE5526** and **MLE8633**) archaeological sites are located mainly to the west of the proposed development area.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it may be appropriate to open an initial trial trench to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site is to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.3 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

4.4 If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there will be no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

4.5 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.6 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.7 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.8 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.9 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.10 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners and Leicestershire County Council.

4.11 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks currently scheduled for 21.02.2007. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

11. Bibliography

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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15.02.2007