

**An Archaeological evaluation
at Greetham Quarry Extension,
Greetham, Rutland (SK 930 149)**

James Harvey

For: Mineral Surveying Services
on behalf of M.Dickerson Ltd.

<p>Checked by Project Manager</p> <p>Signed:Date:</p> <p>Name:</p>
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University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 252 2848 Fax: (0116) 252 2614

Website: <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/>

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Greetham Quarry Extension, Greetham, Rutland (SK 930 149)

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land adjacent to Greetham Quarry, Greetham, Rutland (SK 930 149) by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services between the 23rd May and 10th June 2005 for Mineral Surveying Services Ltd on behalf of M.Dickerson Ltd. This work followed on from a previous desk-based assessment and geophysical survey that had highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within the application area. The evaluation forms part of an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed extension of the quarry. Sixteen of the excavated trenches were positioned to target possible features previously identified by the geophysical surveys and eight trenches were located in the blank areas.

Positive results were obtained from thirteen of the targeted trenches excavated, mostly confirming the presence of archaeological features previously suggested by geophysical anomalies. Several features were also identified which had not been detected by geophysics. Primarily these features identified were pits and ditches, many of which can be dated to the Mid-Late Iron Age. The other eleven trenches did not yield and features or finds as was generally suggested by the geophysics.

The results suggest that the main focus for archaeological activity is located to the north of the application area where the ditches may form part of a Mid-Late Iron Age enclosure. The sections excavated into the ditches yielded domestic rubbish as well as disarticulated human remains and may relate to the activities of a small farmstead.

*Records will be deposited with the **Rutland County Museum** under the Accession no. RT02.2005.*

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mineral Surveying Services Ltd on behalf of M.Dickerson Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to Greetham Quarry, Greetham, Rutland (SK 930 149). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance the proposed northwest extension of Greetham Quarry.

The development site has been subject to a desk-based assessment (George 2004), and geophysical survey (Donaldson 2005). This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out between the 23rd May and 10th June 2005, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located 9km northeast of Oakham. The application area consists of a whole field with an area totalling 6.1ha. The area is bounded to the southwest by a chicken farm, to the southeast by the current quarry, to the northwest by the adjacent field and to the northeast by the main road leading to Thistleton (fig. 1).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology consists of Lower Lincolnshire limestone and Upper Lincolnshire limestone. The trial trenching confirmed this but also revealed pockets of clay within the limestone. The proposed development area is fairly flat at a height of c.115-122m OD, with a natural dip in the centre of the area on a northwest-southeast orientation.

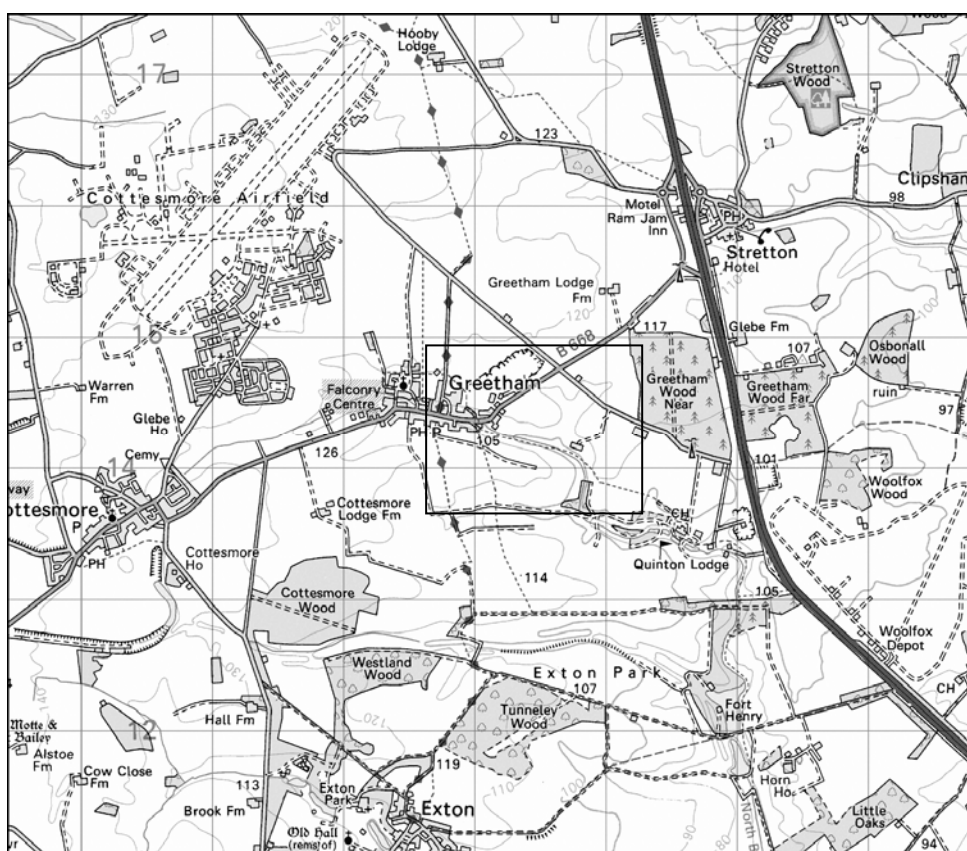


Fig. 1 Site location Scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the OS map Landranger 130 Grantham area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1994. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

3. Archaeological Background

The application area has been investigated for archaeological potential by a desk-based assessment, including a walk over survey in 2004 and geophysical survey in 2005.

3.1 *Desk-based assessment*

A desk-based assessment was prepared by ULAS (George 2004) that included a walkover survey. This identified sites in the vicinity of the application area dating from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period

The following is a summary of the main findings from the desk-based assessment:

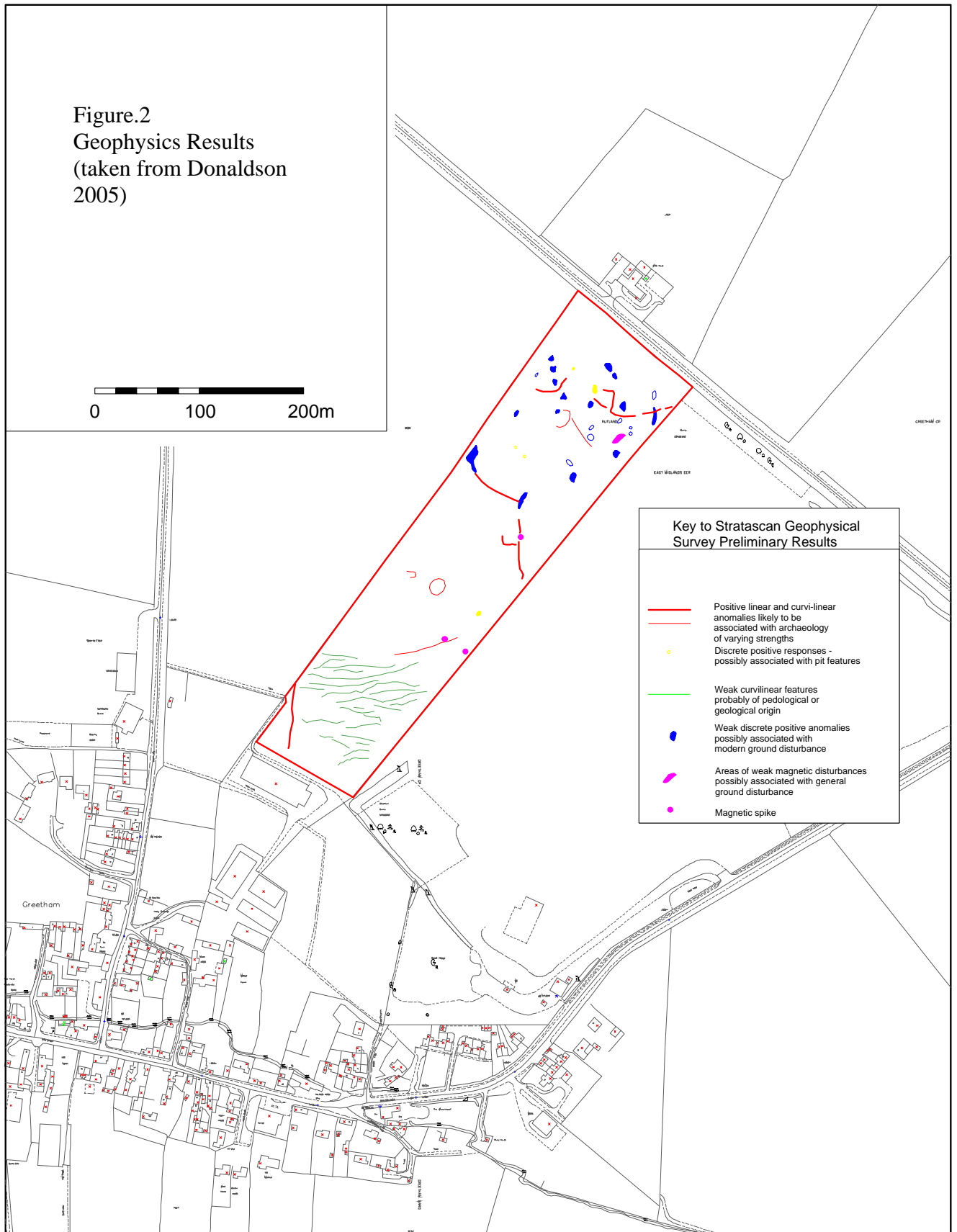
Various prehistoric sites have been found in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Five areas of cropmarks have been located showing evidence for enclosures, pit alignments and ring ditches. There is a large sub-rectangular enclosure of probable Iron Age date, 495m to the east of the development area, which appears to have an entrance on each side. A Bronze Age double pit alignment is located 473m to the south east of the proposed development, with a ring ditch and a large sub-circular enclosure to the west. A further ring ditch is located to the east of the pit alignments. Two sherds of handmade pottery were found during a watching brief 374m to the west of the development that are either Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon. Iron Age pottery was found 462m to the west of the proposed development and two fragments of an Iron Age quern with associated burnt pebbles and flint scatter were found 330m to the east in the Old Quarry site.

The proposed line of 'The Drift' Roman road passes across the northern boundary of the development area. Evidence for the road was found c. 1.3km to the southeast of the development, during a watching brief undertaken by ULAS (Jones 1996). A limestone linear feature abutting a pebble surface was located during site levelling. Undated skeletal remains and a Roman pottery kiln were discovered in 1962 187m to the south east of the proposed development area.

St Mary's Church is located 396m to the south west of the development area and is of a Saxo-Norman date. There are two late Saxon carved stone fragments built into the west wall of the south aisle, one of them possibly originally part of a churchyard cross.

The proposed development site is located outside the medieval core of Greetham village, which has been deduced from landscape maps. It is likely that the proposed development area was located within the medieval village fields of Greetham. The earthwork remains of a medieval Manor House are located 517m to the west of the proposed development area and are Scheduled. Also part of this Scheduled site is the location of various animal and human bones found in a private garden. Further earthworks are located 220m to the south west of the development that represent an area of former medieval village closes. Additional evidence of a medieval shrunken village is present 143m south of the development area, where there are earthworks of a former medieval village plot. The leg of a medieval iron cooking pot was found 473m to the south west of the proposed development area. A copper alloy enamelled scutiform harness pendant was located 297m to the south of the development. 300m to the south west of the development area a pit were uncovered during a watching brief that contained bones from sheep, pig, horse and ox, and three sherds of Lyveden type medieval pottery. (George 2004)

Figure.2
Geophysics Results
(taken from Donaldson
2005)



3.2 *Geophysical survey*

A geophysical survey was undertaken across the application area by Stratascan in April 2005 (Donaldson 2005). The results revealed linear and discrete anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The layout of these features suggested enclosure ditches, possible pits and a ring gully. It was thought that these features might be of Iron Age or Romano-British date

4. **Aims and Objectives**

- To confirm or otherwise the archaeological origin of the features identified from geophysical survey.
- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas where the geophysical survey did not reveal possible archaeological anomalies.
- To provide information on the extent, character and date of archaeological deposits within the application area.
- The potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains, whether known or postulated, will be assessed.
- The archaeological evaluation, once the above information has been gathered, will serve to determine a decision being made on planning permission regarding archaeological issues. Potentially further stages of archaeological investigation will be required as a part of planning permission.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The objective is to gain an indication of the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits in order that an appropriate mitigation strategy may be adopted for remains that may be affected by the development proposals.

5. **Methodology**

The Specification stated that twenty trenches, each 30m in length were to be located in order to target geophysical anomalies and in apparently archaeologically 'blank' areas according to the geophysical results. The trenches were positioned using a Garmin Global Positional System (GPS) 12 parallel channel receiver. The GPS accuracy ranged between 3 to 8 metres. Four additional trenches were also excavated in order to gain a better understanding of the anomalies within the northern part of the field.

The trenches were excavated using a JCB 310C tracked machine equipped with a 2.1m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural undisturbed ground was reached, or to a depth of 1.20m.

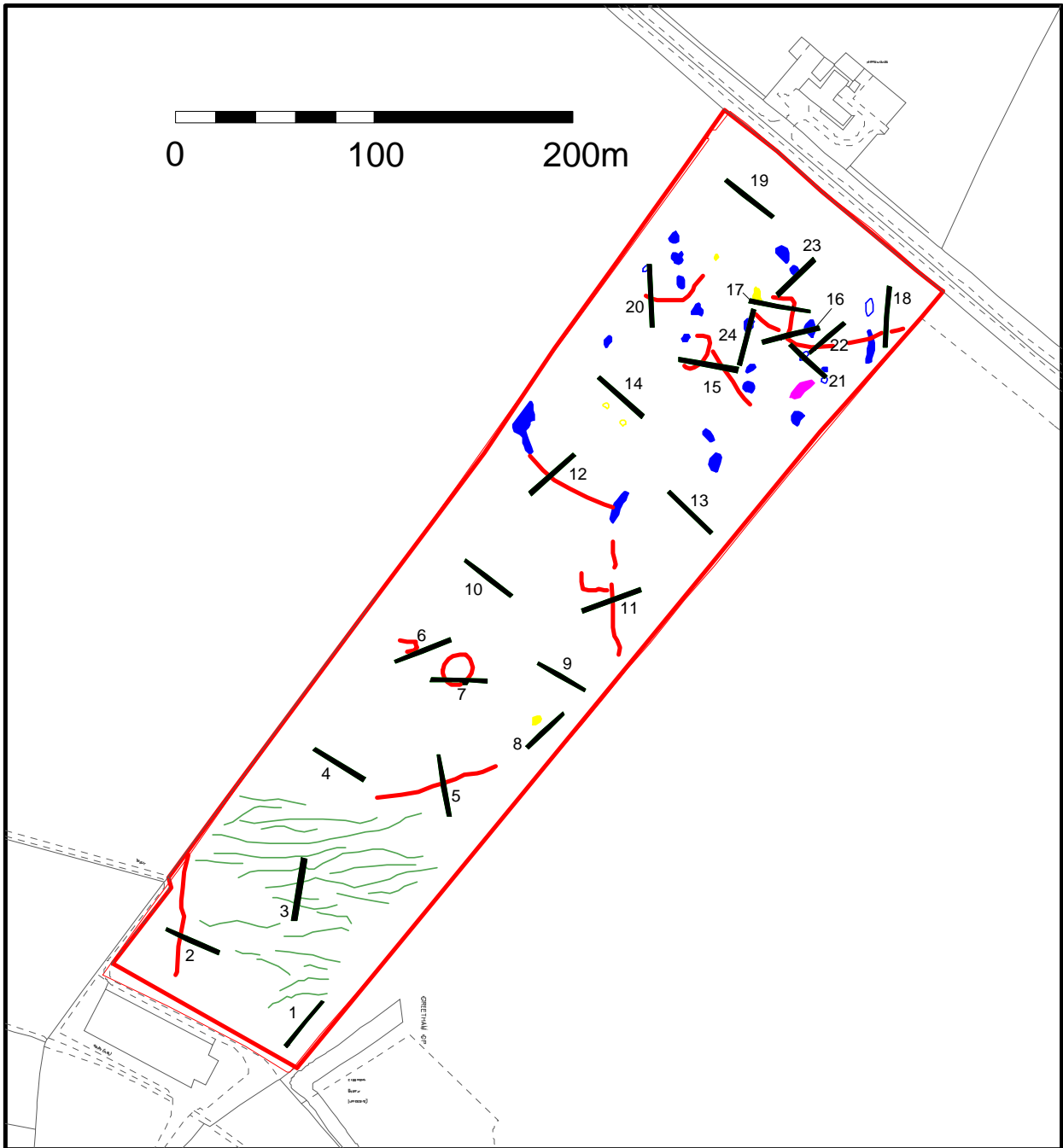


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan (showing trench numbers)

The bases of the trenches were hand cleaned and examined for archaeological remains. Where archaeological remains existed they were planned to scale and recorded. Limited excavation of archaeological features was carried out to determine the character and date of any remains. Archaeological features were recorded with reference to the ULAS recording manual.

The trenches were located using an Electronic Distance Measurer linked to a hand-held Psion data logger. The data were processed using N4ce survey software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCAD version 7.1 design software.

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service).

6. Results (*See Appendix I for trench summaries*)

A total of 24 trenches were excavated in the proposed development area, these were all approx 30m in length and 2.1m in width and totalled a length of 703m (fig.3). They were arranged so as to target the areas of archaeological potential based on the geophysical survey.

Note: Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by: [], those that are fills are indicated by: ().

Trenches 1 – 9

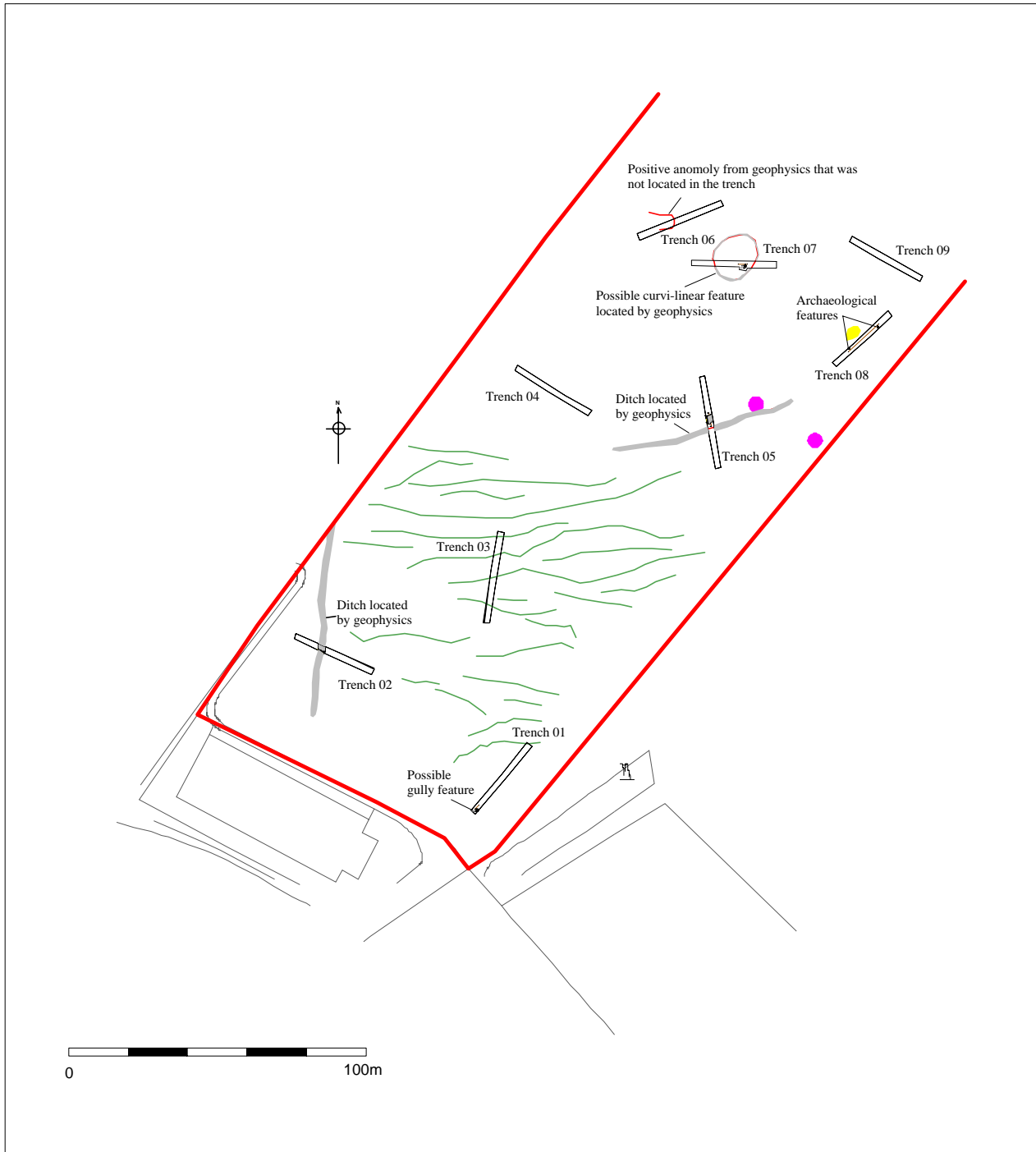


Figure 4: Trenches 1-9 (incorporating the geophysical survey results)

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned to cross a weak curvilinear feature to the northeast, which was suggested may be of geological origin in the geophysical survey report (Donaldson 2005). This feature was not found, but a shallow linear feature [01] was located and excavated in the southwestern end of the trench. The feature was aligned east-west and spanned the width of the trench, measuring 0.7m in width and 0.09m in depth. The feature was too shallow to have any discernable sides but had a well defined flat base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty-clay soil (02) containing occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of limestone.

6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned to locate a strong positive linear feature. This linear feature [04] was located and excavated in the centre of the trench. The feature was aligned north-south, it spanned the width of the trench and measured 2.19m in width, and 0.66m in depth. The sides were straight with an incline of *c.*40°, with a fairly flat base. The feature was filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay deposit (03) containing abundant limestone fragments, rare small to large rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. Three sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from context (03).



Plate 1: Ditch [04] looking southwest

6.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was positioned to cross a number of weak curvilinear features (suggested to be of geological origin). No archaeological finds or features were located in Trench 3, and no corresponding feature of geological origin was identified.

6.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in an area where no geophysical survey anomalies were identified. The trench contained no archaeological finds or features.

6.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was positioned to locate a weak positive linear feature. This linear feature [05] was located and excavated in the centre of the trench. The feature was aligned northeast-southwest, it spanned the width of the trench, measured 2.2m in width and 0.28m in depth. The sides were straight with an incline of *c.*40° and the base was fairly flat, although slightly uneven due to the nature of the limestone natural. The feature was filled with a mid-orangey brown clayey silt deposit (06) containing rare limestone fragments and rare medium sub-rounded stone. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature.

6.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was positioned to cross a weak curvilinear feature to the southwest. However no archaeological finds or features were located.

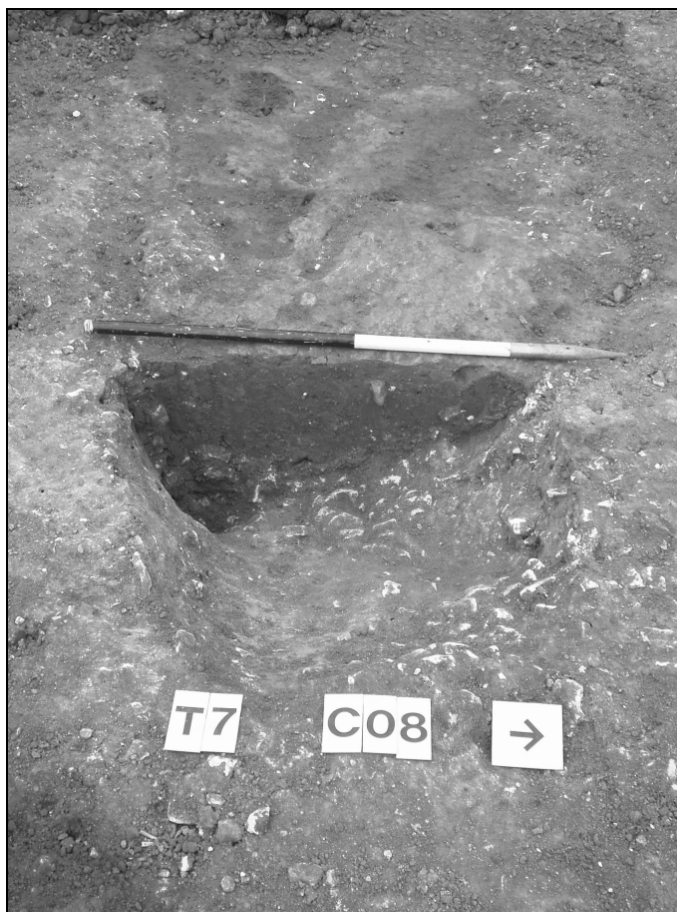


Plate 2: Curvi-linear terminus [08] looking west

6.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was positioned to cross a weak curvi-linear feature. A linear or possible curvi-linear feature [08] was located and the terminus excavated in the

centre of the trench. The feature measured 0.74m in width and had a depth of 0.31m. The sides and base were concave and the feature was filled with a mid greyish brown silty clay deposit (07) containing occasional limestone fragments and medium subrounded stones. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

6.8 *Trench 8*

Trench 8 was positioned to locate a possible pit feature. A circular feature [09] was located and excavated, towards the north-east end of the trench. It measured 0.67m by 0.60m and was 0.28m in depth. The feature had concave sides and base. It was filled by a dark yellowish brown silty clay deposit (10) that contained occasional limestone fragments. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. A slightly irregular ovoid feature [11] was also located and excavated, towards the southwest end of Trench 8. It measured 0.50m by 0.31m and was 0.17m in depth. The feature had steep sides and a flat base and was filled by a dark orangey brown silty clay deposit (12) that contained rare limestone and charcoal flecks. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

6.9 *Trench 9*

Trench 9 was located in an area where no geophysical survey anomalies had been identified. The trench contained no archaeological finds or features.

Trenches 10 - 15

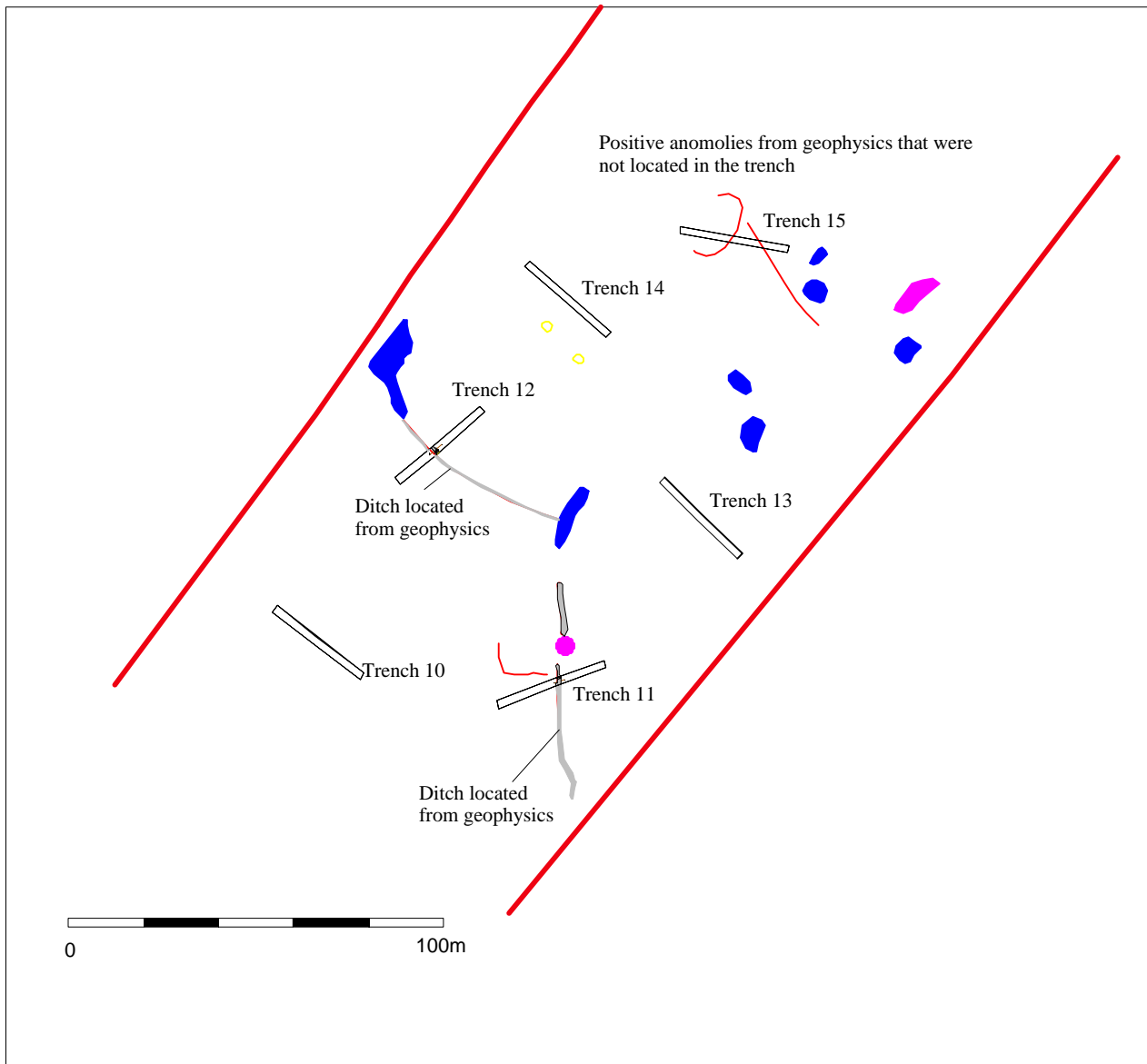


Figure 5: Trenches 10-15 (incorporating the geophysical survey results)

6.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was located in an area where no geophysical survey anomalies had been identified. The trench contained no archaeological finds or features.

6.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was positioned to cross a strong positive linear feature. A linear feature [16], aligned north-south, was located and excavated in the centre of the trench. It spanned the width of the trench and measured 0.89m in width and 0.41m in depth. The feature had straight sides of which the west side had a slightly steeper incline (*c.*50°) than on the east side (*c.*35°). The feature was filled by three separately identifiable deposits (13), (14) and (15). The primary deposit (15) was 0.1m deep and consisted of mid-orangey brown silty clay that contained occasional limestone fragments. This was overlaid by dark greyish brown silty clay deposit (14) that was 0.16m thick and contained abundant limestone fragments and occasional large rounded stones. The uppermost deposit (13) was 0.17m thick and consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments and rare small to large rounded stones. Eight sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from context (13).



Plate 3: Ditch [16] looking northwest

6.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was positioned to cross a strong positive linear feature. A linear feature [17], aligned northwest-southeast, was located and excavated in the centre of the trench. It spanned the width of the trench, measured 0.83m in width and 0.32m in depth. The feature had straight sides with an incline of *c.*50° and a flat base. It was filled by a dark orangey brown silty clay deposit (18) that contained abundant limestone fragments and flecks. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

6.13 Trench 13

Trench 13 was located in an area where no geophysical survey anomalies were identified. The trench contained no archaeological finds or features.

6.14 Trench 14

Trench 14 was located in an area where no geophysical survey anomalies were identified. The trench contained no archaeological finds or features.

6.15 Trench 15

Trench 15 was positioned to locate a weak positive linear and a weak curvi-linear feature. However no archaeological finds or features were located within the trench.

Trenches 16 - 24

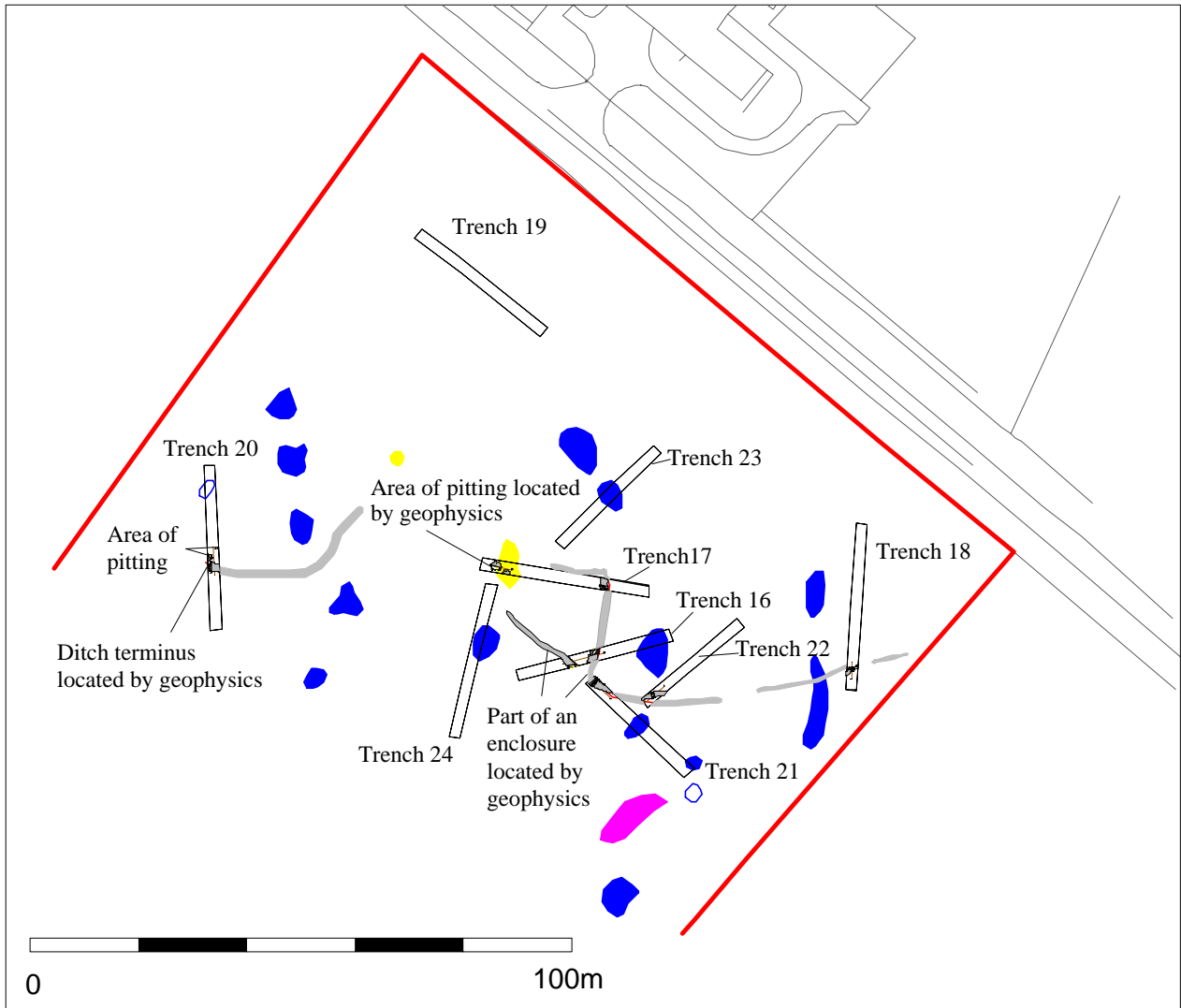


Figure 6: Plan of Trenches 16-24 (incorporating the geophysics)

6.16 Trench 16

Trench 16 was positioned to cross two strong positive linear features that possibly form part of an enclosure. These features, [25] and [29] were located and excavated towards the centre of the trench. Feature [25] was aligned north-south and spanned the width of the trench. It measured 1.6m in width and had a depth of 0.42m. The sides of the feature were straight, with a *c.*40° incline and it had a concave base. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay deposit (24) that contained common limestone fragments, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional fire-cracked pebbles. Twenty-seven sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from context (24). Feature [29] was aligned northwest-southeast and also spanned the width of the trench. It measured 1.52m in width and had a depth of 0.26m. The sides were steep and straight, with a *c.*75° incline and it had a flat base. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay deposit (28) that contained common limestone fragments, rare charcoal flecks and rare small to large subrounded stones. Twenty-six fragments of possible human bone were recovered from context (28). The bone was fragmented and had extensively pitted surfaces, probably due to erosion from chemicals in the soil.



Plate 4 Ditch [29] looking south

6.17 Trench 17

Trench 17 was located to cross the continuation of the possible enclosure seen in trench 16 and also to locate a possible area of pitting. A linear feature [51] and two circular features, [31] and [40] were located and excavated in the trench. Feature [51] was located at the east end of the trench, aligned north-south and spanned the width of the trench. It measured 1.45m in width and had a depth of 0.62m. Its sides were straight with an incline of *c.*45° that broke to *c.*80°, creating a possible ‘ankle-breaker’ style of base to the ditch. The feature was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay deposit (50) containing occasional limestone fragments, rare small to large subrounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. A

single sherd of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from context (50). Feature [40] was located at the west end of the trench and measured 1.90m by 1.80m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.95m but the base was not reached. The sides of the feature were vertical and it was filled by five individual deposits (35), (36), (37), (38) and (39). The lowest excavated deposit (39) was at least 0.45m deep and consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay that contained common limestone fragments, rare small to large subrounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. This was overlain by a dark greyish brown silt (38), measuring 0.15m and containing an abundance of charcoal fragments. Above this was a layer of light reddish brown silty clay (37), measuring 90mm and contained possible burnt clay material. This was overlain by a dark greyish brown silty clay (37) that measured 0.19m thick and contained abundant limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks. The latest deposit (35) was a mid greyish brown silty clay that measured 0.33m thick and contained occasional limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks. Sixteen sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from context (35). Another circular feature [31] was located 0.75 to the east of feature [40]. This feature was only partially exposed and was not excavated. It measured at least 1.3m by 0.8m and its upper fill (30) consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay. Eight sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the top of context (30).



Plate 5 Pit [40] looking southwest

6.18 Trench 18

Trench 18 was located to cross the continuation of the possible enclosure. This linear feature [33], aligned northeast-southwest, was located and excavated at the southern end of the trench. It spanned the width of the trench, measuring 0.60m in width and 0.19m in depth. The sides were steep and straight with an incline of *c.*75° and it had a flat base. The feature was filled by a mid greyish

brown silty clay deposit (34), containing rare small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

6.19 Trench 19

Trench 19 contained no archaeological finds or features.

6.20 Trench 20

Trench 20 was positioned to cross a strong positive linear feature. This linear feature [48] and two additional circular features, [41] and [43] were located and excavated towards the centre of the trench. Feature [48] was aligned east-west and spanned the width of the trench although it was found that the feature did terminate in the west side of the trench. It measured 1.65m in width, 1.15m in depth and its sides were very steep and straight with an almost vertical incline. The feature was filled by one identifiable deposit (49) that consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay that contained abundant limestone fragments, occasional limestone flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. It was difficult to gain a clear view of the section due to the manner in which this feature was excavated; it is possible that variations of deposits within the feature were overlooked. Twenty-four sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from context (49). A circular feature [43] was located 0.5m to the north of feature [48], partially exposed in the west side of the trench. It measured 1.13m in diameter and had a depth of 0.95m. It was filled by four separately identifiable deposits (44), (45), (46) and (47). The primary deposit (44) was 0.95m deep and consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional fire-cracked pebbles, common limestone fragments, occasional pebbles, occasional medium subrounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks. This was overlain by a mixed deposit (45) of yellow and dark greyish brown limestone powder and silty clay that measured 0.22m deep and contained occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. Above this was a mid greyish brown silty clay deposit (46) that measured 0.04m in depth and contained abundant charcoal fragments. The uppermost deposit (47) measured 0.17m in depth and consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay that contained common limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. Context (44) and (47) each contained two sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery. A smaller circular feature [41] was located 1m to the northeast of [43]. This feature measured 0.33m by 0.33m and had a depth of 0.14m. The sides and base of the feature were concave and it was filled by a mid greyish brown deposit (42) that contained rare small subrounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.



Plate 6: Ditch terminus [48] looking east

6.21 Trench 21

This trench was positioned to expose more of the possible enclosure seen elsewhere. This linear feature [21] and possible linear feature [19] were located and excavated at the northwest end of the trench. Feature [21] was aligned northwest-southeast, spanned the width of the trench and cut feature [19] on its northeast side. The feature measured 1.42m in width and had a depth of 0.42m. Its sides and base were concave and it was filled by two separately identifiable deposits (22) and (23). The primary deposit (22) was 0.14m in depth and consisted of mid-yellowish brown silty clay. This contained occasional limestone fragments, occasional pebbles and rare charcoal flecks. Located above this was a dark brown clayey loam deposit (23) that measured 0.3m in depth, containing occasional burnt clay, occasional limestone fragment and common charcoal flecks. Fifteen sherds of pottery were recovered from context (22) and five sherds were recovered from context (23), all the sherds were scored, dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age. Only a small area of feature [19] was observed as it was cut on its south-west side by linear [21] and continued under the trench edge to the northeast. The feature was wider than 0.3m and greater than 0.42m in depth (the base was not reached). Part of the southwest side of the feature was revealed and was found to be fairly steep with a *c.*50° incline; the remainder of the side had been cut away. The feature was filled with a mid yellowish brown silty clay deposit (20) that contained common limestone fragments, occasional pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. It is possible linear [19] represents an earlier phase of the possible enclosure.



Plate 7: intercutting ditches [19] and [21] in Trench 21

6.22 Trench 22

Trench 22 was positioned to expose more of the possible enclosure seen elsewhere. The linear feature [26], aligned east-west, was located and excavated at the southwest end of Trench 22. It spanned the width of the trench and measured 1.0m in width and had a depth of 0.32m. The north side of the feature was straight and had an incline of *c.*45°, the south side was poorly defined and it had an irregular base due to the nature of the limestone natural. It was filled by mid-yellowish brown silty clay (27) containing occasional limestone fragments, occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. Three fragments of human bone were recovered from context (27). The most complete fragment appears to be part of a femur shaft.

6.23 Trench 23

Trench 23 was positioned to locate an area of possible ground disturbance. However no archaeological finds or features were located and it is possible that the geophysics had located a pocket of natural clay in the limestone.

6.24 *Trench 24*

Trench 24 was positioned to locate an area of possible ground disturbance. However no archaeological finds or features were located and it is possible that the geophysics had located a pocket of natural clay in the limestone.

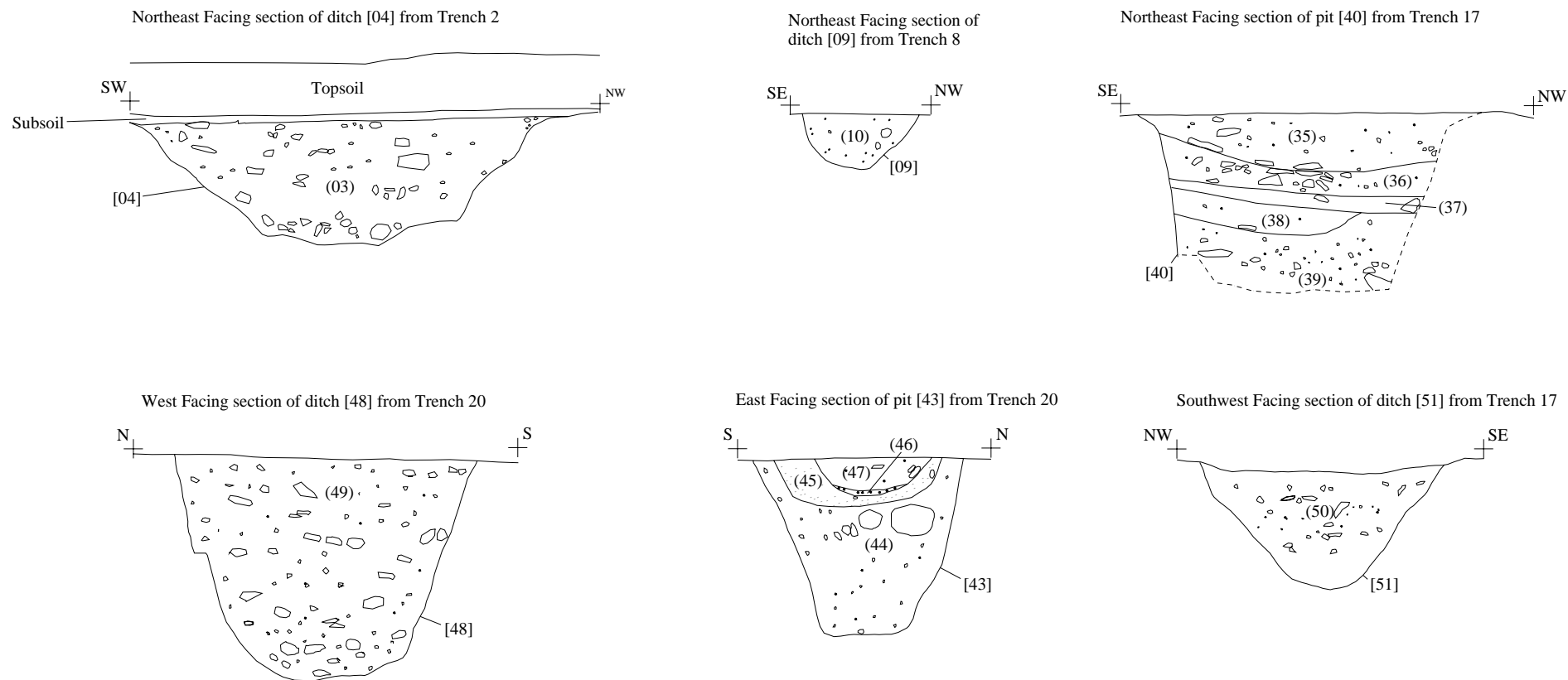


Figure 7: Sample of the sections recorded during the evaluation

7. Discussion

The results of the geophysical survey in the most part were confirmed by the results of the trial trenching, in the targeted areas. It can thus be presumed that the geophysical survey (Fig 2) is an accurate representation of the features buried below the plough soil. The interpretations offered for many of these features (Donaldson 2005) also correspond very well with the results of trial trenching.

The evaluation has confirmed that the main focus of archaeological activity is situated in the northern part of the field where part of a possible enclosure with associated domestic features is located. These features have been dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age (c. 400 BC-AD 43). Also a number of linear ditches and pits elsewhere may indicate spread of Iron Age activity across the site, which was supported by the recovery of Iron Age pottery fragments from a number of these features.

Enclosures are relatively common in the Iron Age of the East Midlands. Similar sites have been interpreted from cropmarks, earthworks, artefact scatters and excavated data, and over 220 locations of Late Iron Age occupation are included in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record. From analysis of well-surveyed areas including Medbourne, Oakham and Misterton a density of one Late Iron Age site per 1.8-2 sq km can be extrapolated (Clay 2002).

The range of domestic species present from the animal bone assemblage (some of which shows signs of butchery), the evidence of burning and the relatively low levels of abrasion on the pottery may suggest the site is close to or is part of a small Iron Age farmstead settlement, although no domestic structures (typically roundhouses – evidenced by ring gullies) were recorded during the evaluation.

The human remains recovered from the possible enclosure ditch are significant. It is generally agreed that the majority of Iron Age people were excarnated on death (the deceased would be left in the open for all traces of flesh to be rotted/scavenged away, leaving only bones). The bones were subsequently disposed of in non-archaeologically traceable ways (Hill 1995:11). As yet it is unclear if the remains represent an earlier burial that was disturbed when the ditch was cut or if the bones are contemporary with the ditch, perhaps put in the ditch following the excarnation process. Until recently emphasis has been placed on social status of complete burials. Partial corpses and individual bone fragments were treated as evidence for general excarnation of the majority of the population, the ultimate deposition of these remains represents the same status as rubbish (Cunliffe and Poole 1991:418). Woodward (1993) suggested that individual complete and fragmentary bones may represent a cult of relics in which the remains of ancestors were curated, concealed and venerated so their powers might be conserved and tapped. At Winnall Enclosure Ditch, Wessex Hill has shown that there is spatial variation in the deposition of material in the enclosure ditch. It was found that human bone was concentrated to the front of the enclosure including a complete skull facing towards the entrance (Hill 1995:80). Only further analysis of the form of the enclosure will enable a greater understanding of

the human remains recovered from Greetham, and the nature of their deposition and treatment.

In view of the lack of stratigraphic relationships and the difficulty in closely dating undiagnostic Iron Age pottery, it is difficult to provide a clear sequence of phases of activity. Further work may establish the development of archaeological activity on the site.

In summary the evaluation would appear to indicate that the north-eastern part of the site contains part of an enclosed settlement, with a scatter of features, perhaps relating to field boundaries etc across the remainder of the site. The finds indicate a Mid-Late Iron Age date, with pottery being recovered in the main, as well as pieces of burnt daub that may have derived from buildings. Animal bone evidence indicates that domesticated livestock was kept at the site, and used as food. The human bone recovered from the site area may hold more information regarding how the dead were treated in Iron Age society.

8. Archive

The archive will be deposited with the *Rutland County Museum* under the Accession no. RT02.2005.

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

10. Acknowledgements

This report was compiled from information collected on site by the author and Steve Baker. Nick Cooper identified the pottery, Lynden Cooper examined the flint and Jen Browning examined the animal bone. James Meek managed the project.

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James Harvey
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH

Jrh20@leicester.ac.uk
Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

Trench	Length (m)	Average depth (m OD)*	Natural	Notes	Minimum depth to archaeology (m)
1	29.5	118.23	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix	possible gully	0.30
2	30	119	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix	ditch	0.30
3	31.3	118.57	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix	negative	N/A
4	29.8	116.20	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix	negative	N/A
5	31.1	117.37	Lincolnshire limestone	ditch	0.29
6	30.5	116.05	Lincolnshire limestone	negative	N/A
7	30	115.59	Lincolnshire limestone in a light yellowish brown clay matrix	possible ring gully terminus	0.54
8	26.6	115.14	Lincolnshire limestone	Two undated pits/hostholes	0.65
9	28.7	115.75	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix	negative	N/A
10	29.9	117.39	Compact Lincolnshire Limestone	negative	N/A
11	31	117.35	Lincolnshire limestone	ditch	0.32
12	29.5	119.09	Lincolnshire limestone	ditch	0.34
13	29.9	118.88	Compact Lincolnshire limestone	negative	N/A
14	29.5	120.05	Compact Lincolnshire limestone	negative	N/A
15	30	120.20	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix	negative	N/A
16	30	120.38	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix and pockets of brown clay	two ditches	0.36
17	30	120.66	Lincolnshire limestone in a light yellowish brown clay matrix	two pits and a ditch	0.25
18	31.3	120.18	Lincolnshire limestone in a light yellowish brown clay matrix	gully	0.25
19	30	121.10	Lincolnshire limestone in a light yellowish brown clay matrix	negative	N/A
20	30.7	120.61	Lincolnshire limestone with pockets of yellowish brown clay	Pit, posthole and ditch terminus	0.27
21	25	120.18	Lincolnshire limestone with pockets of yellowish brown clay	Intercutting ditches	0.29
22	23.6	120.30	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix	ditch	0.23
23	25.6	120.79	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix	negative	N/A
24	29.5	120.45	Lincolnshire limestone in a mid yellowish brown clay matrix and a large pocket of orangey brown clay	negative	N/A

* denotes heights based on a bench mark of 122m OD taken from the main road to Thistleton

Appendix 2: Context summaries

Greetham Quarry. Evaluation. RT02.2005				
Context	Cut	Below	Area	Description
1		2	T1	Cut of gully/linear?
2	1		T1	Fill of gully/linear? I
3	4		T2	Fill of ditch
4		3	T2	Cut of ditch
5		6	T5	Cut of ditch
6	5		T5	Fill of ditch
7	8		T7	Fill of gully terminus
8		7	T7	Cut of gully terminus
9		10	T8	Cut of pit
10	9		T8	Fill of pit
11		12	T8	Cut of pit
12	11		T8	Fill of pit
13	16		T11	Fill of ditch
14	16	13	T11	Fill of ditch
15	16	14	T11	Fill of ditch
16		15	T11	Cut of ditch
17		18	T12	Cut of ditch
18	17		T12	Fill of ditch
19		20	T21	Cut of feature/linear?
20	19	21	T21	Fill of feature/linear?
21		22	T21	Cut of ditch
22	21	23	T21	Fill of ditch
23	21		T21	Fill of ditch
24	25		T16	Fill of ditch
25		24	T16	Cut of ditch
26		27	T22	Cut of ditch
27	26		T22	Fill of ditch
28	29		T16	Fill of ditch
29		28	T16	Cut of ditch
30	31		T17	Fill of pit (pot removed)
31		31?	T17	Cut of pit
32				VOID
33		34	T18	Cut of gully
34	33		T18	Fill of gully
35		40	T17	Fill of pit
36	35	40	T17	Fill of pit
37	36	40	T17	Fill of pit
38	37	40	T17	Fill of pit
39	38	40	T17	Fill of pit
40	39		T17	Cut of pit
41		42	T20	Cut of posthole
42	41		T20	Fill of posthole
43		44	T20	Cut of pit
44	43	45	T20	Fill of pit
45	43	46	T20	Fill of pit
46	43	47	T20	Fill of pit
47	43		T20	Fill of pit

48		49	T20	Cut of ditch
49	48		T20	Fill of ditch
50	51		T17	Fill of ditch
51		50	T17	Cut of ditch

Appendix 3: Pottery assemblage Nicholas J. Cooper*Introduction and quantitative summary*

A total of 111 sherds of middle-late Iron Age pottery weighing 517g was retrieved from the evaluation trenches as catalogued below. In addition, small quantities of fired clay (burnt daub), probably derived from building structures, were retrieved from five contexts.

Methodology

The Iron Age material has been analysed by form and fabric using the Leicestershire County Museums prehistoric pottery fabric series, with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Groups Guidelines (PCRG 1992), and quantified by sherd count and weight. Two major contemporary assemblages have been published in recent years from sites in Leicestershire at Wanlip and Hamilton (Marsden 1998 and 2000).

Analysis

The catalogue of the material is tabulated below.

RT02.2005 Greetham Iron Age Pottery 24/6/05									
Trench	Cut	Context	Fabric	Form	Type	Dec	Sherds	Weight	Comment
2	4	3	S1				3	11	thin bodied
11	16	13	S1			2 scored	8	26	plus fired clay
21	21	22	S1			all scored	15	75	joining one vessel
21	21	23	S1			all scored	5	53	plus fired clay
16	25	24	S1	Upright flat rim		1 scored	27	142	22cms diameter
17		30	S1			scored	8	32	plus fired clay
17	40	35	S1	Upright flat rim		scored	16	83	plus fired clay
	43	44	S1				2	33	
	43	47	S1			scored	2	7	plus fired clay
	48	49	S1			scored	24	49	
17	51	50	S1			scored	1	6	
Total							111	517	

As evident from the data, the average sherd weight of the pottery is less than 5g and this presents a relatively broken assemblage. However, the levels of abrasion are relatively low and the context groups often comprise sherds from the same vessel, suggesting that further breakage has occurred during possible machining of the trenches / excavation. The forms, where evident, plain upright rims from barrel-shaped or shouldered vessels, and the scored decoration are typical of East Midlands Scored Ware tradition which dates from the fourth century BC to the first century AD (Elsdon 1992, 89 fig. 1). The pottery is manufactured solely in shell-tempered fabric S1, which is characterised by moderate to very common well to poorly sorted fossil marine shell inclusions up to 8mm and is typical of sites in the east of the region in which the scored ware is found. Indeed, Greetham becomes the centre of production for similarly shell-tempered pottery during the Roman period. Similar scored ware assemblages in this fabric occur at Empingham (Cooper 2000, 67) and Whitwell (Todd 1981).

Fired Clay or Burnt Daub

A total of 22 miscellaneous fired clay fragments weighing 120g was retrieved from contexts 13, 23, 24, 30, 35 and 47. They were invariably in a fine, slightly micaceous clay with occasional shell inclusions and could be the remains of house structures or ovens related to occupation. Additionally, a fragment of possibly Roman tile (1g) came from context 6.

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Appendix 4 The Human? And Animal Bone Jennifer Browning

Introduction and Methods

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered during trial trenching at Greetham, Rutland. The excavations revealed ditches and pits of mid-late Iron Age date. The bone, comprising 151 fragments, was hand-recovered from the following deposits:

- 02- possible gully fill, undated
- 03- ditch fill, mid-late Iron Age
- 13- ditch fill, mid-late Iron Age
- 20- possible linear undated (poss. same as 24 and 27)
- 23- ditch fill, mid-late Iron Age
- 24- ditch fill, mid-late Iron Age (poss. same as 20 and 27)
- 27- ditch fill, undated (poss. same as 20 and 24)
- 28- ditch fill, undated (poss. same as 23)
- 35- pit fill, mid-late Iron Age
- 44- pit fill, mid-late Iron Age
- 49- ditch fill, mid-late Iron Age

The assemblage is generally quite poorly preserved, being fragmented with eroded surfaces, inhibiting the identification of fine butchery marks. However, the condition of the bone is not uniform through the assemblage; some contexts are better preserved than others. Bones from deposits 13, 20, 23, 27, 28 and 44 were particularly badly preserved.

The bone was identified with reference to comparative modern and archaeological material held by the University of Leicester (School of Archaeology and Ancient History). A basic catalogue was produced, to record, where possible, species, anatomy, fusion and the presence of butchery, gnawing and burning. These data were entered in a *pro forma* spreadsheet, which will form part of the archive. Dating provided by pottery evidence indicates that the features broadly belong to the same period, therefore for the purposes of this report, the assemblage is considered together.

Results

Context	horse	s/g	cattle	pig	human	?human	c-size	sh-size	(??dog)	unident	Total
2		1					5	1		1	8
3		1	6	2			8	1		22	40
13	1	2					2	1		9	15
20			4				6			8	18
23	1	1		1			13			2	18
24										1	1
27					1	2					3
28						26					26
35			2	1			3	2	5	5	18
44										2	2
47										1	1
49		1									1
Total	2	6	12	4	1	28	37	5	5	51	151

Table 1: Number of bone fragments assigned to species categories.

Several domestic species, comprising cattle, sheep and pig and horse, were identified in the assemblage. Bone thought to be human was also recovered. Unfortunately much of the assemblage consisted of shards of mammal bone not diagnostic enough to identify. More cattle bones were identified than any other species and when combined with the number of cattle-size fragments, these clearly dominate the assemblage, with lesser numbers of sheep/goat and pig. However, this result is likely to have been influenced by preservation factors; in poor soil conditions the larger bones are more likely to be preserved than those from smaller animals. A small number of horse bones were recovered from ditch deposits (13 and 23). A range of ages for the domestic animals was suggested by the presence of both unfused bones and also permanent adult dentition in wear.

Burnt bone was recovered from a pit fill, context (35), intermingled with un-burnt remains. The bone was blackened, suggesting that it had charred at relatively low temperatures. The assemblage also contained unburnt bone and may represent debris from cooking, which had been incorporated with other material before final deposition in the pit. Butchery marks were observed on bones from contexts (3), (23) and (35) on bones from cattle and pig, probably representing disarticulation and processing of the carcass.

Long bone fragments identified as human were recovered from ditch deposits (context 27 and 28). One of the more complete fragments appears to be part of a femur shaft, while another was less confidently identified. The bone was fragmented and had extensively pitted surfaces, most probably due to erosion from chemicals in the soil. The fact that these were the only bones affected suggests that they may have originally have been buried in more acidic conditions.

Comments

Although only a small quantity of bone was recovered from the site during this evaluative phase of work, the bulk of the assemblage is likely to represent waste from the domestic activities of a small farmstead. The range of domestic species present and the presence of occasional butchery and burning support this conclusion. The presence of the human bone in the ditch deposits is particularly interesting, although it is not clear whether it represents a disturbed burial or has been incorporated into the ditch backfill from an earlier feature. Further excavation and collection of a larger assemblage would help to expand upon these conclusions.

Appendix 5: Lithics and miscellaneous finds

Catalogue

Trench	Context number	Flint
T21	22	flake
T16	28	bladlet
T20	49	shatter
T17	50	denticulate
U/S	U/S	scraper
T20	47	flake
T17	35	flake
T20	44	burnt stone
T21	23	burnt stone
T2	03	snail
T17	35	snail