



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Field Evaluation  
(Access Road, Phases 2, 3, 5 & part of  
Phase 4) in Advance of the Proposed  
West Corby Urban Extension,  
Northamptonshire.**

**NGR: (SP 855 884 - centre)**  
By Tim Higgins




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**in Advance of the Proposed West Corby Urban Expansion, Northamptonshire**  
**NGR: SP 855 884 (centre)**

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**An Archaeological Field Evaluation**  
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**NGR: SP 855 884 (centre)**

**Tim Higgins**

**Summary**

*A second phase of archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in advance of the proposed West Corby Urban Expansion scheme in Northamptonshire. The work took place between September and November 2017, and concentrated on a block of 16 fields representing Phases 2, 3 & 5, part of Phase 4 and the northern access road of the development. The evaluation consisted of 187 trenches and followed on from an initial stage of trial trenching in the Se quarter of the development area that took place in 2016 (Thomas 2016). The recent work was located in the northern and south-western parts of the application area. As with the previous evaluation, trial trenches were located to evaluate archaeological anomalies identified through geophysical survey, and also to sample the surveyed areas where no anomalies had been identified. The results of the geophysical survey indicated that archaeological remains survived extensively across the area covered by the second phase of evaluation. The trenching that targeted geophysical anomalies generally confirmed their interpretation as archaeological features and revealed several core areas of settlement remains. Furthermore, archaeology was also discovered in areas that contained no geophysical anomalies.*

**Results**

*Several widespread concentrations of archaeological remains were located in Field 58 and 'Great Lawn'. In Field 58 two areas of Iron Age settlement consisting of roundhouses and other features, lay close to one another and may represent either separate phases, or parts of the same wider occupation area. The more northerly cluster in this field appeared to be a continuation of the large linear spread of Iron Age occupation located to the east, and confirmed by the first evaluation, in the field known as 'The Wood'. 'Belgic'-style Late Iron Age pottery, associated with the cluster of features to the south, may indicate a slightly later date for the activity on this part of the field, and therefore may be a different settlement area altogether.*

*The second core settlement area was located within the 'Great Lawn' field and largely corresponded to an area of geophysical anomalies on the crest of a hill. A previous fieldwalking survey, undertaken on this field in the 1980's, had also retrieved Roman pottery from the approximate same location. Trenching revealed dense areas of Roman settlement remains, with associated pottery finds reflecting activity from the late 1st to early 2nd century*

*through to the 3rd and 4th century AD. Overall the evaluation of this area indicates an extensive and long lived settlement throughout the Roman period. Archaeological features dating to the Late Iron Age were also found in the trenches, suggesting that settlement was established at this time and continued into the Roman period.*

*To the west of the Roman settlement, an area of Iron Age settlement activity defined by a series of ditches and probable roundhouses, corresponded with a concentration of geophysical anomalies, and probably represents another focus of habitation. Iron Age activity in the form of ditches, pits and possible structural evidence was also revealed in other areas of the 'Great Lawn'. These activity areas had not previously been revealed by the geophysical survey.*

### **Activity areas in the wider landscape**

*Away from these three main core of settlement remains several large-scale linear features crossed the northern and western parts of the area, running through Fields 49, 50, 51, 52 and 56. These may reflect the presence of large boundaries dividing areas of the landscape between zones of settlement. Evidence was also discovered for smaller scale Iron Age settlement activity, sometimes in association with the large boundaries, indicating widespread use of the landscape during this period.*

### **Interim conclusions**

*The evaluation results have shown that well-preserved archaeological remains are present across the development area. Similar to the picture presented by the last evaluation the latest trenching has helped confirm the interpretations of the geophysical survey, but has also added information by discovering remains that were not previously revealed in the apparently 'blank' areas. The picture appears to be one of an archaeological landscape containing several core settlement areas, within a network of landscape boundaries and smaller areas of occupation. Sample excavation of the archaeological features in the core settlement areas showed that they were well-preserved, and contained a range of artefactual and environmental evidence. Excavation also revealed that the Iron Age settlement remains were more complex than had been anticipated from the geophysical survey results, with several overlapping phases of occupation represented. The pottery retrieved from these features ranged from the Mid-Late Iron Age to Late Iron Age 'Belgic'-style forms dating to c.AD 20-60.*

*Activity in the areas located to the north and west of settlement foci consisted of land allotment boundaries, possible isolated roundhouses and burnt pits/hearths all of which were common across the evaluation area although not all were identified through the geophysical survey. The Iron Age remains have the potential to add important information on later prehistoric occupation of a large part of the Northamptonshire landscape that has seen little previous archaeological work. The Roman remains also have the potential to add to our understanding of the transitional period between the Iron Age and Roman periods, and perhaps provide information on how use of the landscape changed over time. The previous evaluation also revealed archaeological features relating to activity within the Royal hunting grounds of Rockingham Forest, in particular the remains of a hunting lodge (Thomas 2016). Nothing similar was revealed in the second phase of trenching although a cobbled surface found in Field 58 may have once related to a trackway through the forest.*

## Introduction

A second phase of archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in advance of the proposed West Corby Urban Expansion scheme (Figs. 1 and 2 Phase 2 Evaluation). The work took place between September and November 2017, and concentrated on a block of 16 fields representing Phases 2, 3 & 5, part of Phase 4 and the northern access road of the development (shown within the red outline on Fig. 2). The evaluation consisted of 187 trenches and followed on from an initial stage of trial trenching that took place in 2016 (Thomas 2016, and shown on Fig.2 Phase 1 Evaluation – SE quarter of the development area).

The work is part of a phased evaluation strategy in response to development proposals for a western urban expansion of Corby, including the construction of at least 4,000 dwellings, up to three new primary schools, a new secondary school, small scale retail, leisure, social, cultural community and health facilities, two local centres, green infrastructure and highways/transport infrastructure.

An Environmental Statement has been prepared for the project which includes a chapter on Cultural Heritage. This section considered the baseline archaeological data that had been gathered from a Desk-based Assessment (Kipling 2015) and Geophysical Survey (Bartlett 2016) of the development area.

In order to further characterise the archaeological potential of the development area the Environmental Statement recommended a phase of intrusive archaeological evaluation to gain a better understanding of the nature, extent, date, depth, state of preservation and significance of archaeological deposits that may be present.

The results of the evaluation would allow for a better informed assessment of the impact upon archaeological remains from the development proposals. Appropriate mitigation strategies such as ‘preservation in situ’ by redesign, or ‘preservation by record’ through further excavation, could then be formulated and implemented as necessary.

ULAS produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2016) detailing the strategy for 6 phases of trial trench evaluation targeting different areas of the proposed development and an access road.



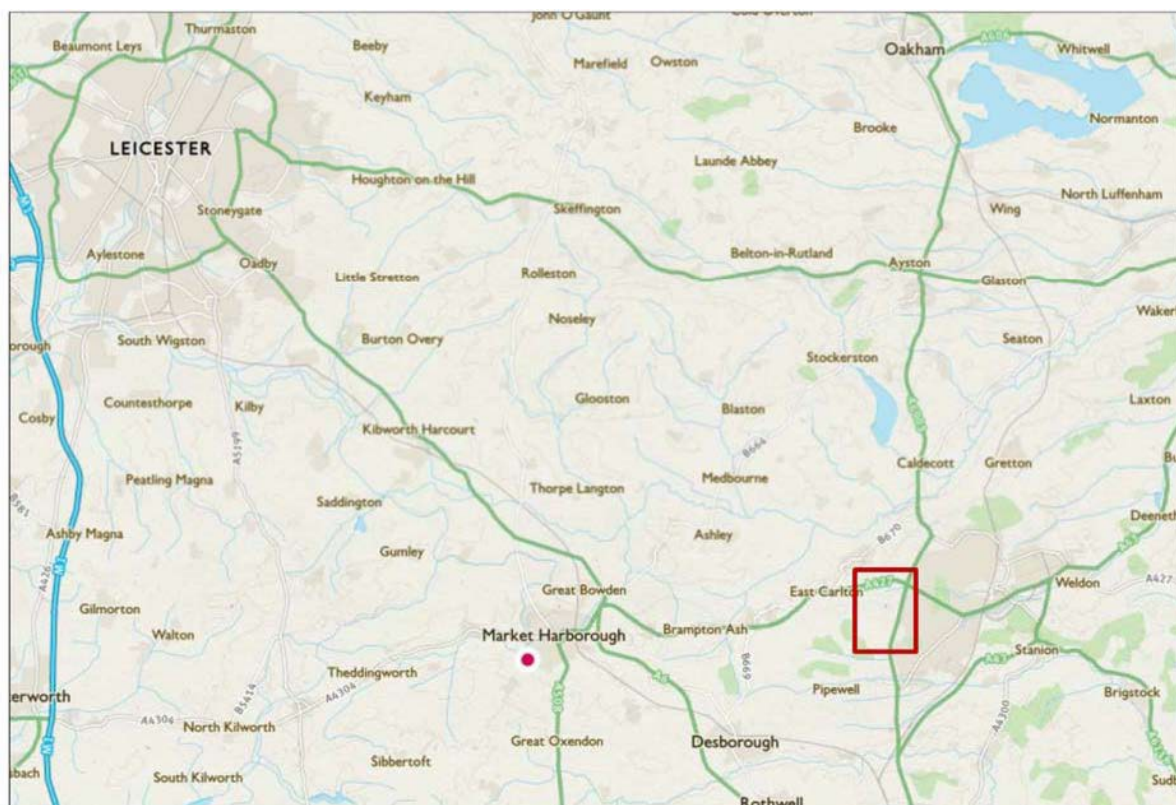


Figure 1: Site location

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## Location, Topography and Geology

The area of the proposed development is located on the western edge of Corby in Middleton Parish, within the administrative area of Corby Borough Council (Figure 1). The area comprises *c.* 360ha of land and is defined to the east by A6003 Uppingham – Kettering Road and to the north by the A427 Corby Road. The western and southern limits of the area are bounded by woodland belts and agricultural fields (Figs 1 and 2).

The development area occupies fairly flat ground, with gently rising slopes to the north and west, ranging between *c.* 125m AOD in the east and to *c.* 135m AOD in the west.

The area largely comprises agricultural fields, interspersed with hedgerows and blocks of woodland. Middleton Lodge, which includes outbuildings and agricultural barns, is located within the central north of the site. Forest Lodge, including a small collection of farm buildings, is located within the north east of the site. Swinawe Wood and Ash Coppice, located at the southern end of the site are designated as Local Wildlife Sites and areas of ancient woodland.

Drainage ditches exist along field margins within the development area and it contains three streams, two in the north half of the site and one in the south, all running in a west to east direction along field boundaries. A fourth stream forms the southern boundary to the site.

Two vehicular access points are present to the east of the site onto the A6003 Uppingham Road. Both are farm tracks, which lead to Middleton Lodge and Forest Lodge respectively. Several further

tracks are present throughout the site, including one which links with the A427 Corby Road to the north.

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology across the development area is likely to consist of superficial deposits of boulder clay, overlying deposits of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone (BGS 2010).

## **Historical and Archaeological Background**

The proposed development area falls within the boundaries of Rockingham Forest, an area that has been the focus of historic landscape characterisation since the 1960s but which in contrast, has had relatively little archaeological investigation.

The Desk-based Assessment prepared for the project consulted the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record and available documentary & mapping resources to gather baseline information for the archaeological potential of the development area.

Little is known about the early landscape character in this part of Northamptonshire although within the project area, the open pasture land or 'feld' known as 'Benefield Lawn' may have survived from Roman or earlier organisation of the land (Foard *et al* 2005, 8).

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Within the wider Rockingham Forest landscape some of the earliest evidence for human activity is represented by finds of Neolithic flints from Weldon together with several Bronze Age burials (Hall 2008, 2). The later prehistoric landscape is better understood with evidence indicating extensive settlement on the heavy boulder clays and the establishment of important ironworking areas within the forest. A good example of one of these ironworking sites was recently excavated at Priors Hall on the north eastern edge of Corby, where industry established in the Late Iron Age continued into the Roman period and was represented by a series of iron smelting furnaces (Hall 2008).

More locally excavations in advance of the Empingham to Hannington pipeline, part of which runs down the eastern edge of the development area, revealed an enclosed Iron Age farmstead just south of the site. An earlier excavation was also undertaken in advance of road widening which identified a Roman stock enclosure dated to the 2nd century AD. Other features of potentially similar date have been located within the development area through aerial photography, though these have not been subject to excavation (Kipling 2015, 9).

The earliest evidence for woodland distribution in the area is given in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Foard *et al* 2009, 19). A combination of these records and distribution of woodland-related place names such as *Leah* (wood pasture) and *wold* (cleared land) on the edge of the boulder clay suggest that much of the area was wooded in the Saxon period (Foard *et al* 2009, 19). By the middle of the 12th century the development area lay within the bounds of Rockingham Forest, a new royal Forest set up to preserve hunting rights for the King. The Forest was organised into three bailiwicks linked to the royal manors of Brigstock, King's Cliffe and Rockingham; the development area falling in the latter. The area of the Forest grew during the 13th century but was reduced in the 14th century and continued to decline until the early 19th century when the area became enclosed (Foard *et al* 2009, 21).

A map of 1580 illustrates part of Rockingham Forest that lies within the development area and illustrates a large open area known as *The Launde of Benefield* (or Beanfield Lawn) which has a picket fence boundary and contains a hunting lodge known as *The Launde Lodge* and a large well. On the western edge of the Lawn a smaller building is illustrated within an enclosure and named *West Lodge*. The Lawn is surrounded by wooded areas and coppices relating to the deer park. Comparison of the 1580 map and later maps show that much of the landscape layout

An initial phase trial trench evaluation within Phase 1 and part of Phase 4 located in the South West quarter of the proposed development was undertaken by ULAS between August and September 2016 (Thomas 2016). This evaluation consisted of 73 trenches located within 5 neighbouring fields and was concentrated in the SE quarter of the application area (Fig 2). These trenches that were located to evaluate archaeological anomalies identified during a previous geophysical survey and also to sample the surrounding areas where no anomalies had been identified.

The geophysical survey results had indicated that archaeological remains survived extensively across the area. Within the fields targeted by the Phase 1 Evaluation was an extended and complex linear spread of roundhouses, enclosures and associated features indicative of Iron Age or Roman settlement located on the western side of the field known as 'The Wood'. Similar features extended into Fields 59 and 61 and a smaller cluster of roundhouses and other features were located in 'Kitts Lawn' indicating other areas of settlement. Away from the main core of settlement remains several large-scale linear features crossed the southern part of the area, running through Fields 61 & 62 Fig 2).

The majority of the archaeological evidence related to Iron Age activity, as reflected in the geophysical survey results. Iron Age remains were recorded in all of the fields evaluated during this phase of the project, indicating widespread use of the landscape during this period. The earlier evaluation excavation had also revealed well-preserved structural remains within a ditched enclosure that have been identified as belonging to a building known as 'West Lodge' that is shown on a map of the area dating to 1580.

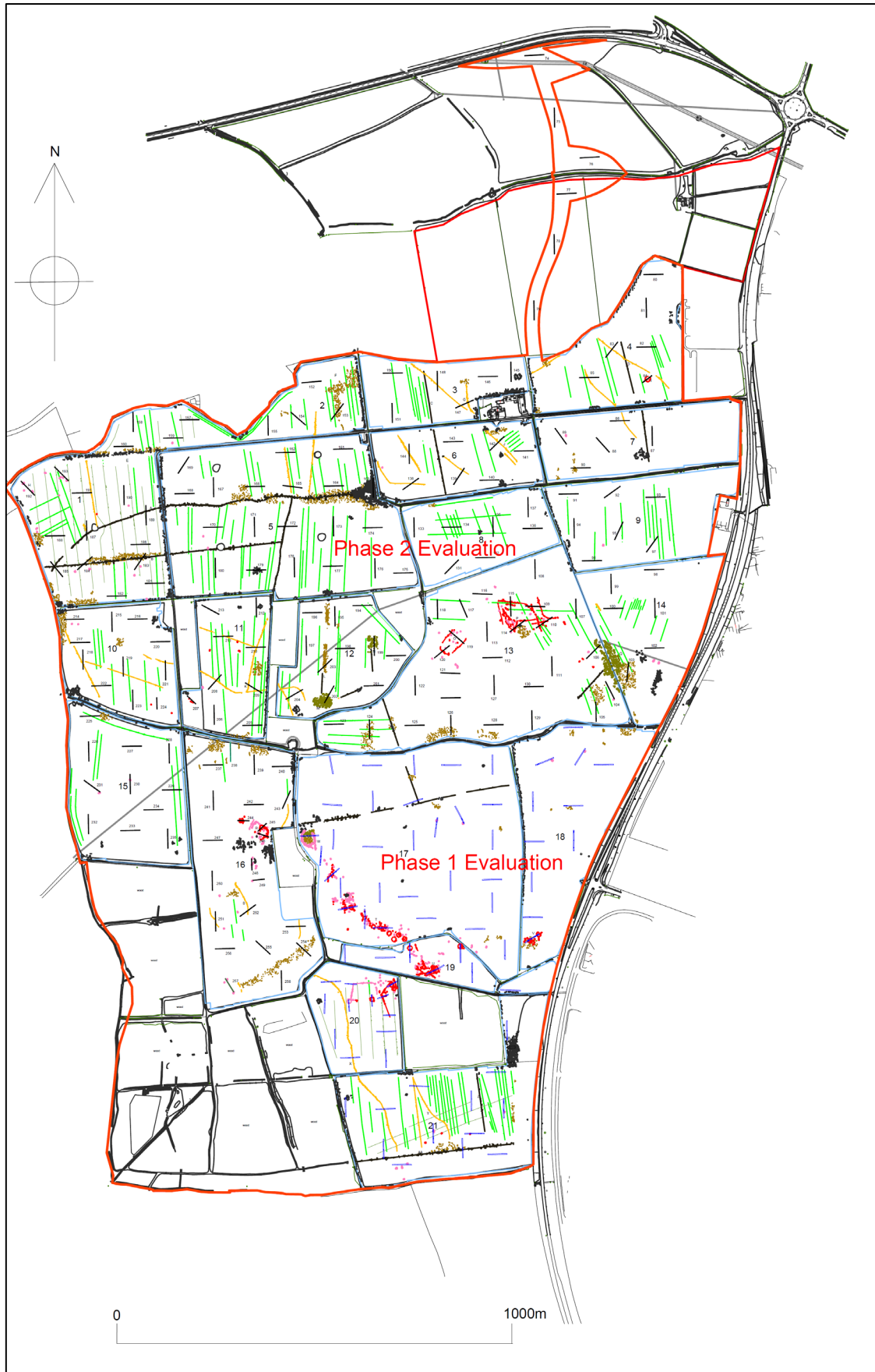


Figure 2 Proposed Phase 2 Trenches

## Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

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

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

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

## Methodology

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

### *Excavation Methods*

The trenching layout followed the plans in the WSI (Figure 2 and Figure 3) as closely as possible, but if the locations of any trenches encountered obstruction they were moved accordingly. The location of all trenches was recorded using a GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid (Figure 4).

Excavation of the trenches was carried out under full archaeological supervision by a tracked 360° mechanical digger using a flat-bladed bucket.

Topsoil and overburden were removed from each trench in level spits until the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed ground was reached.

Archaeological deposits were examined by hand cleaning and were subsequently sample excavated in order to establish their stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognise and excavate structural evidence and recover economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

Environmental soil samples were taken, in consultation with the ULAS environmental officer, from appropriate deposits during the evaluation.

The trenches were backfilled and levelled after the completion of the evaluation. Where necessary, damage to field drains sustained during the evaluation was repaired by a qualified drainage contractor.

### ***Recording Methods***

Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and excavated features were entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets using the standard procedure outlined in the ULAS Recording Manual. A sufficient percentage of any exposed archaeological features or deposits were hand excavated in order to provide the information required.

Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied in to an overall site plan. All plan locations were recorded using the GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were recorded for each trench.

Section drawings of excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale (usually 1:10, but occasionally at 1:20) and all drawings were levelled and tied in to the Ordnance Survey Datum.

A photographic record of the evaluation was prepared using a digital camera. This included photographs illustrating, in both detail and general context, the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological work involved in the evaluation.

Details of all trenches (size, depth and records of archaeology and soil layers) were recorded, and documented on pro forma ULAS 'Trench Sheets'.

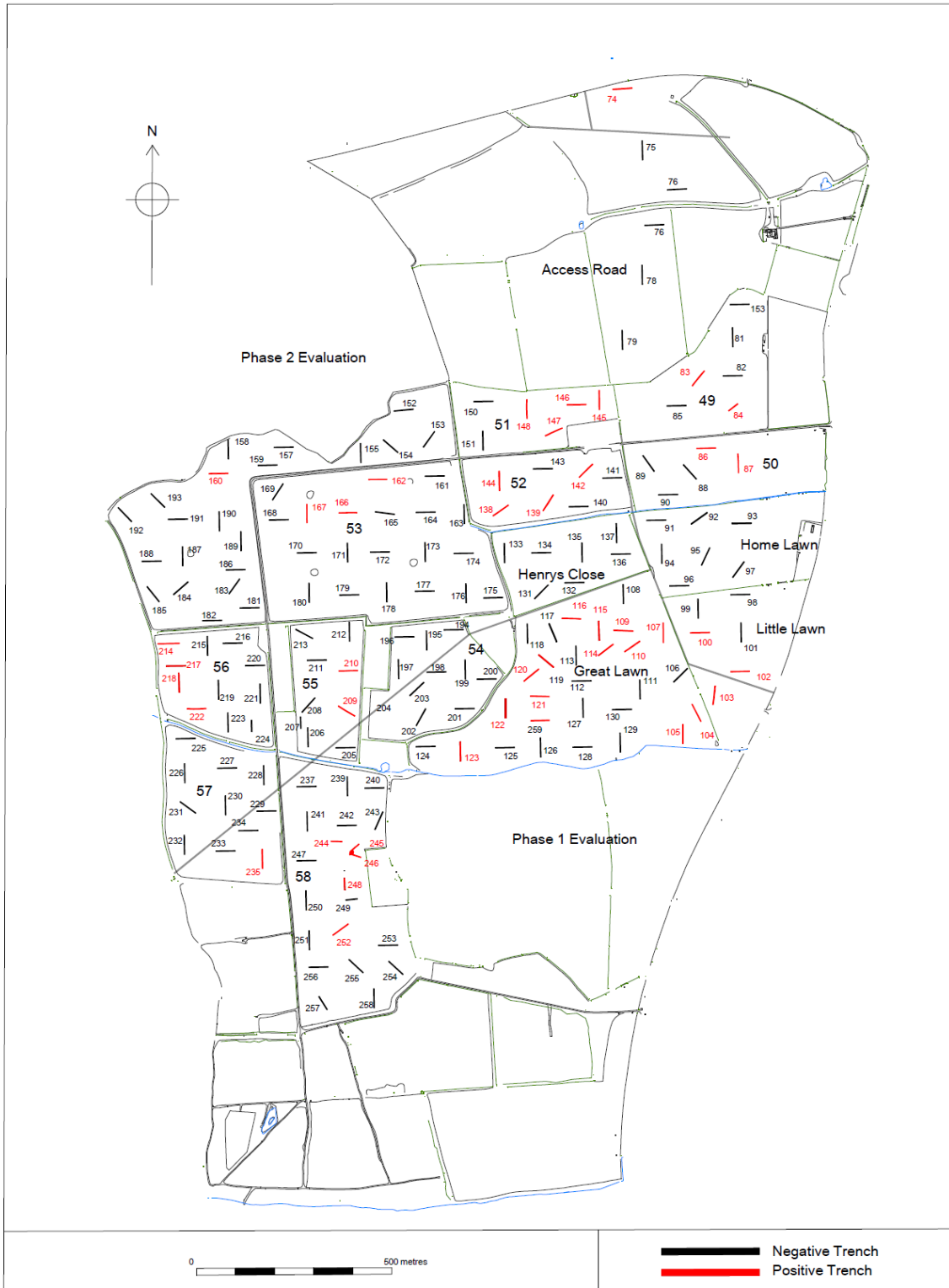


Figure 3 Location of Trenches

## Results

The evaluation consisted of 184 trial trenches of which 56 contained archaeological remains. The trenches targeted geophysical anomalies and areas that were apparently ‘blank’ archaeologically speaking. The results will be presented in field location order, with general trench details shown in tabular form, followed by more detailed descriptions and images of each positive trench

### Access Road

Table 1 Access Road trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
74	50.00m	2.30m	E-W	0.28m	0.50m
75	50.00m	2.30m	N-S	0.33m	0.38m
76	50.00m	2.30m	E-W	0.28m	0.40m
77	50.00m	2.30m	E-W	0.26m	0.44m
78	50.00m	2.30m	N-S	0.27	0.44m
79	50.00m	2.30	N-S	0.25m	0.37m

### *Trench 74*

Trench 74 contained a single ditch which crossed the centre of the trench [7401] was aligned E-W and had a steep and moderate-sided U-shaped profile measuring *c.*0.90m wide x 0.57m deep. The ditch contained two fills; the earliest consisting of mid greyish yellow silty clay (7402) and the latest comprising dark brownish silty clay (7403). Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered from the later fill (Fig 4).





Figure 4 Curvilinear ditch [7401]

## Field 49

Table 2 Field 49 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
80	49.50m	2.30m	E-W	0.20m	0.35m
81	50.00m	2.30m	N-S	0.25m	0.40m
82	50.00m	2.30m	E-W	0.32m	0.48m
83	50.00m	2.30m	NE-SW	0.26m	0.40m
84	30.00m	2.30m	NE-SW	0.26m	0.38m
85	50.00m	2.30m	E-W	0.25m	0.50m

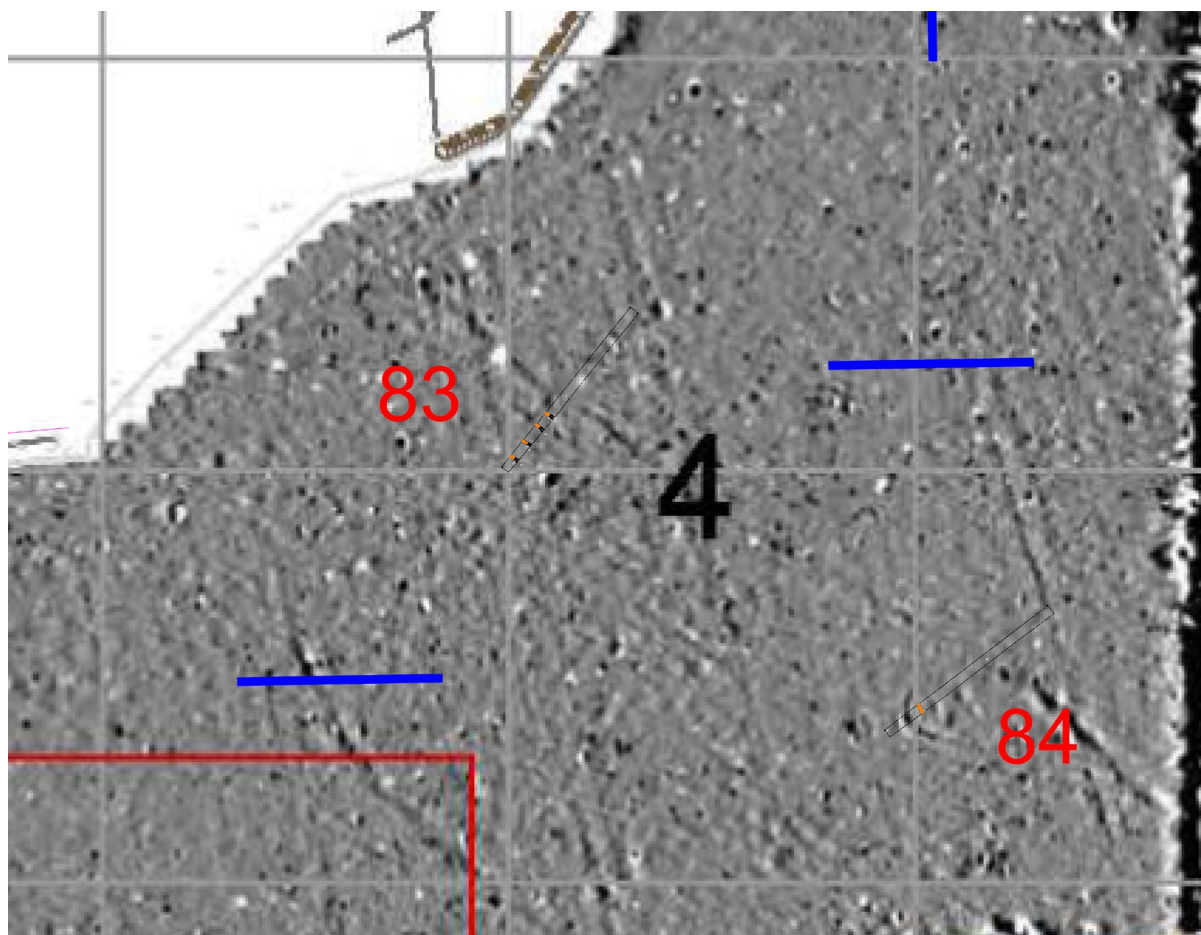


Figure 5 Field 49 Trenches 83 and 84 with geophysical survey

Trenches here were excavated to target a series of geophysical anomalies & blank areas. The anomalies suggested possible field boundaries and circular feature.

### ***Trench 83***

The western half of Trench 83 contained a concentration of four parallel linear features all running southeast to northwest direction. All spaced approximately 4.00m or 3.00m apart and thought to be troughs or furrows associated with intensive agricultural activity. None of these features appear to coincide with linear geophysical anomaly targeted with this trench. However they do appear to coincide with possible furrows visible within the geophysical survey running on the same alignment. At the western end of the trench a narrow trough or furrow [8307] entered from the southern side. This feature measured *c.*0.78m wide x 0.24m deep and had steep sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill that consisted of dark brown clay (8308) mixed with charcoal flecks.

To the east of this a narrow trough or furrow [8301] crossed the trench on a SE-NW alignment. This feature had a shallow U-shaped profile measuring *c.*0.60m wide x 0.24m deep and may have suffered plough truncation. It contained a single fill of mid greyish-brown silty clay (8302) from which mid to late Iron Age pottery was recovered.

Further east, a third trough on a similar alignment to [8305] excavation revealed a relatively wide and shallow and had U-shaped profile, measuring *c.*0.70m wide x 0.30m deep. It contained a single undated fill of mid grey brown silty clay (8306). Another 3 meters further east of trough

[8305] was a fourth similarly shaped linear feature [8303] with a wide U-shaped profile with flat base measuring *c.*0.60m x 0.0.30m deep (Fig 6). This contained a single (8304) fill of dark brownish-grey silty clay and mid to late Iron Age pottery was recovered.



Figure 6 Trough Feature [8303]

#### ***Trench 84***

Trench 84 was located over the circular geophysical anomaly but only revealed a single gully or ditch [8401] located slightly west of the central area (Fig 7). It measured *c.*0.50m and was 0.24m deep with steep sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch fill comprised dark greyish silty clay (8402) mixed with occasional charcoal fleck and small angular pebble.



Figure 7 Trough feature [8401]

## Field 50

Table 3 Field 50 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
86	50.00m	2.30m	W-E	0.20m	0.60m
87	50.00m	2.30m	N-S	0.20m	0.30m
88	49.30m	2.30m	NW-SE	0.20m	0.30m
89	49.00m	2.30m	NW-SE	0.25m	0.40m
90	49.00m	2.30m	W-E	0.40m	0.80m

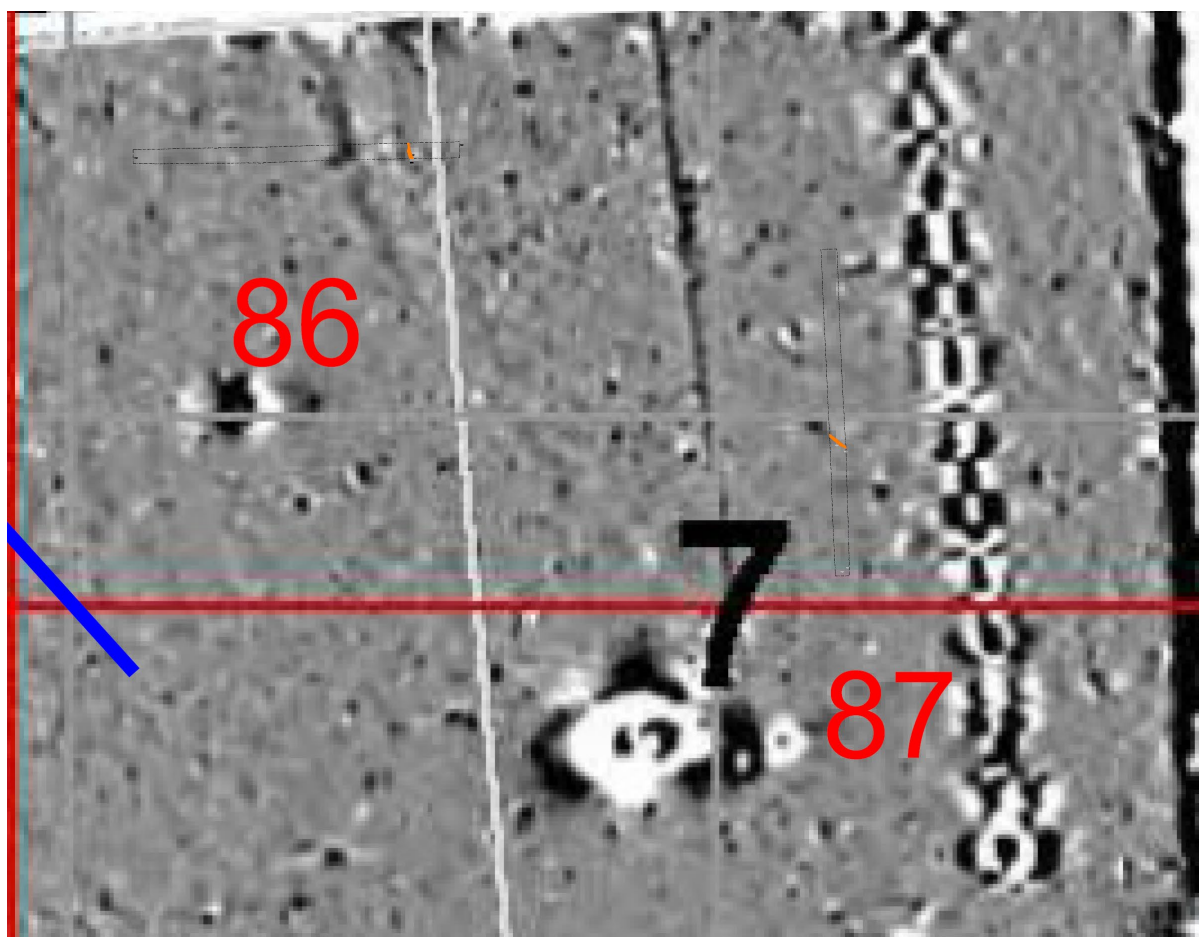


Figure 8 Field 50 Trenches 86 and 87 with geophysical survey

Five out of the six trenches placed within this field had generally targeted blank areas but a single trench targeted a potential field boundary running SSE to NNW alignment located within the eastern side of the field.

### ***Trench 86***

Trench 86 contained a gully located near the eastern end of the trench that may be related to a linear geophysical anomaly on a similar alignment. The gully [8601] lay on a SSE to NNW alignment and had a shallow U-shaped profile measuring c.0.50m wide x 0.18m deep. It contained a single fill (8202) consisting of mid brown silty clay that contained pottery dated to the mid to late Iron Age.

### ***Trench 87***

Trench 87 contained a single ditch or gully [8701] that lay on E-W alignment (Fig 9). This feature was not obviously represented on the geophysical survey but was narrow gully, measuring c.0.50m wide x 0.18m deep with shallow gradual sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained a single undated fill (8702) comprising mid brown yellow sandy clay



Figure 9 Ditch feature [8701]

**Field 51**

Table 4 Field 51 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
145	50.00m	2.30m	N-S	0.21m	0.40m
146	50.00m	2.30m	E-W	0.34m	0.46m
147	50.00m	2.30m	NE-SW	0.33m	0.56m
148	50.00m	2.30m	N-S	0.32m	0.50m
149					
150	50.00m	2.30m	E-W	0.29m	0.42m
151	50.00m	2.30m	N-S	0.28m	0.45m



Figure 10 Field 51 Trenches 145, 146, 147 and 148 with geophysical survey.

Geophysical anomalies within this field suggested a potential boundary ditch running on SE to NW alignment with separate adjoin linear branching off and running northwards.

#### ***Trench 145***

This trench targeted a blank area on the east side of the field and contained two intercutting pits that were located towards the centre of the trench. The first pit [14501] with steep sloping sides and flat base profile measuring *c.* 1.05m long x 0.50m wide x 0.50m deep. The pit contained two deposits. The lower fill (14502) of light greyish silty clay mixed with charcoal flecks. The upper fill (14503) comprised light brownish grey orange silty clay mixed with charcoal flecks and fire crack pebbles. The pit also contained pottery sherds that dated to the mid to late Iron Age. The second pit [14504] was oval in shape with steep sloping sides and flat base and measured 0.60m long x 0.54m wide x 0.18m deep. This pit contained a single fill (14505) that comprised light grey and orange silty clay mixed with charcoal flecks.

#### ***Trench 146***

Trench 146 targeted another blank area with no specific geophysical anomalies. This trench contained a single ditch [14601] that lay at the western end of the trench running SE to NW orientation (Fig 11). The profile had an undulating U-shaped profile suggesting a possible re-cut [14603] and measured *c.* 0.85m wide x 0.28m deep. The feature contained a primary deposit

that consisted mid yellowish brown silty clay mixed with occasional pebble and charcoal fleck. This was truncated by re-cut [14603] which contained fill (14604) that comprised mid brown silty clay mixed with occasional pebble and charcoal flecks.

The single ditch found in Trench 146 along with the pit found Trench 145 are thought to represent internal settlement activity related to the boundary ditches located further west within Trench 147.



Figure 11 Ditch feature [14601]

### ***Trench 147***

This trench targeted geophysical anomalies within this field that suggested a potential boundary ditch running on SE to NW alignment with a separate adjoining linear feature branching off and running northwards.

The western half of the trench contained a large multi-phased boundary ditch that obviously represented the SE to NW aligned linear anomaly depicted in the geophysical survey. Evidence for the earliest phase was thought to be pit alignment [14705]. The circular pit had been largely removed by the later recuts and only its basal level survived but what remained had steep irregular sides and a rounded base which measured 0.57m in diameter and 0.36m deep. The second phase was represented by a ditch [14702], which survived better with a profile that had irregular undulating sides and a rounded base measuring 1.70m wide and 0.86m deep (Fig 12). The third ditch [14707] in the sequence was fully represented and this had moderately steep sloping sides and a flat base measuring c.0.70m wide x 0.36m deep. All the fills within these features were similar in character; being either mid grey brown or dark grey brown silty clays. Domestic refuse in the form of pottery sherds were found in pit fill (14706) and lower ditch fill (14703) all were dated to the mid to late Iron Age.

The boundary feature appeared to be sealed by light grey brown silty clay spreads mixed with abundant gravel and pebbles which was thought to be perhaps eroded former bank material



(14709). Overlying this deposit was a second layer of light grey brown silty clay (14710) that contained pottery sherds dated to the mid to late Iron Age.

The geophysical linear anomaly that branched off and headed northward was found in the eastern half of the trench and appears to be a trackway [14701]. The trackway profile had moderate sloping sides and flat base profile measuring 5.30m wide x 0.40m deep. The fill (14712) comprised mid grey brown silty clay mixed with abundant pebbles and gravel. No datable finds were retrieved from this feature.



Figure 12 Ditch feature [14702]

### ***Trench 148***

This trench targeted the same geophysical anomaly that was targeted by Trench 147 located to the SE which suggested a potential boundary ditch running on SE to NW alignment.

The centre of the trench contained a similar large multi-phased ditch that was seen in Trench 147. As was the case in Trench 147 the evidence for the earliest phase was thought to represent a truncated pit alignment [14801]. The pit had been largely removed by the later recuts and only part of the feature survived but what remained had steep irregular sides and a rounded base which measured 1.30m in diameter and 0.96m deep. The second phase was represented by ditch [14802], which survived better with a complete profile that had irregular undulating sides and a rounded base measuring 1.50m wide and 0.50m deep (Fig 13). All the fills within the features were similar, consisting of either mid greyish brown or mid orangey brown silty clays. Pottery sherds were found in pit fill (14803) and ditch fill (14704) all were dated to the mid to late Iron Age.



Figure 13 Ditch feature [14801] [14802]

## Field 52

Table 5 Field 52 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
138	49.00m	2.30m	SW-NE	0.20m	0.40m
139	49.00m	2.30m	SW-NE	0.30m	0.40m
140	49.50m	2.30m	W-E	0.30m	0.60m
141	49.50m	2.30m	SW-NE	0.25m	0.40m
142	49.00m	2.30m	SW-NE	0.30m	0.40m
143	49.00m	2.30m		0.20m	0.40m
144	50.00m	2.30m	N-S	0.20m	0.40m

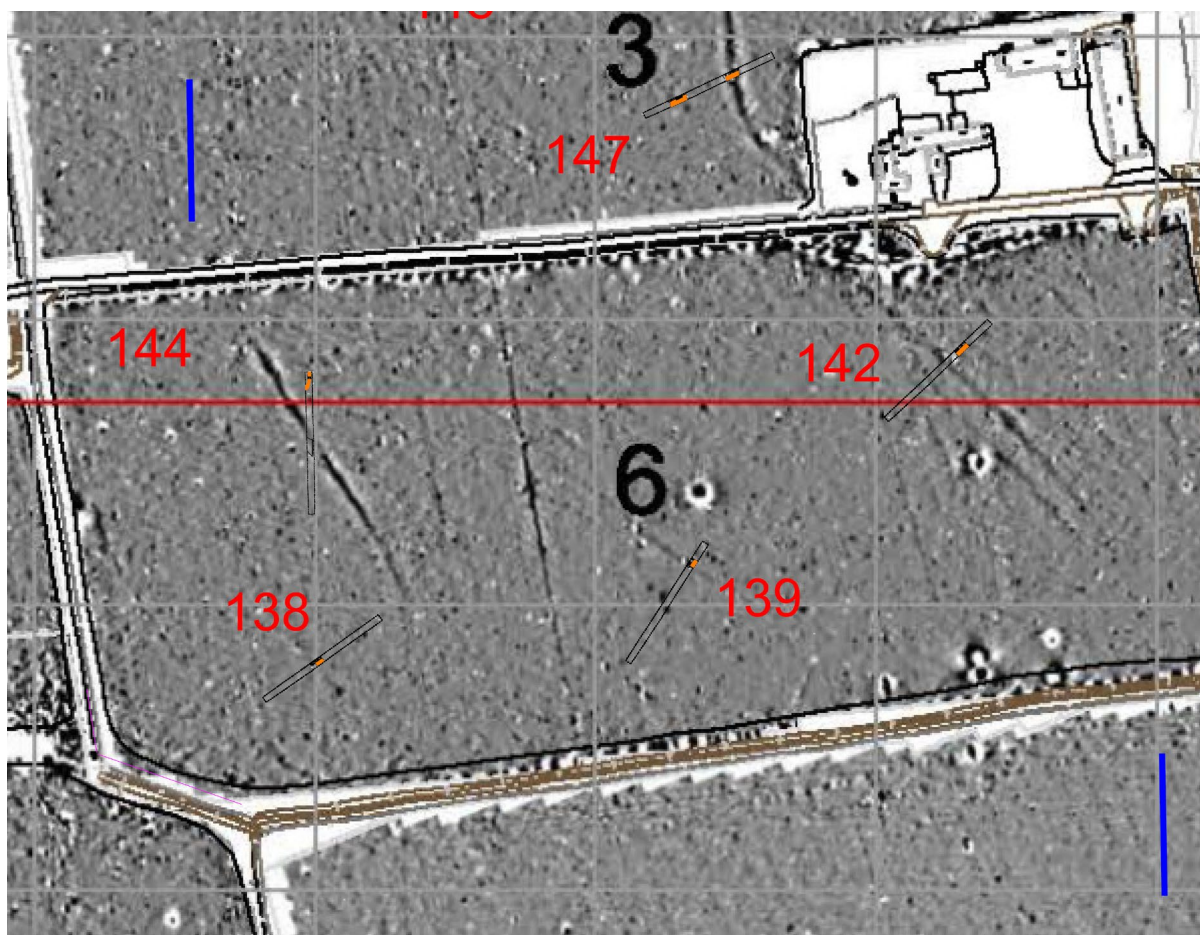


Figure 14 Field 52 Trenches 138, 139, 142 and 144 with geophysical survey

Three out of the six trenches placed within this field had generally targeted linear anomalies thought to be potential field boundaries running SE to NW alignment within the eastern side of the field. A fourth trench targeted what appeared to be an enclosure ditch located within the south west corner of the field

### ***Trench 138***

Trench 138 was located to evaluate a possible large enclosure indicated by a geophysical anomaly close to the south western corner of Field 52

The centre of the trench contained a large multi-phased ditch that coincided with the geophysical anomaly. The first phase comprised a primary cut for the ditch with a possible re-cut [13803] [13805]. These ditches had been largely removed by a later recut and only parts of the feature survived, but what remained had gradual sloping sides and flat base which measured 4.30m in wide and 0.40m deep. A second phase was represented by ditch [13801] which had a complete had U-shaped profile measuring 0.90m wide and 0.60m deep (Fig 15). All the fills within the features were similar and were either mid greyish brown or light yellowish brown silty clays mixed with occasional pebble and manganese flecks but were undated.



Figure 15 Ditch feature [13801]

### ***Trench 139***

A ditch was found towards the eastern end of the trench which coincided with a SE to NW linear geophysical anomaly that the trench had targeted. The broad shallow linear feature [13901] was aligned SE-NW and had a moderate sloping sides and flat base profile measuring *c.*2.50m wide x 0.40m deep. The ditch contained a single fill consisting of mid yellowish brown clay silt (13902) and mid to late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the later fill.

### ***Trench 142***

A single linear feature contained within the NE end of the Trench 142, coincided with geophysical anomalies indicating the presence of long boundary feature that appears to be on SE to NW alignment. This appears to be an extension of the same boundary ditch found in trenches 147 and 148 within Field 51. The profile of this feature was very similar to ditch features found within those trenches and was multi phased. All phases of the ditch had been partially truncated by modern land drains

The earliest phase suggests again that the precursor for the boundary ditch was a pit alignment [14201]. The rectangular pit had been partly truncated by the later recuts and only its basal level survived but what remained had step irregular sides and flat base which measured 1.60m in diameter and 0.60m deep (Fig 16). It contained mid greyish brown silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, small pebbles and animal bone.

The second phase of this feature was represented by a multi recut-ditch [14203], [14205], [14207] and [14209], which had been largely removed by a later third phase of ditch. Only the basal level of the multi re-cut ditch survived but what remained was generally U-shaped in profile and measured between 0.50m and 0.70m wide x 0.20m deep. All the fills were generally similar and were mid greyish yellow silty clay mixed with occasional small pebbles.

The third phase in the sequence was a relatively large ditch [14211] which had a fully represented profile. It had moderately shallow sloping sides and a sloping flat base measuring

c.4.70m wide x 0.44m deep and contained at least two fills. The earliest deposit consisted of mid-brown silty clay mixed with frequent large pebbles and rounded stones and thought to be possible eroded former bank material washed into the ditch (14212). Above this was a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay mixed occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles (14213).



Figure 16 Ditch feature [14201]

### ***Trench 144***

Trench 144 was positioned to coincide with linear geophysical anomalies at the running SE to NW direction located in NW corner of Field 52. Towards the centre of the trench a potential linear feature was found that appeared to coincide with the linear geophysical anomaly. The feature [14401] was thought to be a natural hollow with shallow irregular sloping sides and flat base that measured 4.20m wide x 0.28m deep. It contained a single sterile fill (14402) that comprised grey brown silty clay.

At the northern end of the ditch a curvilinear ditch [14403] was found running northwards, which was thought to be part of a potential enclosure (Fig 17). The profile was U-shaped with very steep sloping side and rounded base that measured c.0.95m wide x 0.48m deep. The feature contained a single deposit that consisted of mid brownish yellow silty clay mixed with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. No datable finds were recovered from this ditch.



Figure 17 Ditch feature [14403]

**Field 53**

Table 6 Field 53 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
152	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.40m	0.73m
153	50.00m	2.00m	SW-NE	0.40m	0.60m
154	50.000m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.40m	0.65m
155	50.00	2.00m	N-S	0.50m	0.58m
157	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.44m	0.65m
158	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.29m	0.43m
159	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.43m
160	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.35m	0.50m
161	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.46m
162	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.32m	0.46m
163	48.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.40m	0.60m
164	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.41m
165	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.31m	0.52m
166	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.36m	0.48m
167	48.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.40m
168	48.50m	2.00m	W-E	0.25m	0.30m
169	50.00m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.22m	0.36m
170	49.00m	2.00m	W-E	0.20m	0.30m
171	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.26m	0.43m
172	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.40m
173	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.28m	0.40m
174	48.00m	2.00m	W-E	0.20m	0.40m
175	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.40m
176	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.24m	0.48m
177	49.50m	2.00m	W-E	0.20m	0.40m

178	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.26m	0.36m
179	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.26m	0.40m
180	49.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.25m	0.40m
181	48.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.40m
182	48.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
183	48.00m	2.00m	SW-NE	0.35m	0.50m
184	49.00m	2.00m	SW-NE	0.20m	0.40m
185	50.00m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.30m	0.40m
186	48.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.45m
187	49.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.40m
188	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.45m
189	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.50m
190	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.45m
191	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.38m	0.50m
192	48.30m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.40m	0.50m
193	47.00m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.25m	0.40m

The majority of the trenches within this field had targeted random blank areas, but some were located to target geophysical anomalies that were a mix of possible ditched boundaries; other possible archaeological features or concentrations of background magnetic anomalies.

### ***Trench 153***

This trench was positioned to coincide geophysical linear anomalies that potentially represented land drains. Two linear features [15301] and [15303] were found at either trench and coincided with geophysical anomalies. Excavation of both features uncovered modern field drains.

### ***Trench 155***

Trench 155 was positioned to coincide geophysical linear anomaly that potentially represented land drain. A single feature [15501] were found at northern end of the trench and coincided with geophysical anomaly. Excavation of the feature suggested that it was modern disturbance and thought to be associated with a drain.

### ***Trench 160***

This trench targeted a blank area on the NW corner of the field however this trench contained four archaeological features that comprised two postholes and two ditches all located towards the west end of the trench. At the western of the trench a circular post hole [16007] was found with a shallow U shape profile with gradual sloping sides and rounded base. The feature measured 0.30m in diameter x 0.09m appears to be truncated with only the basal remnants surviving. The fill (16008) comprised dark grey brown silty clay mixed with occasional pebbles and contained Iron Age 'Belgic' ware pottery sherds dated to c.AD 20 to 60.

Approximately 10m to the east the terminus of curvilinear gully [16005] was found in association with a pit/post hole [16003]. The gully enter the trench from the south of the trench on a SE-W alignment and ended as rounded terminal at the centre of the trench. It was narrow

gully measuring *c.*0.65m x 0.30m deep, with a gradual sloping west side and steep east side and flat sloping base (Fig 18). The feature contained a single light brown silty clay fill (16004) which was undated. On east side of the gully another post hole [16003] was found. Its profile had gradual sloping sides and rounded base measuring *c.*0.70m in diameter x 0.28m deep. It contained a single fill (16004) of light greyish silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles. Directly to the east was ditch feature [16001] that had a steep-sided profile with a rounded base which measured *c.*1.00m wide x 0.46m deep (Fig 19). The feature contained a single deposit that consisted mid grey brown silty clay mixed with occasional large rounded pebble and charcoal fleck. The ditch is thought to be a possible enclosure ditch with post holes and curvilinear, perhaps internal, features of a roundhouse



Figure 18 Curvilinear Ditch [16005] (mis-labelled [16003])





Figure 19 Ditch feature [16001]

### ***Trench 162***

Both eastern and western ends of Trench 162 contained linear features. At the western end of the trench a narrow N-S ditch [16203] measured c.0.70m wide x 0.26m deep and had steep sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained a single mid yellow brown silty clay fill mixed with rounded pebbles and manganese flecks. No datable finds were retrieved from this feature. The ditch appeared to be cutting earlier irregular shallow pit features [16201] and [16203] that were thought to be natural in origin.

Further east, a sequence of three gullies crossed the trench on a similar NE-SW alignment and may be related to a linear geophysical anomaly on a similar alignment (Fig 20). The earliest of these features [16209] located on the eastern side of the group, measured *c.*0.50m+ wide x 0.20m deep and had a U-shaped profile. It contained a single undated fill of light yellow brown silty clay (16210). Cutting along the western edge of [16209] was a similarly shaped linear feature [16207] with a steep sided U-shaped profile measuring *c.*0.55m x 0.40m deep. This contained a single undated fill of mid grey brown-grey silty clay (16208). A possible circular post hole cut was inserted into the linear feature, which had steep vertical sides and rounded base. The post hole measured 0.45m wide and 0.40m deep and suggests that ditch may have incorporated a palisade structure, or had one inserted at a later date. A third gully [16205] cut across the western edge of [16207]. This had a wide U-shaped profile measuring *c.*0.75m wide x 0.28m deep. It contained a single fill of mid grey-brown clay silt (16206). All fills of these features were undated.



Figure 20 Ditches [16205] [16207] and [16209]

### ***Trench 163***

This trench was located to evaluate a concentration strong recent geophysical magnetic anomalies in the NE corner of the field that suggested possible structural remains.

Excavation of the trench revealed a modern wall foundation that comprised two courses of roughly hewn limestone blocks. It was located in the southern half of the trench on an E-W alignment and measured *c.*0.50m wide x 0.20m deep. Other features observed included a modern boundary ditch and several land drains. The modern wall could be associated with a structure depicted on the O.S Maps from 1880 to 1910 which was located within this area. (Kipling 2015).

### **Trench 166**

Towards the centre of this trench, a sequence of features was found that comprised two intercutting pits and a gully that crossed the trench on a N-S alignment (Fig 21). The earliest of these features were the two pits; [16601] located on east side of the group, and [16605] located on the west, and both were truncated by later ditch [16603]. Pit [16601] was incomplete and appeared to be sub-circular in shape measuring c.0.88m diameter x 0.34 deep shallow gradual sloping sides and flat base profile. It contained a single undated fill of dark grey blue silty clay mixed with abundant charcoal flecks, fire cracked pebbles and stones (16602). The presence of fire cracked pebbles suggests the deposit was domestic refuse cleared from a hearth. Located on the western edge of group was a similarly shaped linear feature [16605] with gradual sloping sides and flat base profile measuring c.1.00m x 0.44m deep. It contained a single undated fill of light blue grey silty clay (16606). A gully [16603] cut across the centre of the group. This had a wide U-shaped profile measuring c.0.88m wide x 0.38m deep. It contained a single fill of mid grey-brown clay silt (16604). No datable finds were found associated with these features.



Figure 21 Ditches [16601] [16603] and [16605]

### **Trench 167**

Trench 167 contained a single gully located in the northern half the trench. The gully [16701] lay on E-W alignment and had a V-shaped profile measuring c.0.50m wide x 0.34m deep (Fig 22). It contained a single undated fill (16702) consisting of mid grey brown silty clay.



Figure 22 Gully [16701]

### ***Trench 183***

Trench 183 was located to coincide with geophysical results indicative of a former E-W boundary or trackway that are depicted 19th century maps. A linear feature [18301] were revealed in the northern half of the trench that corresponded with the geophysical anomaly and this was sample excavated. Excavation revealed that the feature contained modern glass and iron nails in its upper fill (18302) and is considered to be a relatively modern disused field boundary.

### ***Trench 184***

This trench contained a ditch towards its eastern end that corresponded with a geophysical anomaly on an E-W alignment. It was unexcavated, but contained modern pottery in its upper fill and is considered to be the same a relatively modern disused field boundary found in Trench 183 and 185

### ***Trench 185***

Trench 185 was located to coincide with two geophysical results indicative of former boundary or trackways of which one was running E-W and the second NE-SW. Both were thought to be depicted 19th century maps.

Excavation of this trench revealed two ditches located within the northern half which coincided with the geophysical anomalies. The E-W ditch was the same ditch previously seen in trenches 183 and 184. The second NE-SW ditch was unexcavated, but modern pottery was observed in the upper fill. This feature was likely to be another disused modern boundary and its presence

was further confirmed within two additional trenches (Trenches 187 and 189) that were excavated to correspond with NE-SW geophysical anomaly.

## Field 54

Table 7 Field 54 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
194	49.40m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.36m
195	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.22m	0.40m
196	47.20m	2.00m	E-W	0.23m	0.38m
197	49.60m	2.00m	N-S	0.23m	0.31m
198	48.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.27m	0.39m
199	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.23m	0.31m
200	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.23m	0.33m
201	49.40m	2.00m	E-W	0.22m	0.39m
202	51.40m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.27m	0.37m
203	49.30m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.22m	0.39m
204	49.90m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.24m	0.42m

### *Trench 202*

Trench 202 was located to coincide with geophysical results indicative of the former N-S boundary or trackway that was depicted on 19th century maps. A linear feature was revealed in the northern half of the trench that corresponded with the geophysical anomaly and this was sample excavated. Excavation revealed that the feature contained modern pottery in its upper fill and a modern land drain had been inserted into the centre of the feature. The feature was considered to be a relatively modern disused field boundary.

### *Trench 204*

Trench 204 was positioned to coincide with a linear geophysical anomalies that ran in a SE to NW direction located in SW corner of Field 54. Towards the southern end of the trench a potential linear feature was found that appeared to coincide with the linear geophysical anomaly. Excavation of this feature revealed what was thought be a natural hollow with shallow irregular sloping sides and flat base that measured 3.20m wide x 0.30m deep. It contained a single sterile fill.

## Field 55

Table 8 Field 55 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
205	49.30m	2.00m	E-W	0.18m	0.38m
206	49.40	2.00m	N-S	0.19m	0.30m
207	29.30m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.24m	0.30m
208	49.50m	2.00m	SW-NE	0.18m	0.31m

209	50.00m	2.00m	SE-NW	0.18m	0.32m
210	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.21m	0.31m
211	49.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.30m
212	48.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.23m	0.39m
213	50.00m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.26m	0.40m

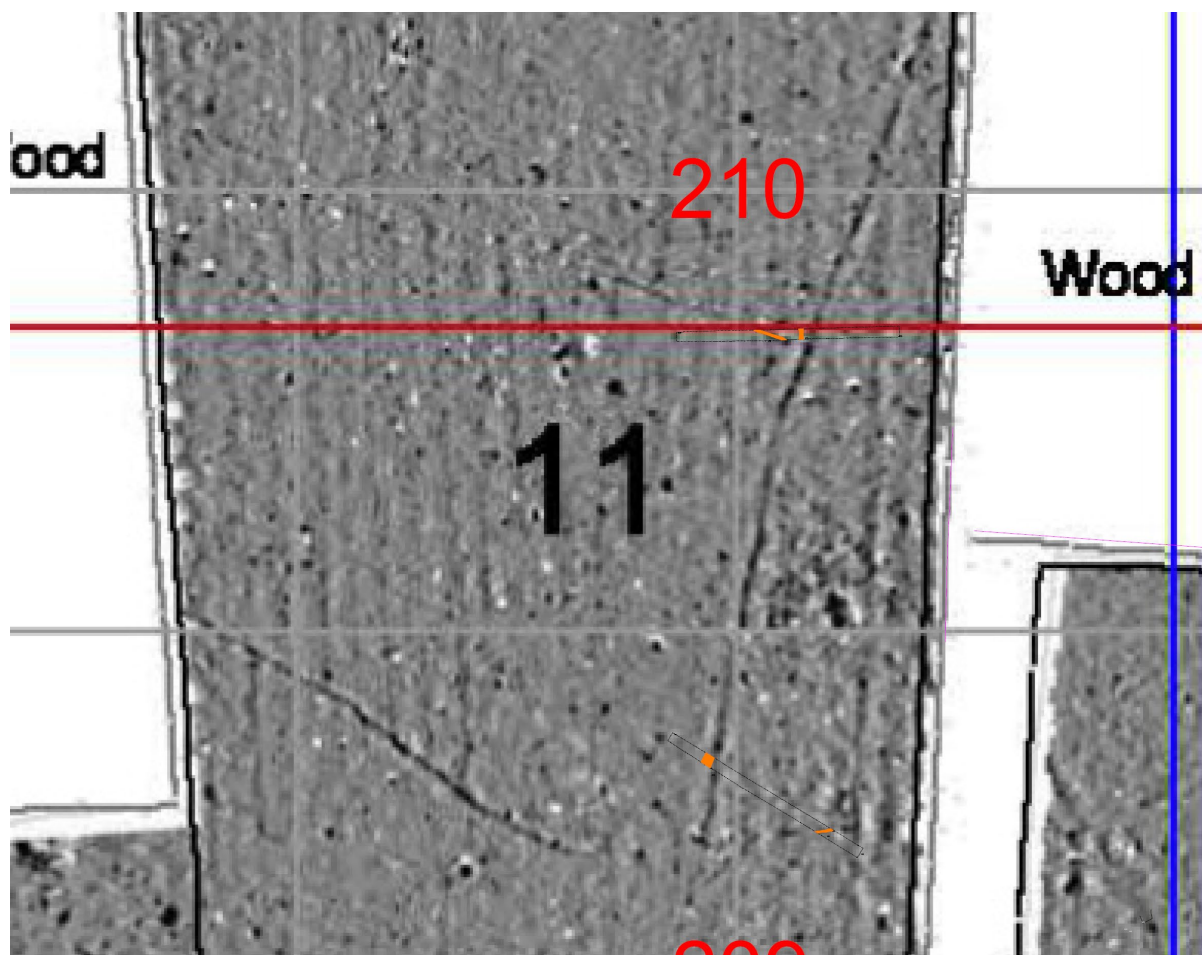


Figure 23 Field 55 Trenches 209 and 210 with geophysical survey

### ***Trench 209***

This trench targeted geophysical anomalies within this field that suggested a potential boundary ditch running on NE to SW alignment with an adjoining linear feature running SE-NW suggesting a potential enclosure.

The western half of the trench contained a single ditch [20904] that obviously represented the N to S linear feature depicted in the geophysical survey. The profile comprised steep undulating sides and a rounded base measuring 2.00m wide and 0.55m deep. The fill (20903) comprised mid grey brown silty clay. No datable finds were found associated with the ditch fill.

The adjoining geophysical SE-NW linear anomaly was found in the eastern half of the trench and appears to be a narrow gully [20901]. The excavated profile had steep sloping sides and flat base measuring 0.54m wide x 0.28m deep (Fig 24). The fill (20902) comprised light grey

brown silty clay mixed with occasional pebbles and gravel. No datable finds were retrieved from this feature.



Figure 24 Gully feature [20901]



Figure 25 Ditch feature [20904]

### ***Trench 210***

This trench targeted a geophysical anomaly within this field that suggested a potential boundary ditch running on N-S alignment which had also been targeted with Trench 209. The trench had also targeted another geophysical anomaly within this field that suggested another adjoining boundary ditch running in a SE-NW orientation.

Excavation revealed two linear features at the centre of the trench which comprised N-S ditch and gully feature running on SE-NW alignment. The ditch [21003] was thought to represent a N-S aligned linear depicted in the geophysical survey. The profile comprised gradual and steep undulating sides and rounded base measuring 1.60m wide and 0.50m deep. This contained a single fill (21004) mid grey brown silty clay. No datable finds were found associated with the ditch fill.

Directly to the west another linear feature was found that appears to be a SE-NW aligned narrow gully [21001]. The excavated profile had steep sloping sides and a flat base measuring 0.46m wide x 0.24m deep (Fig 26). The fill (20902) comprised mid grey brown silty clay mixed with occasional large pebbles and small gravel. This feature was undated.





Figure 26 Gully feature [21001] (mislabelled 20101)

### ***Trench 208 and Trench 211***

These trenches were located in the western half of Field 55, and had targeted the same SE-NW aligned geophysical anomalies believed to be boundary or enclosures ditches that were also targeted by Trenches 209 and 210. Excavation of these trenches revealed no corresponding features.

### **Field 56**

Table 9 Field 56 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
214	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.40m	0.48m
215	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.40m	0.46m
216	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.36m	0.50m
217	49.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.50m
218	48.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.25m	0.60m
219	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.24m	0.40m

220	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.24m	0.47m
221	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.31m	0.39m
222	49.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.65m
223	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.50m
224	30.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.28m	0.43m

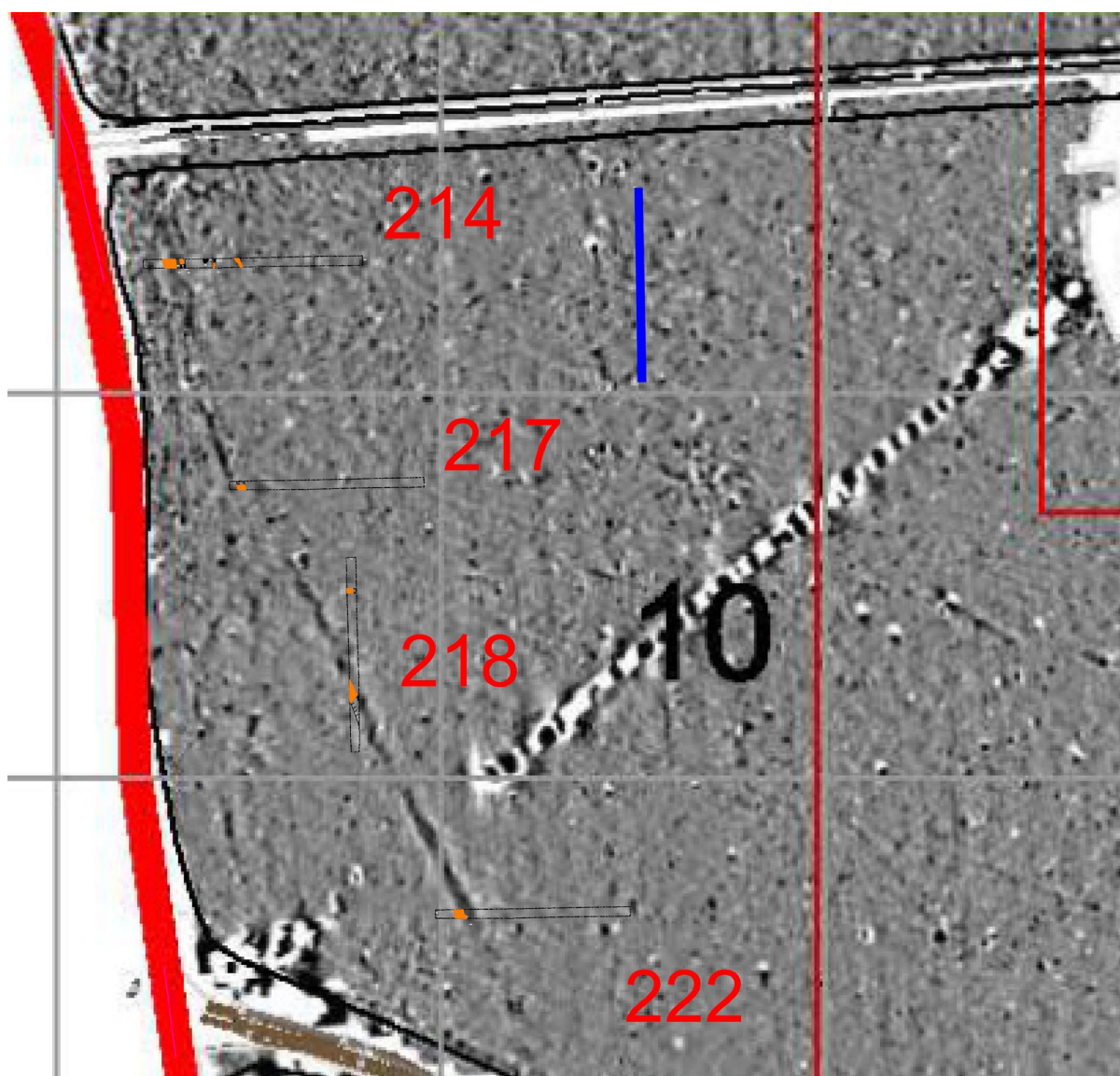


Figure 27 Field 56 Trenches 214, 217, 218 and 222 with geophysical survey

Trench 214 located in the NW corner of the field had targeted an area that contained no geophysical anomalies but produced archaeological features that were potentially related to a roundhouse.

This trench was located close to a geophysical anomaly within this field that suggested a potential boundary ditch running on SE-NW alignment which had been targeted with Trenches 217, 218 and 222. All these trenches did contain archaeological features that coincided with the geophysical anomaly.

## Trench 214

Archaeological evidence was concentrated in the western half of this trench and comprised gully and pit remains.

Two curvilinear gullies lying approximately 8.00m apart at the western end of the trench appear to be associated and may represent a roundhouse. The western gully [21410] was excavated and had a U-shaped profile measuring *c.* 1.10m wide x 0.30m deep. The gully contained a single fill of mid blueish-grey silty clay (21411) mixed with small pebbles but had no dating evidence.

The opposing curvilinear gully [21404] had also been excavated and had a U-shaped profile measuring *c.* 0.40m wide x 0.14m deep. The gully contained a single fill of mid blueish-grey silty clay (21405) mixed with small pebbles.

The roundhouse appeared to contain two potential internal post holes and pits. One of the post holes [21406] was sample excavated and revealed a sub-rectangular in shape, with vertical sides and flat base. It measured 0.58m long x 0.38m wide x 0.15m deep and contained mid brownish grey silty clay mixed with small stones and occasional fleck of charcoal (21407). Excavation of one of the pits [21408] although not complete, measured 1.35m wide x 0.16m deep and appeared to be oval in plan with shallow moderate sloping sides and a flat base profile. The fill (21408) comprised light brown blueish grey silty clay mixed flecks of charcoal and small chalk pebbles.

At the western of the trench lying adjacent to roundhouse gully [21404] was what appeared to be large shallow linear feature [21401] measuring *c.* 3.00m wide x 0.30m deep. This had shallow moderate sloping sides and sloping flat base (Figs 28 & 29). It contained three fills and the primary deposit (21412) consisted of pale greyish brown silty clay mixed with abundant rounded angular pebbles and cobbles and measuring 0.07m thick. The primary cobble deposit suggests that it was a potential surface and the feature could be a trackway. The secondary fill (21402) appears to be dark grey silty clay infill mixed with domestic refuse comprising of the occasional animal bone pottery Iron Age sherd. Overlying was a third fill (21403) of mid greyish silty clay mixed with occasional pebble and charcoal fleck. This deposit also contained Iron Age pottery. Another curvilinear gully was seen on the east side the Roundhouse suggesting the potential for second roundhouse in this area, but no return to the gully was found.



Figure 28 Shallow linear feature [21401]



Figure 29 Eaves drip [21404] Post Hole [21606]

### ***Trench 217***

At the western of the trench was what appeared to be a large shallow linear feature [21701] measuring *c.*0.95m wide x 0.16m deep. This had shallow moderate sloping sides and undulating base. It contained two fills and the primary deposit (21703) consisted of pale yellowish brown silty clay mixed with abundant rounded angular pebbles and cobbles and measuring 0.07m thick. The cobble deposit suggests that it was a potential surface and the feature could be part of a trackway. The secondary fill (21402) appears to be pale yellowish grey silty clay infill mixed with occasional rounded cobble pebble. No datable finds were found within this feature.

### ***Trench 218***

Trench 218 was positioned to coincide with linear geophysical anomalies running in a SE to NW direction located in the western half Field 52. Towards the centre of the trench a potential linear feature was found that appeared to coincide with the linear geophysical anomaly. The feature [21803] was thought be with wide shallow ditch with irregular sloping sides and undulating base that measured 2.40m wide x 0.35m deep. It contained a series of fills with the primary fill (21805) consisting of 0.10m thick grey brown silty clay mixed with abundant small rounded pebbles large rounded cobbles. Overlying was a second fill (21804) that comprised yellowish brown silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles measuring 0.30m thick.

At the northern end of the trench an E-W ditch [21801] was found, which thought to be part of a potential enclosure (Fig 30). The profile was rounded V-shaped with very steep sloping side and narrow rounded base that measured *c.*1.30m wide x 0.45m deep. The feature contained a single deposit (21802) that consisted of dark yellowish brown silty clay mixed with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. No datable finds were retrieved from this ditch.



Figure 30 Ditch [21801]



Figure 31 Ditch [21803]

### ***Trench 222***

This trench was positioned to coincide with the same linear geophysical anomalies that ran in a SE to NW direction that had been targeted by Trench 218. Towards the western end of the trench a potential linear feature was excavated that appeared to coincide with the linear geophysical anomaly. The feature [22201] was thought to be with wide shallow ditch with profile

that had gradual sloping sides and wide rounded base that measured 2.90m wide x 0.35m deep. It contained a single fill (22202) consisting of pale grey yellow silty clay mixed with rare small rounded pebbles.

## Field 57

Table 10 Field 57 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
225	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.35m	0.52m
226	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.29m	0.45m
227	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
228	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.60m
229	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.40m
230	48.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.31m
231	50.00m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.34m	0.43m
232	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.28m	0.34m
233	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.28m
234	49.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.23m	0.36m
235	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.25m	0.41m

### *Trench 228*

Nine out of the ten trenches placed within this field had generally targeted blank areas but Trench 228 had targeted a potential field drain running E to W alignment located within the northern eastern corner of the field of the field. Excavation of the trench revealed a modern drain that did coincide with the geophysical anomaly.

### *Trench 235*

Eight out of the nine trenches that had targeted blank areas had revealed no features. The exception was Trench 235 that revealed a potential irregular feature or spread. The feature was irregular in shape with no clear edges and an undulating base measuring 0.50m wide x 0.40m x 0.10m deep. The fill comprised reddish brown silty clay mixed with charcoal flecks and contained few pottery sherds or fired clay.

## Field 58

Table 11 Field 58 trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
237	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.40m
238					

239	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.50m
240	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.60m
241	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.24m	0.41m
242	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
243	49.50m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.20m	0.35m
244	29.70m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.30
245	30.00m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.20m	0.30m
246	30.00m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.30m	0.40m
247	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.40m
248	30.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.40m
249	30.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.40m
250	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.45m
251	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.45m
252	49.50m	2.00m	SW-NE	0.20m	0.40m
253	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.50m
254	50.00m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.22m	0.38m
255	48.50m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.20m	0.50m
256	48.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.50m
257	39.50m	2.00m	NW-SE	0.20m	0.40m
258	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.15m	0.50m

### ***Trench 244***

This trench was located to evaluate a circular geophysical anomaly indicating a possible roundhouse.

Following the removal of the overburden it was clear that archaeological remains occupied the full length of the trench, some of which reflected the results of the geophysical survey and others that did not. The archaeological features were mostly linear in nature, with both gullies and ditches represented, although two potential post holes were also identified.

At the western end of the trench three sections of curvilinear gully, representing an eavesdrip feature, confirmed the presence of the building.

However an earlier phase of two substantial N-S ditches also coincided with a linear geophysical anomaly and were underlying the eavesdrop gullies. The ditches were thought to be possibly reflecting one side of an enclosure. The first ditch [24405] measured up to 1.20m wide x 0.40m deep and had a U-shaped profile containing a single fill. The fill (24406) consisted of very dark greyish brown clay containing mid to Iron Age pottery and animal bone and mixed with frequent charcoal flecks. Directly to the east was a second ditch [24409] which had a steep sided U-shaped profile that measured 0.98m wide x 0.39m deep. The fill (24410) comprised dark greyish clay silt mixed with abundant charcoal flecks and contained animal bone and pottery sherds that were dated to mid to late Iron Age

Two sections of N-S curvilinear gully, representing an eavesdrip feature and lying 11.00m apart, confirmed the presence of the building. The western section [24407] was found to cutting earlier enclosure ditches [24405] and [24409]. It had a U-shaped profile measuring c.0.62m



wide x 0.43m deep and contained a single dark grey silty clay fill mixed with abundant charcoal flecks (24408).

Directly to the west another potential N-S curvilinear eaves drip section [24403] was excavated this had also had cut the earlier enclosure ditches [24405 and 24409] – (Fig 32). The profile comprised a shallow U-shaped cut with a flat base that measured 0.44m wide x 0.11m deep. It contained very dark grey silty fill that was mixed with frequent charcoal flecks (24404).

Near the centre of the trench a curvilinear gully [24401] crossed on an N-S alignment and possibly represented part of a roundhouse. This feature had a U-shaped profile measuring c.0.47m wide x 0.20m deep. It contained a single fill of dark greyish-brown silty clay (24402) from which pottery and bone were retrieved. A potential gully terminus was found entering the trench from the south located 4.00m to the east of gully [24401].



Figure 32 Ditch features [24405] [24409]



Figure 33 Ditch feature [24409]



Figure 34 Recording features within Trench 2444

### ***Trench 245***

Trench 245 was positioned to coincide with a cluster of enigmatic geophysical anomalies that potentially represented overlapping enclosures and/or roundhouses. Following the excavation

it was clear that archaeological remains occupied the full length of the trench, some of which reflected the results of the geophysical survey and others that did not. The archaeological features were mostly curvilinear in nature, with both eavesdrop gullies and ditches represented mostly aligned on SE to NW alignment.

At the east end of trench a substantial eaves-drip terminal was partially revealed. The feature was E-W aligned and remained un-excavated but possibly represents entrance into roundhouse

Approximately 5.50m to the west another substantial linear feature. Excavation revealed two adjoining parallel curvilinear features [24506 and 24514] that appeared to have coincided with a linear geophysical anomaly, and possibly reflected the western section of a round house with the eastern return section located beyond the trench. The curvilinear on the west side of the excavation slot was wide V-shape profile that measured up to 1.30m wide x 0.57m deep and. The fill (24505) consisted of mid brown silty clay mixed with abundant charcoal flecks fire crack pebbles containing Iron Age pottery and a concentration of animal bone. On the east side the second curvilinear had very different profile with very steep sloping sides tapering to the point [24514]. It contained a very compacted fill (24513) that comprised mid dark brown grey silty clay mixed charcoal flecks. This feature measured 0.46m wide and 0.57m deep and narrow V-shape profile character was thought to be wall foundation for a roundhouse. While the gully feature [24506] was thought to be an eaves drip gully for that building.

Further to the east were further three potential curvilinear features that may represent more overlapping potential sections of either roundhouse walls or the associated eaves drip gullies. Two of these features were sample excavated the first of which [24504] had a shallow V-shaped profile that measured 0.20m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained mid grey brown silty clay fill mixed occasional charcoal flecks, pebble and pottery sherds (24503). The second feature [24502] comprised a shallow wide curvilinear with moderate sloping sides and flat base that measured 0.55m wide and 0.23m deep. The fill (24501) comprised mid brown grey silty clay occasional charcoal flecks, pebbles and animal bone.



Figure 35 Eaves drip Gully [24504]



Figure 36 Post hole feature [24508]



Figure 37 Eaves drip [24505] [24506]

### ***Trench 245 Extension***

To establish whether the various curvilinear features were actually related to overlapping roundhouses Trench 145 was extended westward and to the south to join Trench 146. The extension measured 10.00m long and 9.00m wide and revealed sections of potentially two overlapping roundhouses. The first roundhouse comprised two concentric curvilinear features all ending in terminals suggesting an entrance located on SE east side of the building. The inner ring was thought to be the potential wall-slot of the building measuring 8.00m in diameter. The outer ring is thought to be the eaves drip for the building.

Located to the west an overlapping section of eastern curvilinear gully, representing an eaves drip feature with the potential western return section located beyond the trench.

The eastern gully section terminated, suggesting that the building had a south facing entrance. Both roundhouses appear to have additional curvilinear gullies attached that were thought to be run off gullies. Other features suggested potential post holes thought to be associated with the roundhouse structures. Two of the post holes were sample excavated, the first of which was an elongated oval post hole [24508] that measured 1.12m long, 0.52m wide and 0.20m deep. The posthole profile had shallow steep sloping sides and flat base and the fill (24507) comprised mid grey brown silty clay mixed with pebbles. A second post hole [24512] comprised sub-circular shape feature that had steep sloping sides with flat base profile. It measured 0.64m long x 0.62m wide x 0.62m deep and contained dark grey brown silty clay fill mixed with charcoal flecks and pebbles (24511).

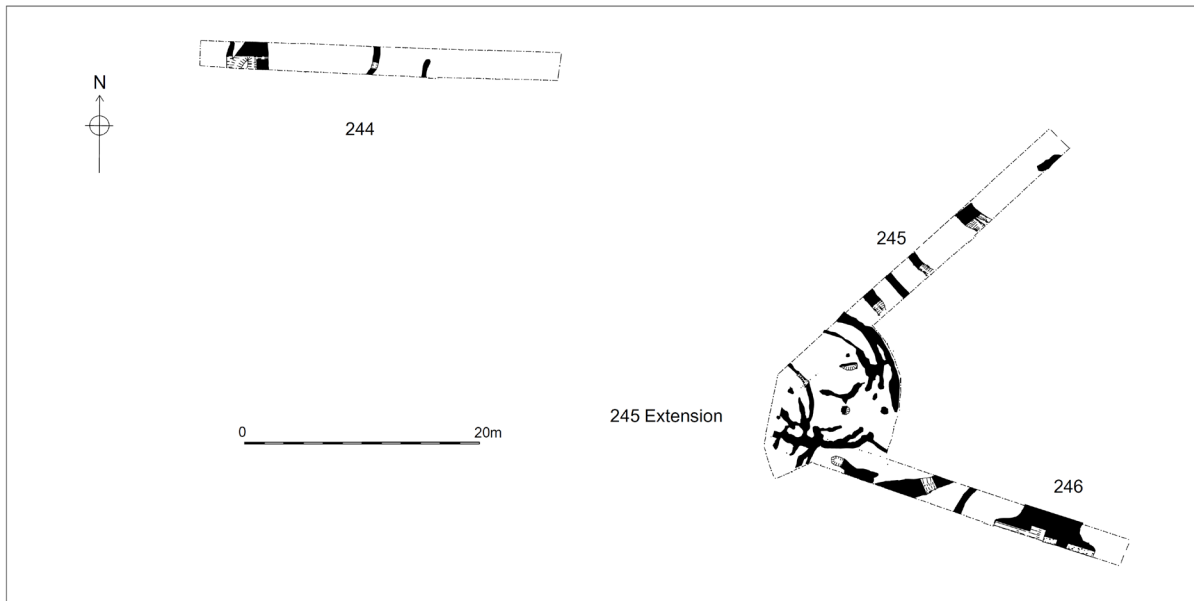


Figure 38 Trenches 244, 245 245 extension and 246



Figure 39 Post hole feature [24512]



Figure 40 Trench 245 extension



Figure 41 Cleaning up of Trench 245 extension

### ***Trench 246***

Trench 246 was positioned to coincide with the same cluster of enigmatic geophysical anomalies targeted by both trenches 245 and 245 extension. After the removal of the

overburden it was clear that there was a scatter of archaeological remains occupied the full length of the trench, some of which reflected the results of the geophysical survey and others that did not. The archaeological features were mostly linear in nature, with both gullies and ditches represented.

At the eastern end of the trench a substantial ditch [24607] coincided with a linear geophysical anomaly, possibly reflecting one side of an enclosure. The ditch measured up to 8.50m wide x 0.70m deep but the ditch were was partly truncated by modern land drains which restricted the full excavation of the ditch profile. The west side of the ditch was fully excavated and revealed a ditch with stepped sides that started as gradual slope that changed at the mid-point into a sharp steep slope and rounded base. The ditch fill consisted of mid grey brown silty clay (24608) containing Iron Age pottery. The ditch was sealed by what was thought to be post medieval surface or track way (24609). The surface layer measured 8.50m x wide 0.20m deep and consisted abundant medium size irregular angular limestone blocks imbedded in mid yellow containing a concentration of iron horse shoes.

Towards the centre of the trench two curvilinear features were found aligned on NE to SW alignment (Fig 42). One of the gullies was sample excavated and revealed two intercutting gullies [24601] [24603]. The first gully [24601] entered the trench from the north side and terminated before it reached the other end of trench. This was perhaps another roundhouse eaves drip gully terminating at a southern entrance. The profile was V-shaped and measured 0.65m wide x 0.48m deep and contained mid yellow brown silty clay mixed with chalk pebbles (24602). Over lapping on the west side was second gully feature [24603] that had U-shape profile and measured 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill (24603) comprised dark yellow brown clay silt mixed with patches of yellowish brown natural clay. At the western end of the trench another SE-NW irregular gully [24505] entered the trench from the south side and terminated. The gully profile had steep sloping sides and a rounded base and measured 0.74m wide and 0.32m deep. Its fill (24606) comprised light grey silty clay mixed with gravel.



Figure 42 Ditch feature [24601] [24603]





Figure 43 Ditch [24607]

### **Trench 248**

Towards the centre of this trench, a sequence of features was found that comprised two possible post holes and two inter curvilinear ditches that crossed the trench on an E-W alignment. A section was excavated across the northern ditch [24801] which had a wide U-shaped profile measuring *c.*2.50m wide x 0.35m deep. It contained a two fills which comprised a primary deposit that consisted of yellowish brown silty clay (24802). A secondary fill (24803) comprised of dark greyish brown silty clay mixed with abundant fire cracked pebbles. No datable finds were found associated with these features

### **Trench 251**

This trench was positioned to coincide geophysical linear anomalies that potentially represented ditch or boundary. No features were found that coincided with the geophysical anomalies.

### **Trench 252**

Trench 252 was located across a linear of geophysical anomaly representing a possible ditch or boundary on a SE to NW alignment.

Three linear features were recorded in the eastern half of the trench two of which lay on a SE-NW alignment. A third feature located at the eastern end of the trench appears to be SW corner of an enclosure ditch. Near the middle of the trench a ditch [25201] appears to coincide with geophysical boundary ditch (Fig 44). Excavation revealed a wide U-shaped profile that

measured *c.*1.00m wide x 0.47m deep and contained a single fill (25202). This consisted of mid-brown silty clay. It contained Belgic ware pottery sherds dated *c.*AD 20 -60.

A second potential boundary ditch running on the same alignment was located 11.00m towards the east and a sample excavation revealed multi-phased. The earliest phase appears to be a pit [25205]. The pit had been largely removed by the later recut and only part of the feature survived but what remained was oval in plan shape, steep sides and rounded base which measured 0.58m in diameter and 0.25m deep. Its fill comprised grey mid brown silty clay mixed with pebbles. The second phase was represented by a ditch [25203] which survived better, with complete profile that had gradual sloping sides and wide flat base measuring 1.80m wide and 0.24m deep (Fig 45). It contained grey mid brown silty clay fill (25204) mixed with large rounded pebbles.

Directly to the east the enclosure ditch had a slot excavated across its SE-NW section and revealed two intercutting parallel ditches. The first ditch [25207] had a wide U-shaped profile with gradual sloping sides and rounded base. It measured 0.85m wide x 0.22m deep and contained mid brown yellow silty clay fill (25208) mixed with chalk pebbles (25208). Overlapping on the west side was second ditch feature [25209] that had narrow and shallow U-shape profile which measured 0.40m wide and 0.14m deep. The fill (25210) comprised mid brown with yellow clay silt mixed with pebbles.

The majority of the trenches within this field had targeted random blank areas but some targeted geophysical anomalies that were a mix of possible ditch boundary; possible archaeological features or concentrations of background magnetic anomalies.



Figure 44 Ditch [25201]



Figure 45 Ditch [25203] Pit [25205]

### ***Trench 254***

Trench 254 was positioned to coincide with a concentrations of background magnetic anomalies. Removal of the overburden within this trench revealed a spread of irregular natural features that were fairly consistent or resembled a pattern caused by dense number of roots either associated with former hedge line or trees

### ***Trench 257***

A trench was placed in the south west corner of Field 58 to coincide geophysical anomalies that potentially represented archaeological features. A number of potential features were found within the trench and coincided with geophysical anomalies. Excavation of the features revealed irregular shallow cuts that it were assumed to be either modern disturbance and associated with land drains or natural hollows.

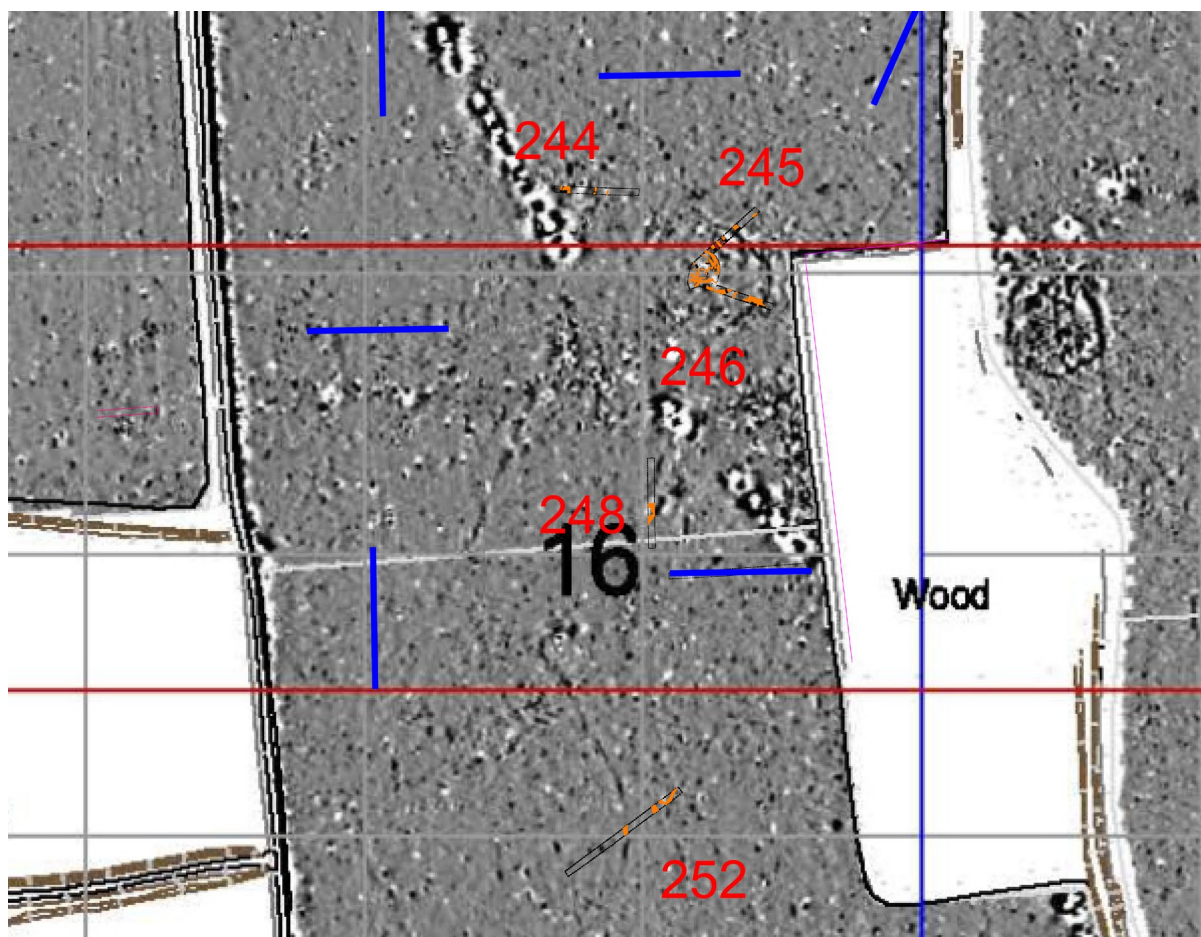


Figure 46 Field 58 Trenches 244, 245, 246 and 252 and geophysical survey

## Henrys Close

Table 12 Henrys Close trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
131	49.50m	2.00m	S-W	0.30m	0.40m
132	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
133	49.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.50m
134	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
135	48.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.45m
136	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.30m
137	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.40m

The majority of the trenches within this field had targeted random blank areas but some targeted geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as a mix of possible cultivation features; or drains or pipe with associated magnetic disturbances.

### Trench 134

This trench was positioned to coincide geophysical linear anomalies that potentially represented cultivation features. Six linear features were found spread across entire trench and some coincided with geophysical anomalies. Excavation of a two of the features uncovered modern field drains.

### ***Trench 135***

Trench 135 was positioned to coincide geophysical linear anomaly that potentially represented cultivation features. At the centre of the trench a single feature was found which coincided with a geophysical anomaly. Excavation of the feature suggested that it was modern disturbance and thought to be associated with a drain.

## **Home Lawn**

Table 13 Home Lawn trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Depth Min</b>	<b>Depth Max</b>
91	48.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.45m	0.50m
92	48.00m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.30m	0.35m
93	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.40m
94	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.50m
95	48.50m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.25m	0.40m
96	49.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
97	49.00m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.30m	0.40m

In the Home Lawn area the majority of the trenches within this field had targeted random blank areas but three trenches had targeted geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as possible cultivation features; or drains or pipe with associated magnetic disturbances.

### ***Trench 91***

Trench 91 was positioned to target a blank area within the north-west corner of the field. Three land drains were found running in NE-SW and SE-NW directions.

### ***Trench 95***

Trench 95 was positioned to coincide geophysical linear anomaly that potentially represented cultivation feature. A linear feature was found at the southern end of the trench with another found at the centre that coincided with geophysical cultivation anomaly. Excavation of these features revealed modern field drains.

### ***Trench 96***

This trench was positioned to target bank area and after the overburden was removed five linear features were found spread across entire trench. Excavation of a two of the features uncovered modern field drains.

## Little Lawn

Table 14 Little Lawn trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
98	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.40m
99	48.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.40m
100	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
101	51.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.40m
102	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.20m	0.50m
103	48.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.50m	0.60m

The majority of the trenches within this field had targeted random blank areas but some targeted geophysical anomalies that were a mix possible archaeological features or concentrations of background magnetic anomalies.

### Trench 100 Little Lawn

This trench targeted a blank area on the NW corner of the field however this trench contained a light scatter of archaeological features that comprised spreads or pits located towards the west end of the trench. Sample excavation of pit [10004] located at the west end of the trench revealed irregular shape feature with shallow gradual sloping sides breaking gradually into a rounded base (Fig 47). It measured 1.50mlong x 1.40m wide and 0.16m deep. The fill comprised yellowish grey clay mixed with occasional pebbles and slag material (10001).

Towards the eastern half of the trench an oval shape feature or spread [10003] was excavated. It had very shallow gradual sloping sides that broke gradually in to a flat base and measured 0.50m in diameter x 0.03m deep. A fill (10002) comprised yellowish grey silty clay mixed with pebbles and occasional pottery sherds.



Figure 47 Shallow feature [10004] (10001)

### **Trench 102 Little lawn**

Trench 102 was placed in a geophysical blank area located towards the southern half Little Lawn field. At the western end of the trench a narrow ditch feature was found running in NE-SW direction. The ditch [10201] had been truncated by a land drain but sample excavation revealed that the ditch had narrow U-shape profile with that measured 0.92m wide x 0.36m deep (Fig 48). It contained a single fill that comprised mid brown grey clay silt mixed with small pebbles. No datable material was found within this feature.

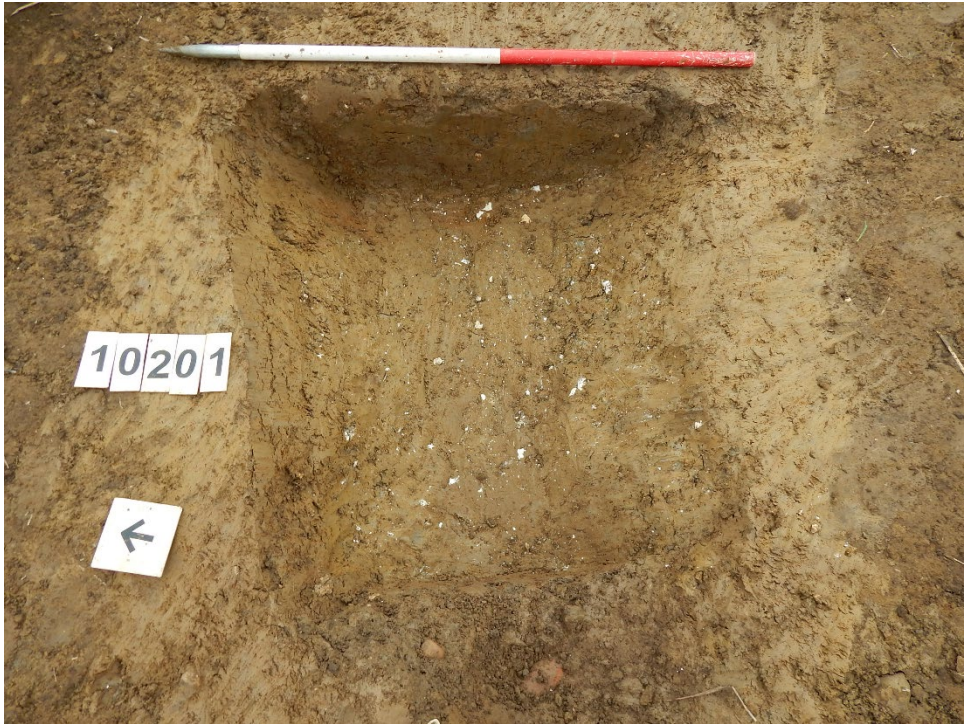


Figure 48 Ditch [10201]



Figure 49 Feature [10002] (10001)

### **Trench 103 Little Lawn**

This trench targeted a blank area towards the SE corner of the field however it contained several potential features spread across the entire length of the trench. Two ditches were sample excavated towards the northern end of the trench and lay on an E-W alignment. Near the northern end of the trench ditch [10301] a slot excavation revealed a profile that was very wide shallow feature with gradual sloping sides and undulating base. It measured c1.70m wide x



0.17m deep. It contained a single fill that consisted of mid to light brown silty clay mixed with small pebbles (10302). This deposit remained undated.

Approximately 4.00m towards the south the trench was crossed by a *c.*0.98m wide ditch with steep stepped sloping sides and rounded base [10303]. This feature was *c.*0.28m deep and contained fill (10301) that consisted of mid-brown yellow silty clay (Fig 50). No datable finds were retrieved from this feature.

Other potential features were sample excavated towards the southern end of the trench and appeared to be irregular natural spreads.



Figure 50 Ditch Feature [10303]

## Great Lawn

Table 15 Great Lawn trench details (positive trenches highlighted)

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
104	50.00m	2.00m	SE-NW	0.45m	0.50m
105	49.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.35m	0.60m
106	47.50m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.40m	0.50m
107	51.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.40m
108	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.40m
109	52.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
110	49.00m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.30m	0.50m
111	49.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.40m	0.50m
112	49.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.40m	0.50m
113	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.45m
114	49.00m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.30m	0.45m
115	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.40m
116	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.45m

117	49.50m	2.00m	SE-NW	0.20m	0.25m
118	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.20m	0.32m
119	49.50m	2.00m	S-E	0.30m	0.40m
120	49.50m	2.00m	NE-SW	0.20m	0.45m
121	49.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.50m
122	48.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.50m
123	49.50m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.40m
124	48.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.40m
125	50.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.30m	0.45m
126	47.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.30m	0.50m
127	50.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.40m	0.50m
128	48.50m	2.00m	E-W	0.40m	0.50m
129	49.00m	2.00m	N-S	0.50m	0.60m
130	49.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.45m	0.50m
259	48.00m	2.00m	E-W	0.25m	0.40m

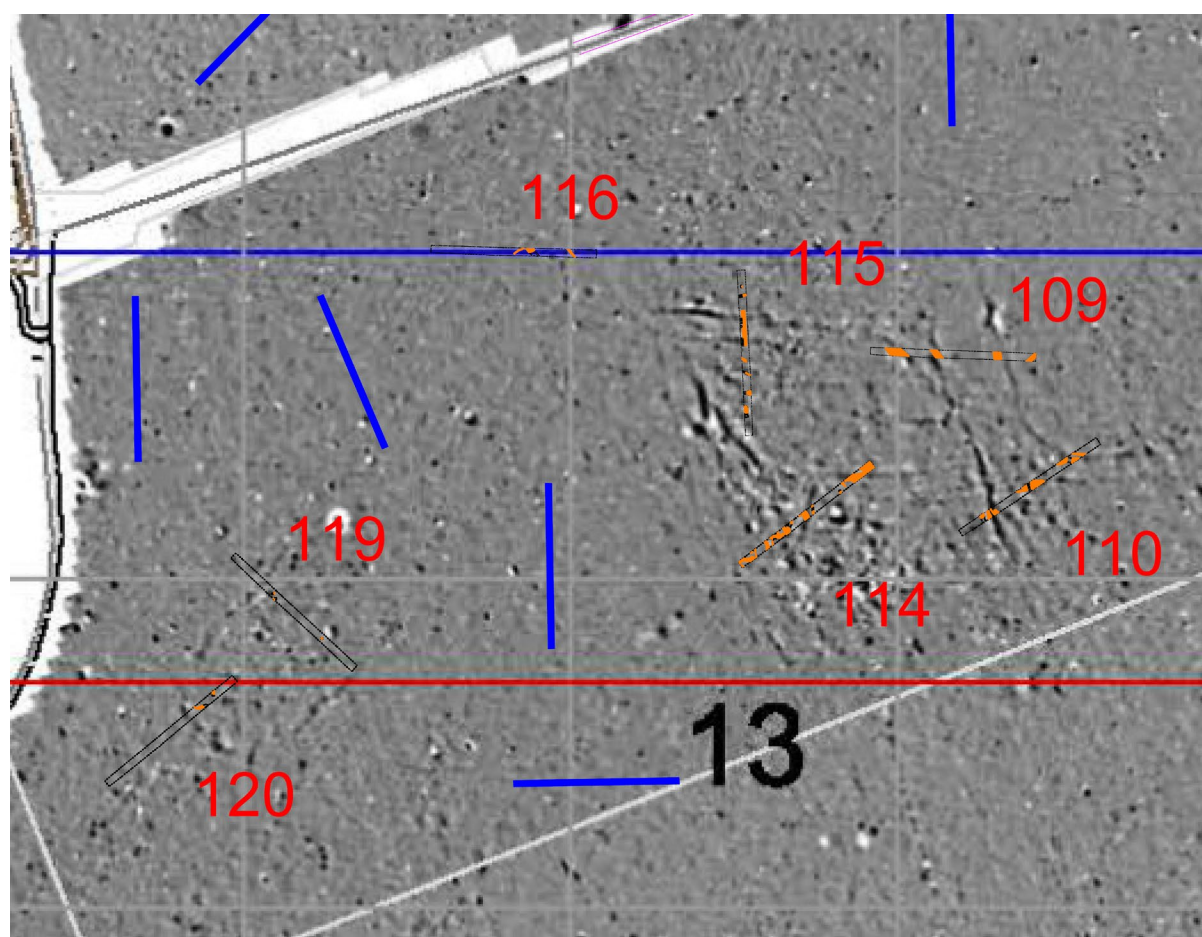


Figure 51 Trenches 109,110, 114,115,116, 119 and 120 with geophysical survey

A core area located with the ‘Great Lawn’ appears to extensive Roman settlement that have features that date from the late 1st to early 2nd century through to the 3rd and 4th century (Figure 3). Within this core group late Iron Age features were also found suggesting that the Roman settlement is possibly a continuation of established Iron Age settlement. Additional

potential Iron Age settlements were also found towards the SE corner and SW west corners of the Great Lawn field.

### **Trench 104 Great Lawn**

This trench was located within the SE corner of the Great Lawn. Following the removal of the overburden it was clear that several features occupied the full length of the trench. The archaeological features were either linear or curvilinear in nature, with both gullies and ditches represented, although potential post holes and pits were also identified. The curvilinear gullies were possibly eavesdrip gullies of roundhouses within Iron Age settlement.

At the southern end of the trench excavation revealed a complex of intercutting features crossing the trench on a NE-SW direction including a spread and two ditches. The first phase comprised a spread (10413) dark yellowish brown silty mixed with occasional charcoal fleck measuring 0.90m wide and 0.10m deep. It is unclear what this deposit represents or how it was formed. It may have formed as a result of plough disturbance/movement of archaeological deposits or may even represent a surviving occupation/trample layer or remains of bank associated with the ditch.

On the north-side of the trench the spread had been truncated by two intercutting ditches [10409] and [10411]. The first ditch [10411] had been truncated by a ditch but what remained of the profile was V-shaped with steep south side and gradual sloping north side. It measured 0.90m wide x 0.45m deep and contained dark brownish grey silty clay fill (10412) mixed with frequent charcoal flecks occasional Iron Age pottery sherd and slag material. Overlying was second ditch [10409] that had a wide U-shape profile that measured 1.60m wide x 0.28m deep (Fig 52). The sides were gradual sloping with flat base and it contained dark brownish grey silty clay fill (10410) mixed with occasional charcoal fleck. Located 2.50m directly to the north was possibly curvilinear gully were found in association with a pit/post hole. Crossing the south end of the trench on a SE-W alignment the gully was thought to be the northern section of a possible roundhouse.

Towards the centre of the trench another curvilinear gully [10401] was found and was thought to be another potential roundhouse eaves drip feature. Crossing the centre of the trench on a SW-NE alignment was gully with a narrow U-shape profile that measured 0.50m wide x 0.25m. It contained a single fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (10402) which yielded Iron pottery sherds and some animal bone.

The northern end of the trench produced a group of features that have the potential to be associated with another roundhouse. A third potential eaves drip gully [10407] was seen entering the trench on NE-W alignment. Sample excavation slot across the gully produced very shallow U-shape profile with gradual sloping sides and flat base, measuring 0.40m wide x 0.05m deep. This contained dark greyish brown silty clay mixed with charcoal flecks. Directly to the south was a small posthole or pit [10403] which when excavated produced a rounded U-shaped profile that measured 0.80m wide x 0.20m deep. It contained dark greyish brown silty clay fill mixed with occasional charcoal fleck (10404). Iron Age pottery and animal bone was retrieved from the deposit.

Approximately 7.00m to north of eaves drip gully [10407] a shallow pit was sample excavated which had gradual sloping sides that broke gradually into a flat base and measured 1.80m long,

1.00m wide and 0.13m deep. Its fill (10406) comprised dark brownish grey silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, pottery sherds and animal bone.



Figure 52 Ditch [10409]

### **Trench 105 Great Lawn**

This trench was also located within the SE corner of the Great Lawn targeting another blank area. Following the removal of the overburden a scatter of archaeological remains occupied the southern end of the trench. The archaeological features comprised a potential linear ditch and possible pits. One of the potential pits [10501] that was partially revealed within the trench was excavated. Its profile had very steep near vertical sides that broke sharply into flat base and measured 1.65m long x 0.85m x 0.17m deep (Fig 53). The fill (10502) consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal fleck. The pit had also contained some domestic and industrial waste in the form of pottery sherds, animal bone and slag material



Figure 53 Pit feature [10501]

### **Trench 107 Great Lawn**

This trench was also located within the NE corner of the Great Lawn. Excavation of the trench revealed a light scatter of potential archaeological remains form of pits were found at the centre and northern end of the pit

At the northern end of the trench excavation of one of the features produced two intercutting pits [10701] and [10703]. The earlier pit [10701] that had steep near vertical sides that break gradually into rounded base and measured 1.00m long x 0.70m wide x 0.30m deep (Fig 54). It contained a fill mid grey brown silty clay mixed with a large deposit of fired or burnt daub material that had been fired. The daub material appears to be deliberately deposited and may have come from demolished structure as it had wattle impressions. The burnt or fired daub material could have come from industrial structure such as oven. Overlying was a second pit [10703] that measured 1.04m long x 0.96m wide x 0.24m deep. Its profile had steep sides and flat base and contained mid grey brown silty clay mixed with charcoal flecks and fired daub (10704). No datable material were found associated with either feature but they are thought to be Iron Age or Roman in date.



Figure 54 Pit feature [10701]

### Trench 109 Great Lawn

This trench was also located within the NE corner of the Great Lawn and targeted a cluster of geophysical anomalies suggesting potential several intercutting enclosures. These were thought to be Roman settlement as they coincided Roman pottery sherds found during field walking surveying. Excavation of the trench revealed a scatter of archaeological remains occupied the full length of the trench. The archaeological features were either linear ditches or gullies. These features were either associated with Iron Age or Roman settlement.

At the western end of the trench a large ditch feature [10908] (10907) had been sample excavated. It contained Roman pottery dated late 1st - 2nd century and animal bone.

Trench 109 was positioned to coincide with geophysical anomalies and proved to be a very busy area with at least four linear features crossing the trench, with at least three of them coinciding anomalies the geophysical results had suggested.

At the western end of the trench a substantial ditch coincided with a linear geophysical anomaly, possibly reflecting one side of an enclosure. A sample excavation across the ditch exposed two intercutting linear features orientated SE-NW alignment. The first ditch [10908] comprised large ditch that measured up to 2.04m wide x 0.66m deep and had a U-shaped profile containing a single fill (10907). On the east side the ditch was cut by a linear [10910] feature that was very different in character. The narrow ditch or gully or feature had a shallow U-shaped profile that measured 0.55m wide x 0.15m deep. At the base an oval post hole had been inserted measuring 0.40m diameter x 0.15m deep suggesting that the feature was structural, perhaps a fence. Its fill (10909) consisted of light grey brown silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks.

Lying 7.00m to the west of the larger ditch [10908] was a relatively complex series of intercutting features consisting of two shallow ditches and a gully. The earliest ditch [10906] comprised a shallow wide profile with gradual sloping sides and a flat base. This measured c.1.55m wide x 0.22m deep and contained a single fill of light grey brown silty clay mixed gravel (10905). A second phase comprised a gully [10904] truncating the east side of the ditch [10906] – (Fig 55). The gully entered the trench from the south side and terminated, and the profile that had gradual sloping sides and rounded base. It measured 0.52m wide x 0.18m deep and contained a light yellow brown silty clay fill mixed with gravel (10903). Both the ditch [10906] and gully [10904] were truncated by another shallow ditch [10902] that had gradual sloping sides and a rounded base and measured 1.29m wide x 0.16m deep. The fill (10901) comprised light grey brown clay silt mixed with gravel.



Figure 55 Ditch and Gully features [10902] [10904] and [10906]



Figure 56 Ditches [10908] [10910]



Figure 57 Ditch feature [10906]

### **Trench 110 Great Lawn**

Trench 10 was also located within the NE corner of the Great Lawn and targeted a cluster of geophysical anomalies thought to be overlapping enclosures that were also targeted by Trenches 109 and 114, 115. Excavation of the trench revealed up to eleven potential archaeological features that occupied the full length of the trench. The archaeological features were either linear



ditches, gullies or potential robbed wall foundations. These features were either associated with Iron Age or Roman settlement.

The trench contained features that obviously represented settlement remains depicted in the geophysical survey and some appear to coincide with the geophysical anomalies.

The settlement features dated to the late 1st to early 2nd century, suggesting that Roman settlement was established at this time and continued into the later Roman period of the 3rd to 4th century.

Some of the features were sample excavated and evidence for perhaps the earliest Roman phase appears to be represented by two ditches located at either side of the trench and dated to the late 1st century to early 2nd century. The first ditch was located at the western end of the trench [11001] comprised large E-W aligned ditch with a V-shape profile (measuring 1.37m wide x 0.69m deep) with fairly steep sloping sides and rounded base and contained three fills (Fig 58). At the base was primary fill (11002) that comprised mid dark brown silty clay mixed occasional large pebbles. Mixed within the deposit was some domestic refuse including pottery sherds dated to late 1st to early 2nd century and animal bone. A secondary fill (11011) comprised very dark grey clay (0.10m) mixed with abundant charcoal flecks and occasional pebble. A final deposit of mid dark brown silty clay (*c.*0.22m thick) completed the infilling of the feature (11012).

Excavation of a ditch at the eastern end of the trench a second linear ditch [11009] crossed the trench, also on an E-W alignment. This had a wide U-shaped profile measuring *c.*1.60m wide x 0.44m deep and contained a single fill comprised mid brown silty clay (11010) from which Roman pottery dated to late 1st to early 2nd century and poorly preserved bone was recovered.

A concentration of features in the central area of the trench provided evidence for structural remains within the enclosure. Two parallel linear features aligned E-W were targeted for excavation at the centre of the trench.

Excavation showed that what had previously appeared to be ditches were now considered to be remains of wall foundations / robber trenches (Fig 60).

The eastern foundation / robber trench [11007] was approximately 1.96m wide and had very steep sloping edges. The feature was excavated down to a flat base, found at a depth of 0.15m where a second cut or square pit feature was exposed [11003]. This earlier feature was thought to be the wall foundation construction cut that measured 0.89m wide x 0.29m deep and had very steep sides that broke sharply into a flat base. The wall foundation [11003] contained mid brown grey silty clay fill (11004) mixed with occasional pebbles, charcoal flecks and domestic waste that comprised Roman pottery dated 2nd to 3rd century and animal bone. Above the robber feature was filled (11007) with mid brown grey clay mixed with pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Directly adjacent and on the western side, a second structural feature thought to be another wall foundation / robber trench [11005] was revealed (Fig 59). It was approximately 0.70m wide and had very steep sloping edges and in the northern half of the excavation slot of feature a flat base was reached (0.25m deep). The remaining southern half of the excavated slot exposed the top of the remaining foundation stones (0.15m deep). These consisted of large and roughly laid angular limestone blocks and large rounded cobbles within a matrix of firm greyish-yellow

silty clay (11013) that had been used as a bonding agent. Above the stone footings was a layer of mid brownish-grey silty clay (11006) that contained charcoal flecks,



Figure 58 Ditch [11001]



Figure 59 Ditch [11005]



Figure 60 Robbed wall foundations [11003] [11005] and [11007]

### Trench 114 Great Lawn

Trench 114 was also located within the NE corner of the Great Lawn and targeted a cluster of geophysical anomalies thought to be overlapping enclosure ditches of a Roman settlement (Same location as Trench 109, 110, 115). Excavation of the trench revealed up to ten potential archaeological features that occupied the full length of the trench. The archaeological features were either linear ditches or gullies, all running on variable alignments with some intercutting suggesting a complex multi phased series overlapping boundary or enclosure ditches.

A ditch located towards the centre of the trench was selected for sample excavation. Linear ditch [11405] crossed the trench on an N-S alignment and probably represented a boundary or enclosure ditch by the geophysical survey. This had a U-shaped profile measuring c.0.65m wide x 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (11406) that consisted of dark greyish brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks, animal bone and pottery. The pottery has been dated to the late Iron Age and suggests that some of these features in this area relate to pre-Roman occupation.

Towards the northern end of the trench an oval pit/post hole [11410] was excavated. This measured c.0.80m long x 0.46m wide x 0.06m deep and contained a single fill (11409) from which Roman pottery dated to late 1st to early 2nd century and animal bone was recovered.

Near the centre of the trench a cluster of intercutting gully and ditch features highlighted the potential for complexity and phasing to the remains. Here the earliest feature was a ditch [11407] measuring c.1.04m wide x 0.48m deep with a U-shaped profile and aligned NE-SW. This was filled with a deposit of dark greyish sandy clay (11408) containing abundant charcoal flecks, pottery and animal bone. This probably represented another boundary or enclosure ditch or shown by the geophysical survey and pottery retrieved from the ditch was dated to the mid to late 2nd or early 3rd century.

To the west a group intercutting gully features were sample excavated. The first gully [11403] was aligned NE-SW with shallow U-shaped profile that measured 0.30m wide x 0.13m deep. It contained a single fill (11402) that comprised dark greyish brown sandy clay mixed with charcoal flecks and Roman pottery dated to 3rd to 4th century. Overlapping this gully was a second similar gully [11401] aligned on a SE-NW orientation. Excavation revealed a regular profile with steep sides that broke sharply into a flat base, which could suggest a potential structural feature perhaps a beam-slot. The feature contained dark greyish brown sand clay mixed with frequent charcoal flecks (11402). Finds found within the fill included a Roman tile fragment and animal bone.

### **Trench 115 Great Lawn**

Trench 115 was also located within the NE corner of the 'Great Lawn' and targeted a cluster of geophysical anomalies thought to represent Roman settlement as they coincided Roman pottery found during an earlier fieldwalking survey (Same location as Trench 109, 110, 114). Excavation of the trench revealed numerous archaeological features that occupied the full length of the trench. The archaeological features were either linear ditches, gullies or potential robbed wall foundations. These features were either associated with Iron Age or Roman settlement.

This trench targeted an area that the geophysical survey had indicated a dense number magnetic anomalies that were potentially archaeological and suggested overlapping multi phased enclosures.

The trench contained a large number of multi-phased features that obviously represented settlement remains depicted in the geophysical survey. The settlement features generally dated to the late 1st to early 2nd century, suggesting that settlement was established at this time and continued into the late Roman period of 3rd to 4th century.

The centre of the trench contained a large multi-phased series of features, layers and spreads that coincided with a geophysical anomaly. Evidence for the earliest phase was associated with a spread or layer (11522) that comprised light grey orange clay which was cut by a multi phased ditch

The first phase of this ditch comprised a primary cut [11520] that was aligned E-W and had a wide V-shaped profile that had gradual sloping sides and rounded base which measured 1.20m in wide and 0.40m deep (Fig 61). Its fill (11521) comprised light grey clay mixed with limestone gravel and animal bone. The second phase was represented by a re-cut ditch [11510] which had a complete U-shaped profile measuring 1.40m wide and 0.32m deep. The trench contained a single fill (11519) that comprised mid greyish brown silty clays mixed with occasional pebbles, animal bone and Roman pottery dated to late 1st or early 2nd century. This second phase of ditch appears to have been allowed to fill with silt but was not re-cut but capped or sealed with a layer or spread (0.10m thick) of limestone rubble (11511).



Figure 61 Ditch [11520]

As part of this group of features approximately 4.00m to the north, another large E-W ditch [11516] was excavated. This was a relatively substantial feature (*c.*0.60m deep) with a steep U-shaped (*c.*0.90m wide) lower profile. The upper part of the profile was wider with gradual sloping sides, measuring up to 3.20m across, perhaps resulting from erosion. Its fill (11518) comprised of light orange grey silty clay mixed with gravel, animal bone, and Roman pottery dated to late 1st to early 2nd century.



Figure 62 Ditches [11510] and [11512]



Figure 63 Ditch [11516]

At the southern end of the trench two E-W shallow and narrow linear features, [11503] and [11505]), were sample excavated. The first gully [11503] had been slightly truncated on its southern edge and was fairly shallow, with steep vertical sides and a flat base and measured *c.*0.44m wide x 0.22m deep. It contained a single fill (11504) of firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, from which Roman pottery dated from late 1st to early 2nd century was retrieved. The regular profile may suggest that the feature could have had a structural function rather than being utilised for drainage. Located 5.00m to the south [11501] a second linear feature lay on a similar alignment. This feature was very shallow with gradual sloping sides and rounded base, measuring *c.*0.74m wide x 0.10m deep. This ditch contained a single fill comprising mid yellow brown silty clay mixed with occasional pebbles, bone fragments and pottery that has been dated as Roman late 1st to early 2nd century.

The third phase appears to suggest the two large ditches at centre of the trench were backfilled and sealed under stone layer (11511) – (Fig 64). Directly to the north a second ditch [11512] was excavated and this had also cut layer (11522). Excavation revealed that this feature had a U-shaped profile that measured 0.40m wide x 0.18m deep and contained a single fill (11513) that comprised mid grey brown clay silt mixed with limestone pebbles. Domestic waste found within the ditch comprised animal bone and Roman pottery dated 3rd to 4th century.



Figure 64 Stone spread (11511)

An extensive area of layers or trample surfaces (11517) and (11523) appear to have been laid or accumulated over the stone deposit (11511) and ditch [11512] after they had gone out of use. The first layer (11517) comprised compacted firm dark grey brown clay silt mixed with occasional pebbles and measured 8.50m wide and 0.14m deep. This deposit contained domestic waste in the form of Roman pottery dated as 3rd to 4th century and animal bone. Its compacted and slightly organic character suggests that may have represent a potential buried surface or turf line.

Overlying this was a second layer or spread (11523) which appears to have accumulated over trample layer (11517) and perhaps suggests a phase of abandonment. It comprised mid grey silty clay mixed with occasional pebbles and measured 1.7m wide x 0.10m deep. At the southern end of the trench another spread or trample deposit (11507) was excavated and measured 3.7m x 1.2m wide x 0.20m deep. This deposit comprised dark grey brown clay silt mixed with gravel and domestic waste consisting of pottery, animal bone and fired clay. The pottery has been dated to Roman period of late 3rd to early 4th century.

Towards the northern end of the trench a gully [11501] was aligned E-W. This had gradual sloping sides and rounded base measuring c.0.74m wide x 0.10m deep and contained a single fill of light grey brown silty clay (11502). The fill contained occasional pebble but little other finds other than Roman pottery sherds dated to late 3rd to early 4th century.

Nearby, to the north, an oval shallow scoop/pit [11508] was excavated and measured 0.85m long x 0.66m wide x 0.05m deep. It contained a fill of mid grey brown silty clay (11509) from which sherds of Roman pottery dated as late 3rd to early 4th century were recovered

The fourth and final phase comprised a shallow ditch [11514] running across the centre trench on an E-W alignment that cut the earlier layer (11523). The ditch measured up to 2.5m wide x 0.20m deep and had gradual sloping sides and flat base containing a single fill, which consisted of mid grey brown clay silt containing Roman pottery dated to the 4th century.

### Trench 116 Great Lawn

Trench 116 was placed towards the NW corner of the Great Lawn and targeted a blank area close to an area of geophysical anomalies thought to represent overlapping enclosures of potential Roman settlement. Excavation of the trench revealed a light scatter of archaeological remains that occupied the full length of the trench. The archaeological features were either linear ditches, gullies or pits. These features are thought to be associated with Roman occupation and suggest that the general spread of this settlement potentially extends towards the NW corner of this field.

Ditch [11601] crossed the trench on a SE-NW alignment and corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly (Fig 65). It had a steep edged U-shaped profile measuring c. 1.70m wide x 0.65m deep and contained two fills. The primary deposit (11602) consisted of mid greyish-brown silty clay containing occasional large fire cracked pebbles and appears to have been formed by gradual erosion or silting up of the ditch. Above this a deposit of charcoal-rich dark greyish-brown silty clay (11603) was located in the top of the ditch. Mixed within this deposit were numerous large fired cracked pebbles suggesting that ditch appears to deliberately backfilled at this stage.

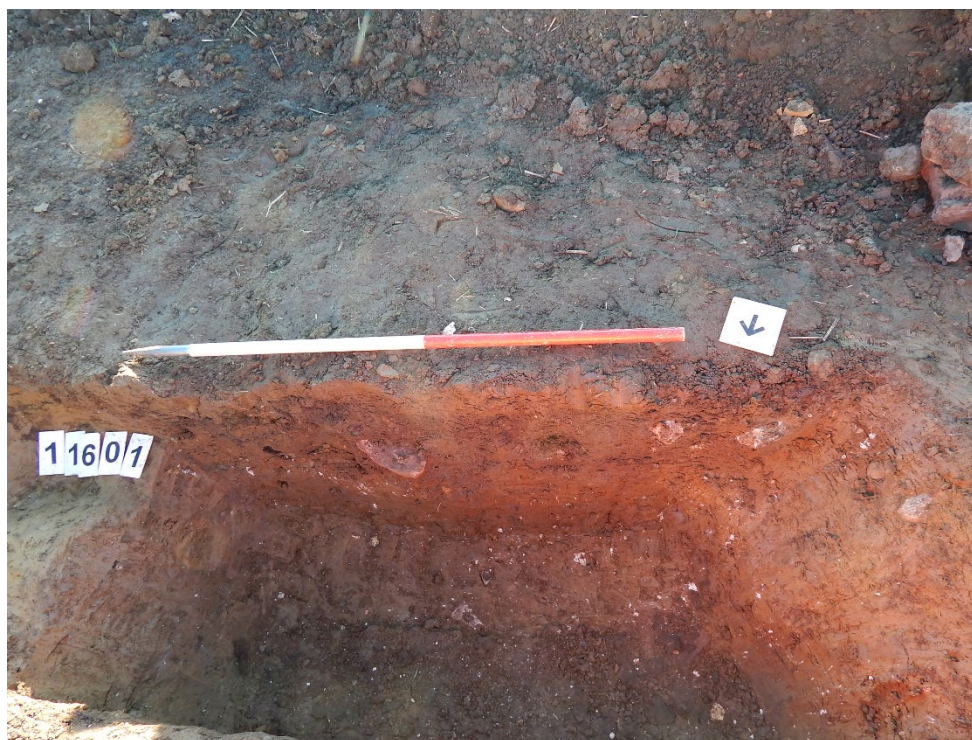


Figure 65 Ditch [11601]

### Trench 119 Great Lawn

Trench 119 was located across a concentration of geophysical anomalies representing ditches and possible enclosure features located in the NW corner of the Great Lawn. Excavation of the trench revealed a light scatter of archaeological remains that occupied the centre of trench. The archaeological features were either gullies or small pits and appeared to be large enough in character to represent the potential enclosure ditches that were depicted in the geophysical survey.



In the northern part of the cluster a small pit feature [11906] was fully excavated and contained a dark grey silty clay mixed with abundant charcoal flecks and occasional calcified bone (11907). This deposit was thought to be either a cremation burial or perhaps more likely deliberate disposal of remains from a funeral pyre (Fig 66). The pit had an oval plan shape with steep sides and undulating base. Its dimensions measured 0.32m diameter x 0.18m deep.

Towards the centre of the trench an irregular shallow scoop/or gully terminus [11908] protruded from the southern baulk. It had gradual sloping sides file and flat base and measured 0.84m wide x 0.10m deep and contained a fill of light orange brown silty clay (11905). Mixed within the deposit were occasional charcoal fleck fired clay and occasion large rounded cobble stones. A possible quern stone was also recovered.

Nearby a substantial oval shaped post hole [11901] was excavated with very steep near vertical sides that broke sharply into a flat base. It measured 1.22m x 0.60m wide x 0.21m deep and contained dark greyish brown sandy silt fill mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and large pebbles. Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered from this feature.

The archaeological features in the trench do coincide with the geophysical anomalies but do not appear to be large enough in character to be the enclosure ditches that were suggested by the geophysical survey interpretation.



Figure 66 Funeral Pyre deposit [11906]

### **Trench 120 Great Lawn**

Trench 120 had been placed towards the NW corner of the Great Lawn and targeted the same cluster of geophysical anomalies as Trench 119. The trench was placed over what appeared to SW side of enclosure. Excavation of the trench revealed a light scatter of archaeological remains that occupied the northern half of the trench.

Two curvilinear gullies lying approximately 6.00m apart were located at the northern end of the trench. Both gullies appear to be sections of a round house with butt-ending terminals suggesting an entrance located on SE east side of the building.

The excavation of the eastern gully [12001] revealed a shallow profile, with gradual sloping sides and undulating rounded base. It measured *c.*0.76m wide x 0.15m deep. The eaves drip contained a single fill of dark greyish silty clay (12002) mixed with charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Iron Age Belgic style pottery was retrieved from the feature.

The opposing curvilinear gully [12003] also had an irregular undulating profile, suggesting probable re-cuts, although none could be distinguished. The feature measured *c.*0.82m wide x 0.18m deep and contained a single fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (12304) mixed with small pebbles and charcoal flecks (Fig 67). A deposit of domestic refuse had been tipped into the gully and comprised Iron Age pottery and animal bone.



Figure 67 Eaves drip gully [12003]

### Trench 121 Great Lawn

Trench 121 targeted a black area located on the west side of the ‘Great Lawn’ close to a cluster of geophysical anomalies thought to be either Iron Age or Roman settlement.

Following the removal of the overburden located at the western end of the trench a curvilinear gully [12101] [12103] lay on an SE-NW alignment and entered the trench on the northern side before terminating. The feature is thought to represent a section and terminus of a roundhouse gully with a potential southern entrance (Fig 68).

This gully was a relatively substantial feature (*c.*0.40m deep) with a steep and narrow (*c.*0.28m wide) lower profile [12101] reminiscent of a wall foundation slot rather the gully. The upper part of the profile [12103] was wider, measuring up to 0.65m across, perhaps resulting from

erosion or, if it did function as a wall footing, removal of timber from the slot. The base of the feature contained a primary deposit of very compacted dark brownish grey silty clay (12102) with charcoal flecks and heat cracked stones. Above this was a deposit of firm dark greyish-brown silty clay (12104) with frequent charcoal flecking and heat cracked stone. Both deposits contained domestic refuse consisting of animal bone and Iron Age pottery.



Figure 68 Eaves drip gully [12101]

## Trench 122

A series of relatively narrow linear ditches lay in the centre of the trench, apparently forming rectilinear enclosures. A linear ditch [12707] was seen crossing the trench on SE-NW alignment and measured 10.50m in length. At its northern end it turned sharply to run eastward to form a right angle which suggested it formed part of a rectilinear enclosure. Approximately 5.00m to the south a second ditch [12205] joined the SE-NW ditch [12707] and ran eastward forming a potential internal sub-division. Excavation of ditch [12207] revealed a U-shaped sides and flat base that measured 0.58m wide and 0.30m deep. It contained mid grey brown silty clay mixed with small rounded pebbles and appeared to be the natural erosion and silting up of the ditch (12208). A slot excavated into ditch [12205] exposed a shallow U-shaped ditch that measured 1.74m wide x 0.17m deep (Fig 69). The fill comprised natural erosion mid grey brown silty clay mixed with occasional pebble (12206). Domestic refuse was present in the form of Roman pottery sherds.

Towards the southern end of the trench a NE-SW orientated ditch [12203] was excavated and appeared to be a very shallow feature with gradual sloping sides and flat base that measured 0.54m x 0.08m deep. It contained light brown grey silty clay (12204) mixed with small pebbles and Iron Age pottery. Approximately 5.00m to the south a potential pit or posthole [12201] was sample excavated producing a profile that had shallow sloping sides and flat base on the west side and rounded scoop cut into the base on east side. It measured 1.40m long x 1.20m wide and 0.22m deep. Only a single fill (12202) was found within the pit and consisted of dark

brown grey silty clay mixed with small round pebbles. No datable finds were retrieved from this feature.



Figure 69 Ditches [12205] [12207]

### Trench 123 Great Lawn

This trench was located within the SW corner of the Great Lawn and targeted what was thought to be a blank area. Following the removal of the overburden it was clear that archaeological remains occupied the full length of the trench.

At the northern end of the trench four sections of curvilinear gullies were revealed, probably representing roundhouse eavesdrip features, and suggesting the presence of two overlapping buildings. The most northerly building was represented by two sections of E-W curvilinear gully, representing an eavesdrip feature and lying c.8.00m apart. A northern section of potential eaves drip protruded from the west side of the trench and ended as a terminus suggesting a possible entrance on the east side of the structure. The southern section [12301] had steep sides and a flat base, measuring c.0.31m wide x 0.15m deep and contained a single dark brownish grey silty clay fill mixed with abundant charcoal flecks, animal bone and Iron Age pottery sherds (12302).

Overlapping to the south was a second potential roundhouse structure represented by two curving gullies. The northerly E-W curvilinear eaves drip gully measured 0.40m but remained unexcavated. The second gully was located 10.00m to the south [12311] and was excavated. Its profile comprised a shallow U-shaped cut with a rounded base that measured 0.45m wide x 0.11m deep. It contained very dark greyish brown clay silty fill that was mixed with pebbles and contain Iron Age pottery sherds and animal bone (12312).

Near the centre of the trench a large ditch [12313] crossed on an E-W alignment and possibly represented part of an enclosure or boundary ditch (Fig 70). This feature had a V-shaped profile with gradual sloping sides that tapered to a point. This ditch measured measuring c.2.30m wide x 0.72m deep and contained three fills. At its base the primary fill (12308) comprised very dark grey silty clay mixed with occasional pebbles and frequent charcoal flecks. This initial deposit may have been a domestic tip as it also contained Iron Age pottery sherds. Overlying was a second fill (12309) that consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone and pottery sherds. This deposit may represent a more natural erosion and silting up of the ditch. A third and final fill consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay mixed with small pebbles and occasional fragments of animal bone (12310).

A linear group of four postholes was found towards the southern end of the trench and may have represented a possible fence structure running on a SE-NW alignment. The most southerly of these postholes was sample excavated [12304]. The excavation revealed a regular steep sided SE edge and flat base, however the NW edge had a more irregular gradual sloping profile. This perhaps results from erosion or, if it did function as a fence, removal of timber from the posthole. The feature measured 0.80m long x 0.70m wide x 0.18m deep and contained dark greyish brown silty clay mixed with occasional pottery sherds (12305).

At the southern end of the trench a curvilinear ditch [12306] crossed on a N-S alignment and possibly represented part of an enclosure or boundary ditch. Excavation revealed a V-shaped profile, measuring c.0.70m wide x 0.27m deep. It contained a single fill of dark brownish grey silty clay (12307) from which pottery sherds and bone were retrieved



Figure 70 Ditch [12313]



Figure 71 Curvilinear eaves drip gully [12311]

### **Trench 259**

This trench was placed in a blank area on the geophysical survey and after the overburden was removed a group of potential features was excavated at the eastern end. Only one of these features pit [25901] was found to be real, with an irregular oval plan shape, gradual sloping sides and flat base. It measured 1.92m long x 1.32m wide x 0.16m deep and contained mid brown grey silty clay fill mixed rounded pebbles occasional charcoal flecks (25902).

## The Finds

### The Iron Age and Roman Pottery

*Elizabeth Johnson*

#### Assemblage Size and Condition

The stratified pottery assemblage comprises 433 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery weighing 2.495kg with an EVEs value of 1.15 (based on rims), and 437 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 4.855g with an EVEs value of 5.635 (based on rims). In addition, one small sherd (1g) of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered. The assemblage was recovered from 67 contexts across 25 trenches as part of an archaeological evaluation. The Roman pottery has an average sherd weight of 11.1g, suggesting reasonably good levels of preservation given the rural nature of the site. The Iron Age pottery has an average sherd weight of 5.8g, which would usually be considered low however, as Cooper noted in Phase 1 of the evaluation at this site, the preponderance of shell-tempered wares prone to leaching during burial in Iron Age assemblages in this area, results in lighter material forming the majority of any pottery assemblage. In this respect, an apparently low average sherd weight may not necessarily indicate poor levels of preservation overall (Cooper 2016a). Assemblages with average sherd weights of less than 10g were recovered from the Phase 1 evaluation at West Corby (*Ibid*), as well as at Pineham (Cooper 2016b) and Mawsley (Johnson 2012).

#### Methodology

The pottery was sorted into fabrics through hand specimen examination with the aid of a binocular microscope at x15 magnification when required. The middle-late Iron Age pottery was classified using Jackson's fabric series from Hunsbury Iron Age Hillfort, Northampton (Jackson 2003), with the addition of the grog and shell fabric from Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire (Timby 2004) and the Q4 fabric from Marsden's Leicestershire fabric series (Marsden 2011). The Roman pottery was classified using Timby's fabric series from Higham Ferrers (Timby 2004, 2009), with the addition of the MG1 fabric from Pollard's Leicestershire fabric series (Pollard 1994); reference to Marney's Milton Keynes series to describe the range of grey wares present (Marney 1989), and the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), where appropriate (see tables below). Quantification was by sherd count, weight (grams) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rim values). Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, with further refinements added using published typologies where possible. The dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

#### Middle-Late Iron Age Pottery Fabrics and Forms

The middle-late Iron Age pottery accounts for just under half the total assemblage by sherd count and, as previously mentioned, the average sherd weight of 5.8g could be due to taphonomic processes rather than an indication of disturbed or re-deposited material. A summarised fabric series and quantification of the pottery is given in the tables below.

Fabric	Description
SH1	Moderate to common coarse shell
SH2	Variable amounts of medium shell
SH3	Variable amounts of fine shell, often associated with smooth dark wares

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Description</b>
SH5	Fine to medium shell with ironstone grits
SH6	Fine to medium shell with ironstone and grog
SH7	Variable amounts of shell with ironstone and other grits
GR	Grog is the main inclusion
GRSH	Grog and shell
Qt	Quartz is the dominant inclusion
Q4	Sandy fabric with common to abundant quartz rock inclusions of various sizes up to 3-4mm.
ST	Stone grits are the chief inclusion

Table 16 Summarised Iron Age fabric series

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>% Sherds</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>% Weight</b>	<b>EVEs</b>	<b>% EVEs</b>	<b>ASW (g)</b>
GR	17	3.9%	116	4.6%	0	0.0%	6.8
GRSH	129	29.8%	886	35.5%	0.4	34.8%	6.9
Q4	1	0.2%	12	0.5%	0	0.0%	12.0
Qt	20	4.6%	106	4.2%	0.125	10.9%	5.3
SH1/2	228	52.7%	844	33.8%	0.38	33.0%	3.7
SH3	17	3.9%	77	3.1%	0.12	10.4%	4.5
SH5	3	0.7%	7	0.3%	0.025	2.2%	2.3
SH6	3	0.7%	191	7.7%	0.1	8.7%	63.7
SH7	8	1.8%	124	5.0%	0	0.0%	15.5
ST	7	1.6%	132	5.3%	0	0.0%	18.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2495</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5.8</b>

Table 17 Quantified Summary of the middle-late Iron Age Pottery

Fabrics containing shell (SH1, SH2, SH3, SH5, SH6, SH7, GRSH) are dominant, accounting for 89.6% by sherd count and 84.7% by weight of the assemblage. Within this group, the SH1/SH2 shell-tempered and GRSH grog and shell-tempered wares form the majority at 82.6% by sherd count and 68.6% by weight combined. Fabrics SH5-7 are distinguished by the presence of ironstone, grog and other grits alongside the shell and form a relatively small component of the assemblage at 3.2% by sherd count and 16.1% by weight combined. The SH3 fabric contains fine shell inclusions with dark, often smoothed surfaces, more in common with vessels of later Iron Age date. The remaining material comprises small quantities of grog-tempered wares (GR), quartz sand tempered wares (Qt), and sherds with stone grits as the main inclusion (ST). There is a single sherd best described as Q4 from Marsden's Leicestershire fabric series, which appears anomalous. Fabrics with quartz rock inclusions of this nature are unusual in Northamptonshire and there is no comparable fabric in Jackson's series.

The dominance of shell-tempered fabrics during the Iron Age in this part of Northamptonshire is apparent at other sites such as Pineham (Cooper 2016b), Mawsley (Johnson 2012), Higham Ferrers (Jackson 2009), Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987) and Twywell (Harding 1975), indicating the fabric range found here is typical of the area overall (notwithstanding the single anomalous Q4 sherd).

Most of the assemblage comprises plain body sherds, however identifiable forms include ovoid, barrel-shaped and shouldered vessels with in-turned, upright, flattened and slightly everted rims, broadly comparable to Elsdon's typology of vessels forms as illustrated below (Elsdon 1992a, 39, fig.24). There are seven examples of Form 1 (small to medium sized jars); six examples of Form 2 (medium sized shouldered jars), including one with diagonal incised lines along the rim; four examples of Form 3 (slack shouldered jars) and one small ovoid jar or bowl either Form 6 or 7, decorated with a single groove along the centre of the rim. In addition,



one upright flattened rim had a vertical fingernail mark just below the rim. Unfortunately the sherd was too small to assign a particular vessel form accurately. Only 64 sherds were scored, equating to 14.8% of the assemblage. This is much lower than the Phase 1 evaluation, where 60% of the assemblage was scored. The group of SH3 fine shell-tempered ware vessels includes five jars or bowls with smoothed, black surfaces and one small necked jar or bowl, both associated with the later Iron Age.

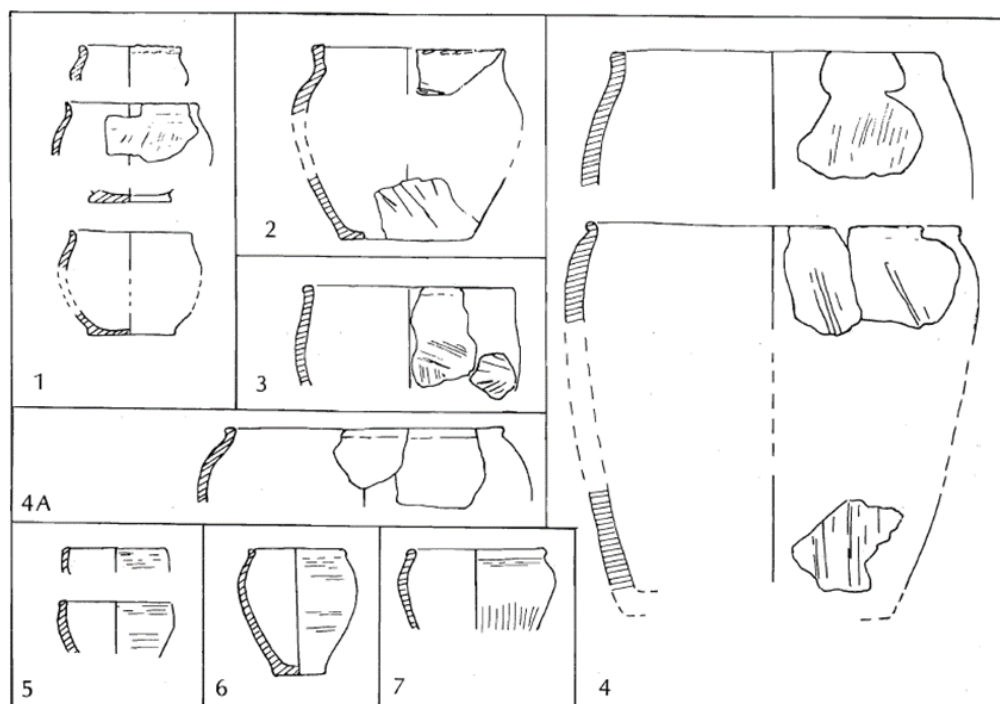


Figure 72 Typology of vessel forms from Grove Farm, Enderby (Elsdon 1992a, 39, fig 24)

The presence of scored ware suggests activity during the middle-late Iron Age from possibly as early as the 4th or 3rd century to the 1st century BC (Elsdon 1992b, 88-90). At Weekley scored ware was found alongside “La Tene” decorated pottery given a date range of *c.*175BC to *c.*AD20 (Jackson and Dix 1987, 73), and at Twywell the scored ware element of the pottery assemblage increased during the later phases of occupation (Harding 1975, 69-84). This has given rise to the suggestion that in this part of Northamptonshire scored ware may have reached its high point during the later 2nd and 1st centuries BC, just before the introduction of wheel-thrown ‘Belgic’ style wares (Jackson and Dix 1987, 73-77). Whilst scored ware most probably continues into the 1st century AD elsewhere in the East Midlands, in the middle/upper Nene Valley it appears to go out of use as soon as wheel made ‘Belgic’ styles of pottery appear (Elsdon 1992b, 88-90). This is supported by evidence from other sites in Northamptonshire such as Aldwinckle (Jackson 1977), Wakerley (Jackson and Ambrose 1978) and Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987), where both scored wares and La Tene decorated wares are replaced by ‘Belgic’ wares during the first half of the 1st century AD.

Although there are examples of late Iron Age vessels, there are no examples of La Tene type vessels with curvilinear decoration and, coupled with the low percentage of scored sherds, this might suggest the site dates before its introduction and the highpoint of scored ware during the 1st century BC. However, no La Tene style pottery was found at Mawsley, yet the assemblage included both “Belgic” style and Roman pottery indicating a continuation into the 1st century AD and beyond (Johnson 2012); therefore the paucity of scored ware and absence of La Tene

style pottery may not necessarily indicate cessation of activity before the end of the 1st century BC.

### Roman Pottery Fabrics and Forms

The Roman pottery accounts for just over half the assemblage and the average sherd weight of 11.1g suggests good levels of preservation. A summary of the fabric series and quantified assemblage is provided in the tables below.

Fabric	Description
<i>Early Roman/transitional</i>	
GR1	Dark grog-tempered
GR2	Oxidised grog-tempered
SA	Sandy ware
SHELL	Shell-tempered ware
MG1	Coarse fabric with grog, quartz and calcite
<i>Imports</i>	
SG SAM	South Gaulish samian
CG SAM	Central Gaulish samian
<i>Regional</i>	
BB1	Dorset Black Burnished ware
OXF RS	Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated ware
<i>Local</i>	
BOX GR	Burnt oxidised grog-tempered
BWH GR	Burnt white grog-tempered
WW GR	White grog-tempered
BOX SY	Burnt oxidised sandy ware
BWH SY	Burnt white sandy ware
OX GR	Oxidised grog-tempered
OX SY	Oxidised sandy ware
SHELL	Shell-tempered wares
LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware
LNV RE	Lower Nene Valley reduced ware
LNV WHM	Lower Nene Valley mortarium
MK14	Northants/Upper Nene valley grey ware
MK47	Early grey sandy wares
BW	Black sandy wares
BWF	Black, fine sandy ware
GREY	Miscellaneous grey sandy wares
OXID	Oxidised sandy wares
WW	Miscellaneous white sandy wares

Table 18 Summarised fabric descriptions

Fabric	Sherds	% Sherds	Weight (g)	% Weight	EVEs	% EVEs	ASW (g)
BB1	4	0.9%	15	0.3%	0	0.0%	3.8
BOXGR	4	0.9%	58	1.2%	0	0.0%	14.5
BOXSY	3	0.7%	25	0.5%	0.06	1.1%	8.3
BW	35	8.0%	291	6.0%	0.375	6.7%	8.3
BWF	2	0.5%	25	0.5%	0.15	2.7%	12.5
BWHGR	2	0.5%	76	1.6%	0.145	2.6%	38.0
BWHSY	4	0.9%	28	0.6%	0.1	1.8%	7.0
CGSAM	2	0.5%	24	0.5%	0.075	1.3%	12.0

GR1	6	1.4%	122	2.5%	0.175	3.1%	20.3
GR2	4	0.9%	55	1.1%	0	0.0%	13.8
GREY	66	15.1%	578	11.9%	0.505	9.0%	8.8
LNVCC	59	13.5%	605	12.4%	1.52	27.0%	10.3
LNVWHM	2	0.5%	86	1.8%	0.075	1.3%	43.0
MK14	60	13.7%	970	19.9%	1.28	22.7%	16.2
MK47	1	0.2%	9	0.2%	0	0.0%	9.0
OXFRS	1	0.2%	10	0.2%	0	0.0%	10.0
OXGR	1	0.2%	31	0.6%	0	0.0%	31.0
OXID	4	0.9%	30	0.6%	0.06	1.1%	7.5
SA	9	2.1%	88	1.8%	0.165	2.9%	9.8
SGSAM	4	0.9%	29	0.6%	0.1	1.8%	7.3
SHELL	138	31.5%	1012	20.8%	0.625	11.1%	7.3
WW	8	1.8%	19	0.4%	0	0.0%	2.4
WWGR	12	2.7%	85	1.7%	0	0.0%	7.1
LNVRE	3	0.7%	49	1.0%	0	0.0%	16.3
MG1	4	0.9%	557	11.4%	0.225	4.0%	139.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4877</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5.635</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11.1</b>

Table 19 Quantified summary of Roman pottery

*Early Roman and “Transitional” Wares*

Grog-tempered (GR1/GR2), sandy (SA) and mixed-gritted (MG1) wares characterise the earliest “transitional” pottery dating to the middle of the 1st century AD. Fabric GR1 is a dark grey or brown ware with soapy feel used to produce hand-made and wheel-made vessels from the later Iron Age through to the early Roman period. GR2 is an oxidised version that appears to date specifically to the late Iron Age-early Roman transitional period during the 1st century AD (Timby 2004, 72). The forms present include carinated and cordoned “Belgic” bowls; everted rimmed jars and large storage jars with combed decoration. The large mixed-gritted ware (MG1) roll-necked storage jar has horizontal rilling or combing. The sandy SA fabric is mainly used to produce jars (Timby 2004, 72). It seems to disappear during the latter part of the 1st century AD, presumably superseded by Roman grey sandy wares. The forms present include a cordoned bowl with low carination and a necked jar.

*Fine Wares*

The fine wares comprise a small quantity of imported samian ware from Gaul, along with a more substantial quantity of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware. There is also one Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated ware bowl. The samian ware accounts for 1.4% of the assemblage (1.1% by weight, 3.1% of the EVEs). Two South Gaulish vessels are present; a Drag.18 plate dating to the mid-late 1st century, and a Drag.18/31 dish dating to the late 1st century. The Central Gaulish vessels comprise a Drag.31 bowl dating to the mid-late 2nd century along with a small sherd from the Lezoux industry, also dating within the 2nd century (Webster 1996, 32-35).

Lower Nene Valley colour-coated wares account for 13.5% by sherd count (12.4% by weight) and 27% of the EVEs. Although the industry became a large regional producer, sending its products all over the East Midlands, its proximity to Corby renders it essentially a local ware. How early in the 2nd century production of colour-coated wares began in the Lower Nene Valley is still unknown, but it is accepted that the industry was well established by the later 2nd century, producing beakers, flagons and castor boxes; with bowls, dishes and jars becoming more common during the later 3rd and 4th centuries (Perrin 1999, 87-94). Most of the forms present encompass the later suite of jars, bowls, dishes and flagons dating to the late

3rd and 4th centuries; including a jar with a pulley-wheel rim, plain rim dishes and bead and flanged bowls. There are beakers present, dating from the late 2nd-early 3rd century onwards, though most are represented by body sherds. The single rim present is a bead rim from a shouldered beaker dating to the 3rd century (Howe *et al* 1980, 20-25).

A single abraded sherd (10g) from an Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated ware bowl base was recovered from a ditch within Trench 115. Oxfordshire colour-coated wares were produced locally from the middle of the 3rd century, however they are most commonly found in 4th century contexts outside of Oxfordshire itself. The suite of red-slipped wares encompasses a range of vessels forms, although the bowl forms derived from earlier samian ware forms, (such as the Drag.31 and Drag.38), have the widest distribution from the production centres (Young 1977).

#### *Coarse Wares*

*Shell-tempered wares* (SHELL) (Timby 2004, 76). As seen in the middle-late Iron Age group, shell-tempered wares are very common in this part of the Midlands and continue throughout the Roman period. Here they account for 31.5% by count, 20.8% by weight and 11.1% by EVEs of the Roman assemblage. The fabric is used for both hand-made and wheel-made vessels, though hand-made forms are most commonly large storage jars. Earlier forms such as roll-necked storage jars clearly have Iron Age antecedents, whilst more developed Roman forms are associated with production centres such as those at nearby Harrold in Bedfordshire, continuing until the end of the 4th century and possibly beyond (Brown 1994). Almost all the vessels in this group are jars, with eight rims present. The earliest form is a necked s-shaped cordoned and carinated jar or bowl, comparable to one from Weekley dated to the mid-late 1st century (Jackson and Dix 1987, 61, fig.21.8). A roll-necked storage jar also dates to the mid-late 1st or early 2nd century. The rest of the jar rims are all Harrold products; the range of forms dating to the mid-late 2nd and 3rd centuries. There are no examples of the clearly hooked rims associated with 4th century forms (Brown 1994).

*Sandy grog-tempered wares* (BOX GR, OX GR, BWH GR, WW GR) (Timby 2009, 155-156). Together, these wares account for 3.9% by count, 5.1% by weight and 2.6% by EVEs of the Roman assemblage; and seem to be a local Northamptonshire/South Midlands based product starting around the end of the 1st century and continuing into the 2nd (*Ibid*). The fabrics are characterised by the presence of grog in a generally harder, sandier fabric than earlier grog-tempered wares, often with blackened exteriors (BOX GR, BWH GR) and with a wider range of firing colours (white, orange and grey rather than brown/black). All vessels are jars or bowls. The only rim was from a lid-seated jar, which is one of the most common forms produced in these fabrics.

*Burnt sandy wares* (BWH SY, BOX SY) (Timby 2009, 157). This is a very small group, comprising seven sherds weighing 53g. The forms and dating appear to be contemporary with the sandy grog-tempered range of wares. The fabrics are basically white and oxidised sandy wares with blackened exteriors in the same manner as the burnt grogged-wares. Two jar rims are present, both lid-seated forms.

*Northants/Upper Nene Valley grey wares* (MK14 range) (Marney 1989, 179-180). The local grey sandy wares account for 13.7% by count, 22.7% by EVEs and 19.9% by weight. Many kiln sites producing grey wares from the later 1st and 2nd centuries have been found in this area, for example at Ecton, Mears Ashby, Weston Favell and Little Billing (Johnston 1969, 76), and production centres such as these are the most likely sources for the range of grey wares

in this group. The forms present are jars and bowls, including a triangular rimmed bowl and two necked jars. One jar is carinated and three have cordons. There is also a cordoned bowl decorated with fine incised lines.

*Lower Nene Valley grey wares and mortaria* (LNV RE, LNV WHM). The three sherds of Lower Nene Valley grey ware were all recovered from Trench 115 within the Great Lawn. The three separate vessels are either jars or bowls. The pottery industry in the Lower Nene Valley was established producing reduced wares by the second quarter of the 2nd century, continuing until the end of the 3rd or early 4th century (Perrin 1999, 78-79). Unfortunately, these sherds are not diagnostic and cannot be closely dated. Two mortaria were also recovered from Trench 115, including a hammerhead form with orange painted flange dating to the 3rd or 4th century (Rollo 1994, 19-20).

*Early grey sandy wares* (MK47) (Marney 1989, 193-194) and *Miscellaneous grey sandy wares* (GREY) (Timby 2009, 158). One sherd (9g) from a jar or bowl is comparable to Marney's MK47 range of fabrics dating to the later 1st and 2nd centuries, and has been classified as such to differentiate from other grey wares although the source may well be a local one. Similar material was recovered from Mawsley in Northamptonshire (Johnson 2012). The remaining grey wares in the assemblage have been labelled GREY to denote miscellaneous grey sandy wares that do not fit other categories. This group of 66 sherds (578g) comprises jars, bowls and a flask. There are few diagnostic sherds and most can only be dated from the 2nd century onwards. The flask has a pulley-wheel rim and dates from the 2nd century onwards. One of the bowls a chamfered base. Two jar rims are present, both with cordons at the shoulder. One has a rounded out-curved rim, whilst the other is narrow mouthed with a squared everted rim.

*Black sandy wares* (BW, BWF) (Timby 2004, 72-77; 2009, 157). This small group of 37 sherds (316g) is comparable to Timby's black sandy ware from Higham Ferrers, dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries. The forms present include three beakers, including one in a fine fabric (BWF) with an everted rim and decorated with incised diagonal lines. The other two beakers also have everted rims and date within the 2nd century. Two necked jar rims are present, one has a ribbed neck before the shoulder. The remaining sherds are largely undiagnostic, however one jar is carinated, one has a cordon and another a girth groove. These are all forms associated with the later 1st and 2nd centuries.

*Black Burnished ware* (BB1) (or DOR BB1 in Tomber and Dore 1998, 127). Only four sherds (15g) of Black Burnished ware were recovered comprising a jar and two bowls. One of the bowls has intersecting arc decoration. All can only be dated from the middle of the 2nd century onwards (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 88-112).

*Oxidised sandy wares* (OXID) and *White sandy wares* (WW) (Timby 2009, 157-158). Four sherds (30g) of oxidised wares were recovered, including a beaker or small jar with an everted rim. Eight sherds (19g) of white ware were recovered, including a cordoned jar or bowl. The remaining miscellaneous sherds are most probably from flagons or bowls. All the material dates to the later 1st or 2nd centuries and are most likely from local sources.

### **Spatial Distribution**

Pottery was recovered from 25 trenches across ten fields within the evaluation area. Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the Access Road area; Fields 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56 and 58; Little Lawn and Great Lawn. Almost all the Roman pottery was recovered from trenches within the

Great Lawn, however a group of early Roman material was present in Trench 246 within Field 58.

#### *Access Road Area*

Trench 74: Roundhouse eavesdrip gully [7401] (7403).

Two vessels were recovered from the eavesdrip gully of a roundhouse in Trench 74, [7401] (7402). The first vessel comprises 32 sherds (126g) from a shell-tempered (SH1/SH2) scored ware shouldered jar with upright flattened rim, (Elsdon Form 2), dating to the mid-late Iron Age. The second vessel is also a jar with smooth black surfaces, in the fine SH3 shell-tempered fabric, which suggests a late Iron Age date.

#### *Field 49*

Trench 83: Boundary Ditch [8303] (8304).

Two very small sherds were recovered from the Boundary Ditch in Trench 84, [8303] (8304), comprising an SH1/SH2 shell-tempered ware body sherd (1g) and a shell/grog-tempered ware (GRSH) jar or bowl base (8g). Both vessels date to the mid-late Iron Age.

#### *Field 50*

Trench 86: Boundary Ditch [8601] (8602).

A single vessel comprising four sherds (10g) from a shell/grog-tempered ware (GRSH) jar or bowl, was recovered from a Boundary Ditch in Trench 86, [8601] (8602). The vessel dates to the mid-late Iron Age.

#### *Field 51*

Trench 145: Posthole [14501] (14502) (14503).

Trench 147: Boundary Ditch [14702] (14703) (14704); Pit [14707] (14706); Layer/spread (14710).

Trench 148: Boundary Ditch [14801] (14803); Ditch [14802] (14804).

Four small sherds (4g) of pottery were recovered from a posthole [14501] (14502) (14503) in Trench 145. All the sherds are shell-tempered (SH1/SH2) and one upright jar rim is present. The pottery can be dated to the mid-late Iron Age.

A similarly small quantity of material was recovered from Boundary Ditch [14702] in Trench 147. One sherd (3g) from a fine shell-tempered ware (SH3) jar with an upright rim was retrieved from (14703), whilst two sherds (7g) of abraded SH1/SH2 shell-tempered ware were found in (14704). The pottery can be dated to the mid-late Iron Age. The SH3 jar *could* be late Iron Age in date, however the sherd is too small to be certain. Layer/spread (14710) revealed five sherds of pottery (18g). The material is all SH1/SH2 shell-tempered ware and the only identifiable form is an upright rim from a shouldered jar (Elsdon Form 2). All the pottery dates to the mid-late Iron Age. Finally from Trench 147, two undiagnostic shell-tempered ware (SH1/SH2) body sherds were recovered from Pit [14707] (14706). Again, the pottery dates to the mid-late Iron Age.

In Trench 148, six sherds (44g) of mid-late Iron Age pottery were recovered from two sections of a Boundary Ditch. Five sherds (42g) from a scored ware jar base were retrieved from [14801] (14803), whilst one sherd (2g) of quartz-tempered (Qt) pottery was found in [14802] (14804).

#### *Field 52*

Trench 139: Boundary Ditch [13901] (13902).

Two sherds (5g) of pottery representing two vessels were recovered from Boundary Ditch [13901] (13902) in Trench 139. A very small sherd (1g) from a shell-tempered (SH1/SH2) shouldered jar with an upright slightly everted rim (Elsdon Form 2), was found alongside a sherd of quartz-tempered (Qt) pottery. Both date to the mid-late Iron Age.

#### *Field 53*

Trench 160: Posthole [16007] (16008).

One small sherd (2g) of pottery was recovered from Posthole [16007] (16008) in Trench 160. The vessel is a fine shell-tempered ware (SH3) jar or bowl base. It is very small, but does look almost “Belgic” and would date to the late Iron Age.

#### *Field 56*

Trench 214: Large Ditch [21401] (21402) (21403); Ditch [21404] (21405).

Small quantities of pottery were recovered from two ditches within Trench 214. Four sherds (7g) of mid-late Iron Age shell-tempered ware (SH1/SH2) were recovered from a large ditch [21401] (21402) (21403); whilst three sherds (8g) of abraded mid-late Iron Age grog/shell tempered ware (GRSH) were retrieved from Ditch [21404] (21405).

#### *Field 58*

Trench 244: Eavesdrip gully [24401] (24402); Ditch [24405] (24406); Ditch [24409] (24410).

Trench 245: Ring ditch gully [24504] (24503); Ring ditch [24506] (24505); Posthole [24512] (24513);

Ring ditch gully [24510] (24509); Eavesdrip gully [24514] (24513).

Trench 246: Gully [24603] (24602); Ditch [24607] (24608); Post Med surface (24609).

Trench 252: Ditch [25201] (25202).

In total, 189 sherds of pottery weighing 1.981kg with an EVEs value of 0.75 were recovered from trenches within Field 58, which appears to be a focus for an Iron Age settlement.

*Trench 244.* Three features revealed mid-late Iron Age pottery in Trench 244, totalling 81 sherds (365g). Eight sherds (29g) from an SH1/SH2 shell-tempered scored ware jar were recovered from an eavesdrip gully [24401] (24402). A group of 46 sherds (177g) of mid-late Iron Age pottery was retrieved from Ditch [24405] (24406), comprising jars and/or bowls in a variety of fabrics. The quartz-tempered (Qt) vessels include a jar with an upright flattened rim and body sherds with smooth black surfaces that could belong to an ovoid/ellipsoid jar (cf Elsdon Form 6 or 7). There are scored ware jars in grog-tempered (GR), grog/shell-tempered (GRSH) and shell-tempered (SH1/SH2) wares, including an upright flattened rim from an Elsdon Form 1 jar, and an upright rim from a jar or bowl. There is also one jar in the SH5 shell-tempered ware with ironstone grits fabric. The jar has an upright flattened rim with vertical fingernail marks just below the rim. Lastly, 27 sherds (159g) of pottery were retrieved from a second ditch, [24409] (24410). Four separate vessels are represented, comprising two SH1/SH2 shell-tempered scored ware jars; a grog/shell-tempered (GRSH) ware shouldered jar with upright flattened rim (Elsdon Form 2), and a grog/shell-tempered ware ovoid jar or bowl with an in-turned rim.

*Trench 245.* Five features revealed mid-late Iron Age pottery in Trench 245, totalling 53 sherds (362g). Ring ditch [24506] (24505) revealed the largest quantity of material (32 sherds, 251g) from this trench. Most of the pottery comprises SH1/SH2 shell-tempered, GRSH grog/shell-tempered and GR grog-tempered scored ware body sherds from jars or bowls. Only one rim is

present, an upright rim from a slack shouldered jar (cf Elsdon Form 3) in the SH6 shell/grog-tempered ware with ironstone inclusions. There are also body sherds from a fine shell-tempered ware (SH3) jar or bowl with smooth black surfaces. Whilst the other pottery can be dated to the mid-late Iron Age this vessel probably dates to the late Iron Age. A ring ditch gully [24504] (24503) revealed nine sherds (25g) from shell-tempered (SH1/SH2) and grog-tempered (GR) ware jars or bowls, including one scored vessel. One small sherd of shell-tempered ware was recovered from a further ring ditch gully, [24510] (24509). Four sherds (61g) from a shell-tempered scored ware large storage jar were retrieved from a posthole, [24512] (24511). A further seven sherds (21g) from a shell-tempered scored ware jar or bowl were retrieved from an eavesdrip gully [24514] (24513).

*Trench 246.* In total, 49 sherds of pottery weighing 840g were retrieved from three features in Trench 246. One small sherd (3g) from a shell-tempered ware jar or bowl was found in Gully [24603] (24602). Most of the material (42 sherds, 797g) was recovered from Ditch [24607] (24608) and of the five vessels represented, four are early Roman in date. A large mixed-gritted (MG1) roll-necked storage jar has horizontal rilling or combing and dates to the mid-late 1st century. An s-shaped necked shell-tempered ware carinated jar or bowl has a cordon and is clearly “Belgic” in style. This vessel is comparable to pottery from Weekley in Phase 3a dated to the mid-late 1st century (Jackson and Dix 1987, 61, fig.21.8). A grog-tempered ware (GR1) jar with an everted rim is also comparable to material from Weekley dated to the mid-1st century (*Ibid*, 87, fig.38.128). A second shell-tempered ware jar or bowl also dates to the mid-late 1st century. Finally, two sherds from a mid-late Iron Age SH1/SH2 shell-tempered ware jar or bowl are present. The early Roman pottery is “transitional” in nature, illustrating the development of fabrics and forms from the end of the Iron Age to the beginning of the Roman period. Ditch [24607] is sealed by a surface or trackway (24609), believed to be post-medieval in date. Six sherds (30g) of early Roman and Iron Age pottery were recovered from this surface. The sherd of mixed-gritted ware is from the same vessel as that from Ditch [24607], whilst the other sherd of Roman pottery is from a shell-tempered ware carinated jar dating to the mid-late 1st century. The Iron Age pottery comprises a shell-tempered ware (SH1/SH2) jar or bowl dating to the mid-late Iron Age, and an SH3 fine shell-tempered ware jar or bowl with smooth black surfaces, most likely dating to the late Iron Age.

*Trench 252.* Six sherds (414g) of pottery were recovered from Ditch [25201] (25202) in Trench 252. Three large sherds (146g) from a grog/shell-tempered ware jar or bowl base is “Belgic” in character, and most likely dates to the middle of the 1st century AD, c.AD20-60, spanning the transitional period between the late Iron Age and the early Roman periods. The remaining two vessels are both Iron Age in date. One large sherd (174g) from a scored ware jar base dates to the mid-late Iron Age. The fabric is the grog/shell-tempered ware with ironstone inclusions (SH6). The last vessel comprises two sherds (94g) from a scored ware jar. The scoring is fairly regular and there are finger impressions between the bands of scoring. There are examples of scored ware with fairly regular scoring at Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987). The fabric is the shell-tempered ware with ironstone and other grit inclusions (SH7).

### *Little Lawn*

Trench 100: Pit [10003] (10002).

Two sherds (15g) of pottery were recovered from Pit [10003] (10002) in Trench 100. One small sherd (3g) is from a late Iron Age fine shell-tempered ware (SH3) jar, with a smoothed, black surface. The fabric of the other sherd (12g) is best described by the Q4 fabric within the Leicestershire fabric series (Marsden 2011). The fabric is sandy with common quartz rock



inclusions of various sizes. This type of fabric is not usually found within Northamptonshire, and there is no equivalent in Jackson's fabric series. In Leicestershire, this fabric dates to the mid-late Iron Age and could be contemporary with the late Iron Age shell-tempered ware jar.

### *Great Lawn*

Trench 104: Ditch [10401] (10402); Ditch [10411] (10412).

Trench 105: Pit [10501] (10502).

Trench 109: Ditch [10902] (10901); Gully [10904] (10903); Ditch [10906] (10905); Ditch [10908] (10907).

Trench 110: Ditch [11001] (11002); Ditch [11003] (11004); Ditch [11009] (11010).

Trench 114: Gully [11403] (11402); Ditch [11405] (11404); Ditch [11407] (11408); Pit/Posthole [11409] (11410).

Trench 115: Shallow gully [11501] (11502); Shallow gully [11503] (11504);

Shallow gully/beam slot [11505] (11506); Spread/layer (11507); Pit [11508] (11509);

Ditch [11510] (11511), (11519); Gully [11512] (11513); Ditch [11514] (11515); Layer (11517);

Ditch [11516] (11518); Ditch [11520] (11521).

Trench 119: Post pit [11901] (11902); Gully terminus [11908] (11905).

Trench 120: Shallow ring gully [12001] (12002).

Trench 121: Roundhouse [12101] (12102); [12103] (12104).

Trench 122: Enclosure ditch [122005] (122006).

Trench 123: Pit [12304] (12305); Ditch [12306] (12307); Enclosure ditch [12313] (12309).

The pottery recovered from trenches within the Great Lawn accounts for almost 70% of the whole site assemblage by sherd count and weight, and 85% of the EVEs. It appears to be the focus of Roman settlement on the site, with evidence for Iron Age activity as well. A single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was also found in this area. Pottery was retrieved from eleven trenches, totalling 608 sherds, weighing 5.111kg, with an EVEs value of 5.78.

*Trench 104.* A small quantity (six sherds, 26g) of Iron Age pottery was recovered from two ditches in Trench 104. Ditch [10401] (10402) revealed two sherds of pottery comprising an SH3 fine shell-tempered ware jar or bowl with smoothed black surface; and a very fine grog/shell-tempered ware jar or bowl. Both vessels are probably late Iron Age in date. The rest of the material was recovered from Ditch [10411] (10412) and comprises grog/shell-tempered and quartz-tempered scored wares dating to the mid-late Iron Age; alongside a grog-tempered small ovoid/ellipsoid jar with a smoothed, almost burnished surface. This vessel is probably late Iron Age in date.

*Trench 105* contained a pit, [10501] (10502), from which a small sherd (1g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered. The sherd contains granitic rock inclusions and dates to c.AD450-700 (identification confirmed by N. Cooper). This was the only pottery recovered from Trench 105, and is the only Anglo-Saxon pottery present within the site assemblage.

*Trench 109.* The large ditch [10908] (10907) revealed only two sherds (35g) of pottery, comprising a local grey ware small jar or beaker and an oxidised burnt sandy grog-tempered ware jar (BOXGR). The BOXGR jar can be dated from the late 1st to the mid-2nd century, and the grey ware could easily be contemporary. The other three features form a sequence of inter-cutting ditches and gullies. The earliest ditch, [10906] (10905), contained a single sherd (19g) from a white sandy grog-tempered ware jar (WWGR) dating from the late 1st to the mid-2nd century. This ditch was truncated at its eastern side by a gully [10904] (10903), from which three sherds (11g) of pottery were recovered, comprising a grey ware jar, a black sandy ware cordoned jar or bowl, and a burnt white sandy ware jar or bowl (BWHSY). Again, the burnt white sandy ware dates from the late 1st to the mid-2nd century. Finally, both these features are truncated by a shallow ditch, [10902] (10901). Five sherds (70g) of pottery were

retrieved, comprising a grey ware jar with rounded out-curved rim and cordoned neck; an oxidised sandy grog-tempered ware (OXGR) jar or bowl and a burnt white sandy grog-tempered ware jar (BWHGR). As with the features above, the presence of sandy grog-tempered wares indicates a date from the late 1st century to the middle of the 2nd century.

*Trench 110.* A substantial pottery assemblage totalling 182 sherds weighing 1.597kg and with an EVEs value of 2.155, was recovered from three features within Trench 110. Two ditches, [11001] and [11009], appeared to be the earliest features identified. Fifty-nine sherds (466g) of pottery were recovered from Ditch [11001] (11002), ranging in date from the mid-late Iron Age to the middle of the 2nd century AD. The earliest vessel is a grog/shell-tempered (GRSH) scored ware jar, dating to the mid-late Iron Age. A GR1 grog-tempered ware jar with an everted rim is “transitional” and dates to the mid-1st century; whilst a shell-tempered ware storage jar with combed decoration and a samian ware Drag.18 plate from South Gaul, both date to the mid-late 1st century. There are also two “Belgic” style fine GR1 grog-tempered ware jars or bowls; one is carinated, the other is cordoned. These vessels date to *c.*AD20-60 and span the transition between the late Iron Age and the early Roman period during the middle part of the 1st century, and it is not uncommon to find pottery such as this with other “transitional” early Roman wares. The remaining material is all Roman and comprises a range of grey wares, black sandy wares and burnt sandy and grog-tempered wares (BOXSY, BOXGR, WWGR). The black sandy wares are jars or bowls, including a carinated vessel and an s-shaped necked jar with everted rim. Most of the grey wares fall under the miscellaneous GREY category, and include jars or bowls with cordons and burnished lines. The only rim is from a narrow mouthed squared-off everted rimmed jar with a cordon at the shoulder, suggesting late 1st-2nd century date. One grey ware jar is comparable to Northants/ Upper Nene Valley grey ware (MK14). Once again, the presence of local burnt sandy and grog-tempered wares indicates a date from the late 1st to the mid-2nd century, and overall there is nothing here to indicate a date beyond the middle of the 2nd century. The second ditch, [11009] (11010), revealed a further 11 sherds (58g) of pottery comprising a mid-late Iron Age grog/shell-tempered ware jar; an early Roman shell-tempered ware jar; grey ware including a jar or bowl base and a white sandy grog-tempered ware jar or bowl (WWGR). In this respect, the pottery is contemporary with the larger group found in Ditch [11001], as it also dates from the late 1st to the middle of the 2nd century overall.

The third feature in Trench 110 was a square pit, thought to be a wall foundation construction cut, [11003] (11004). The majority of the pottery from the trench was recovered from this feature, totalling 112 sherds weighing 1.073kg. As with the two ditches, most of the material ranges in date from the mid-late Iron Age to the middle of the 2nd century, however, a small quantity of slightly later material dating from the mid-late 2nd century and possibly into the 3rd century, is also present. The Iron Age pottery consists of grog-tempered and grog/shell-tempered scored wares, and there are also mid-1st century transitional grog-tempered and shell-tempered wares. Local burnt white sandy and sandy grog-tempered wares are present as well. The black sandy wares include a fine small jar or beaker with everted rim and incised diagonal lines, a beaker with an everted rim, and jars including a necked jar with ribbing on the neck. Local grey wares include a cordoned jar, s-shaped necked jar and a bowl with a triangular rim. In addition, there are white ware flagons or bowls. All these fabrics and forms suggest a date from the late 1st century to the middle of the 2nd century, in common with the two ditches. However, this feature is differentiated by the presence of small quantities of Black Burnished ware, Harrold shell-tempered ware and Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware. The two sherds of Black Burnished ware are from a jar, and can only be dated from *c.*AD120 onwards as there are no diagnostic features present. The Harrold shell-tempered ware jar has a rounded

out-curved rim, comparable to vessels from Phase 3 of the kiln excavations dating to the second half of the 2nd century (Brown 1994, 58, fig.26). Two colour-coated ware beakers from the Lower Nene Valley are the latest datable vessels. Both are severely abraded, though one has traces of grooves along the body. As the sherds are undiagnostic and abraded, it is not possible to closely date them by assigning a specific form, however, the production of colour-coated ware beakers was well established by the later 2nd century and a late 2nd-early 3rd century date is most likely (Perrin 1999, 87-94).

*Trench 114.* Seventy-two sherds (682g) of pottery was recovered from four features within Trench 114. Gully [11403] (11402) revealed only two sherds (18g) of pottery, comprising a Harrold shell-tempered ware jar with an everted rim and a Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware jar. The Harrold jar does not have a hooked rim associated with later products, and probably dates to the second half of the 2nd century or perhaps into the early 3rd century. The colour-coated ware jar is a later Nene Valley form, dating to the late 3rd-4th century (Howe *et al* 1980, 22-25; Brown 1994).

In contrast, Ditch [11405] (11404) produced five sherds (43g) of Iron Age pottery. The pottery comprises a fine shell tempered ware shouldered jar with an upright rim and three grog/shell-tempered ware jars, all dating to the mid-late Iron Age.

Ditch [11407] (11408) produced the largest quantity of pottery from this trench, (57 sherds, 535g). The pottery ranges in date from the mid-late Iron Age to the late 2nd-early 3rd century, similar to feature [11003] in Trench 110. The Iron Age pottery comprises jars or bowls in the GR grog, GRSH grog/shell and SH7 shell/ironstone/ other grits fabrics. The vessels can be dated to the mid-late Iron Age, apart from the grog/shell-tempered ware jar or bowl, which is thin walled, smooth and almost “Belgic” looking. This vessel dates to the late Iron Age. Other early fabrics include two grog-tempered ware combed jars dating to the mid-late 1st century, and multiple shell-tempered ware jars dating from the mid-1st century up to the mid-2nd century. Most of the remaining pottery comprises the by now familiar range of fabrics found within the other trenches in this area. A burnt oxidised sandy ware lid seated jar dates from the late 1st to mid-2nd century; the black sandy wares include a shouldered jar; a range of oxidised ware jars include a small jar or beaker with an everted rim dating to the late 1st-2nd century and the grey wares include a flask with a pulley-wheel rim. These fabrics and forms suggest a date within the 2nd century. The latest datable vessel is a small sherd (4g) from a Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware beaker dating to the late 2nd-early 3rd century.

Lastly, a pit or posthole [11409] (11410), revealed eight sherds (86g) of pottery comprising a grog/shell-tempered ware mid-late Iron Age jar; a burnt white sandy ware lid seated jar dating from the late 1st to the mid-2nd century; a shell-tempered ware plain rimmed dish and grey wares, including a jar base, dating to the 2nd century.

*Trench 115.* In total, 159 sherds of pottery weighing 1.945kg and with an EVEs value of 2.205, were recovered from a series of ditches, gullies and pits within Trench 115. Evidence for activity ranging from the mid-late Iron Age to the later Roman period was uncovered.

Stratigraphically, the first phase of activity was represented by a ditch, [11520] (11521), from which three sherds (24g) of pottery were recovered. The pottery is all grey ware, comprising a Lower Nene Valley grey ware jar or bowl, and two Northants/Upper Nene Valley grey ware vessels, including a cordoned jar. The latter dates to the late 1st-2nd century, whilst the Lower

Nene Valley grey ware dates from *c.*AD125 onwards, but could still date within the 2nd century.

A re-cut ditch [11510] (11519) (11511), represents the next phase of activity and 31 sherds (401g) of pottery were recovered from this feature. Twelve sherds (175g) were recovered from the ditch fill (11519). The earliest vessels are two mid-late Iron Age scored ware jars in the ST (stone grits) fabric. Early Roman pottery is also present, comprising a sandy ware (SA) jar or bowl dating to the mid-1st century, along with a shell-tempered ware jar or bowl dating from the mid-1st to the mid-2nd century. The latest datable vessel is a grey ware cordoned bowl decorated with finely incised circles and vertical lines; not dissimilar to London type wares dating from the late 1st to the mid-2nd century, however the fabric is comparable to Northants/Upper Nene Valley grey ware (MK14). This deposit is sealed by a layer/spread (11511), which produced 19 sherds (226g) of much later pottery comprising a mortarium and colour-coated wares from the Lower Nene Valley. The mortarium is a hammerhead form with orange painted bands on the flange dating from the mid-3rd to 4th century (Rollo 1994, 19-20). All the other sherds are colour-coated wares including beakers, bowls, jars and a dish confirming a late 3rd-4th century date for the deposit. Another large ditch in the same vicinity, [11516] (11518) produced only three sherds (52g) of pottery, comprising a white ware jar or bowl and a shell-tempered ware jar, both dating to the late 1st or 2nd century.

At the southern end of the trench, two shallow gullies were found. Gully [11503] (11504), revealed 12 sherds (61g) of pottery comprising a Central Gaulish samian ware Drag.31 bowl, a Black Burnished ware bowl or dish base, Harrold shell-tempered wares and grey wares. Together, these vessels suggest a date around the second half of the 2nd century, though the shell-tempered ware jars could date into the 3rd century (Brown 1994, 57-62). A further two sherds (15g) were recovered from gully [11505] (11506). The pottery comprises a fine grey ware jar and a Black Burnished ware bowl with intersecting arc decoration, indicating a date from the middle of the 2nd century onwards.

Another ditch [11512] (11513), possibly contemporary with the spread (11511) that sealed ditches [11520] and [11510], produced late Roman pottery comprising colour-coated ware dishes, jars and beakers from the Lower Nene Valley ranging in date from the late 2nd-early 3rd century through to the 4th century. Some earlier material was also present, including a 1st century shell-tempered ware roll-necked storage jar, and a grey ware bowl with a chamfered base dating to the late 1st-2nd century. All the pottery is abraded.

A mixed group of pottery was recovered from a layer (11517), consisting of 44 sherds weighing 694g. This layer is believed to have accumulated over layer (11511). The late Roman pottery comprises Nene Valley colour-coated wares along with some Harrold shell-tempered wares. Forms present include colour-coated dishes, flagons and beakers ranging in date from the late 2nd-early 3rd century to the 4th century; along with shell-tempered ware jars including two rims dating from the 3rd century onwards (Howe *et al* 1980; Brown 1994). The later pottery is abraded. The earliest material comprises South Gaulish samian ware and early Roman sandy wares (SA). The samian vessel is a Drag.18/31 dish dating to the late 1st century (Webster 1996, 35); whilst the sandy wares include a bowl with low carination and a necked jar, both dating to the mid-1st century. The grey wares include an s-shaped necked carinated and cordoned jar dating to the late 1st-2nd century. Finally, a burnt white sandy grog-tempered ware (BWHGR) lid seated jar dates from the late 1st to mid-2nd century.

Another spread/layer (11507) was excavated at the southern end of the trench, producing 11 sherds (229g) of pottery comprising a mixture of later Roman colour-coated wares and earlier material. The colour-coated wares are from the Lower Nene Valley, with forms such as a wide-mouthed jar or bowl and a flanged bowl indicating a late 3rd-4th century date (Howe *et al* 1980 24-25). The grey wares include a jar from the Lower Nene Valley indicating a date from c.AD125 to the 3rd century. Early Roman shell-tempered wares include a large storage jar dating from the mid-1st to the mid-2nd century. There is also one small sherd of mid-late Iron Age shell-tempered pottery with ironstone and other grits as additional inclusions (SH7).

Fourteen sherds (69g) of pottery were recovered from a shallow gully [11501] (11502), located at the northern end of the trench. The material comprises Nene Valley colour-coated wares, Harrold shell-tempered wares, samian ware, oxidised and grey wares. A late 3rd-4th century date can be suggested for this group overall, based on the colour-coated wares, which include a narrow-mouthed jar with pulley-wheel rim and a flanged bowl derived from the samian Drag.38 form (Howe *et al* 1980 22-25; Perrin 1999, 102-107). Shell-tempered wares comparable to those from the Harrold industry include an everted rimmed jar dating from the second half of the 2nd century, possibly into the 3rd century. Other 2nd century material includes a sherd of Central Gaulish samian ware from Lezoux, oxidised wares and grey wares, including a Lower Nene Valley grey ware jar or bowl. All the pottery is abraded and some of the 2nd century material, such as the samian ware, is probably residual.

Another small quantity of pottery was recovered from a pit [11508] (11509), comprising a Nene Valley colour-coated ware flagon or jar, a shell-tempered ware jar and a black sandy ware small jar base. The colour-coated ware indicates a 3rd or 4th century date, whilst the rest of the material could date from the middle of the 2nd century onwards.

The latest feature stratigraphically, was ditch [11514] (11515), from which 11 sherds (112g) of pottery were retrieved, again comprising a mix of earlier and later material. The latest datable vessel is a colour-coated ware bowl base from Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire red-slipped colour-coated wares tend to date to the 4th century outside of Oxfordshire (Young 1977, 133). Lower Nene Valley colour-coated wares dating from the 3rd century onwards are also present. The earlier pottery includes shell-tempered ware jars or bowls, grey ware jars or bowls, and a very small sherd of burnt oxidised sandy ware (BOXSY) dating from the late 1st to the mid-2nd century. All the pottery is abraded.

*Trench 119.* Fifty-three sherds (100g) of pottery dating to the mid-late Iron Age were recovered from two features within Trench 119. Most of the material was found in a post pit [11901] (11902), comprising a very fragmentary SH1/2 shell-tempered ware jar (50 sherds, 98g), along with a very small (1g) grog/shell-tempered ware sherd. Two small sherds (1g) of abraded SH7 were retrieved from a gully terminus [11908] (11905).

*Trench 120.* Thirty-one sherds (109g) of mid-late and late Iron Age pottery were recovered from a shallow ring gully [12001] (12002). A Qt quartz-tempered ware Elsdon Form 1 jar with an upright flattened rim and horizontal incised lines, is most likely late Iron Age in date. Two Elsdon Form 2 shouldered jars are present; the SH1/2 shell-tempered ware jar has an upright rim, whilst the GRSH grog/shell-tempered ware jar has an upright flattened rim with diagonal incised lines along the rim.

*Trench 121.* A more fragmentary group of Iron Age pottery was recovered from a roundhouse, [12101] (120102) and [12103] (12104), totalling 29 sherds (101g). Two fine shell-tempered

ware (SH3) jars probably date to the late Iron Age; along with one sherd of SH1/2 shell-tempered ware dating to the mid-late Iron Age. The rest of the pottery (26 sherds, 98g) was retrieved from [12103] (12104). A GR grog-tempered ware jar base has horizontal parallel lines/grooves and probably dates to the late Iron Age. Fine shell-tempered ware (SH3) jars and bowls, including a small necked vessel, also probably date to the late Iron Age. The rest of the material comprises miscellaneous vessels in GR grog-tempered ware, grog/shell-tempered ware, SH1/SH2 shell-tempered ware, Qt quartz tempered ware and the SH5 shell and ironstone fabric. These latter vessels can all be dated to the mid-late Iron Age.

*Trench 122.* One sherd (21g) of pottery was recovered from Enclosure ditch [122005] (122006). The vessel is a flanged bowl from Harrold in Bedfordshire, dating to the mid-late 2nd or 3rd century (Brown 1994, 57-62).

*Trench 123.* A group of 63 sherds (394g) of pottery was recovered from three features within Trench 123. Two sherds (12g) were retrieved from a pit [12304] (12305), comprising an SH1/SH2 shell-tempered scored ware jar; and a grog/shell-tempered ware Elsdon Form 1 jar with an upright, slightly everted rim. Ditch [12306] (12307) revealed 21 sherds (74g) of grog/shell-tempered ware, SH1/SH2 shell-tempered ware and Qt quartz-tempered ware jars dating to the mid-late Iron Age. One jar rim is present, an upright flattened rim belonging to a grog/shell-tempered ware Elsdon Form 1 jar. The outer surface of this vessel is really smooth and almost burnished, and it may date to the late Iron Age. Finally, 40 sherds (308g) of mid-late Iron Age pottery was recovered from an enclosure ditch [12313] (12309). The fabrics and forms present include an SH5 Form 1 jar; a grog/shell-tempered ware (GRSH) Form 3 slack shouldered jar with an upright flattened rim; and miscellaneous SH1/SH2 shell-tempered ware vessels, including a Form 3 shouldered jar with an upright flattened rim (as with the GRSH vessel above). Most of the SH1/SH2 material is severely abraded and fragmentary.

### **Statement of Potential**

There is evidence for activity on the site from the middle-late Iron Age through to the later Roman period in the 4th century AD, and even possibly some early Anglo-Saxon activity. The issues surrounding the preservation of Iron Age pottery in this area have been touched on, and the Roman material is in good condition overall, suggesting good potential for the recovery of a well-preserved pottery assemblage from any future excavations.

The nature of the pottery recovered and its spatial distribution clearly indicates the presence of both Iron Age and Roman settlement activity over a long period of time. Further work would provide an opportunity to explore the Iron Age settlement pattern across the site, including investigating the issue of settlement shifts and/or continuity through to the 1st century AD and the early Roman period. The low percentage of scored sherds may suggest a middle Iron Age element, whilst the finer SH3 material indicates a late Iron Age element within the Iron Age assemblage. The focus of Roman settlement appears to be the Great Lawn area, with some transitional early Roman and even a hint at some “Belgic” pottery recovered from Field 58. Further work would provide an opportunity to attempt to characterise the nature of activity at the site, and place it within its wider landscape regarding social and trading networks.

## The Fired Clay/Daub and Tile

*Jennifer R. McNulty*

### ***Fired Clay/Daub***

A total of 100 fragments weighing 2941g were recovered from 16 contexts. Six fragments of unstratified fired clay weighing 92g were also recovered and have been discarded. The fabric is consistently sandy with flint inclusions. Most of the assemblage were unidentifiable fragments with the most substantial group coming from context (10702). From there are multiple large, flat fragments from this context along with several fragments that have grooves for the wattle. Most of the fragments from this context also have organic, grass impressions. It seems likely that the fragments from this context demonstrate evidence for an oven structure with a light orange flat, or slightly domed, surface with perforations and a darker grooved underside (Poole, 2009:272-273). The results are detailed in Table 20.

Table 20, the fired clay/daub by context, weight (grams) and description

<b>Context</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comment</b>
10702		27	2191	Possible single oven furniture/structure with grooves and perforations	
10706		4	212	Miscellaneous frags with grooves and some organic impressions	
10901	10902	2	12	Miscellaneous fragments	Ditch
11002	11001	14	102	Miscellaneous fragments	Ditch Roman
11004	11003	3	9	Miscellaneous fragments	Ditch Roman
11408	11407	1	17	Miscellaneous fragments	Ditch Roman
11504	11503	6	19	Miscellaneous fragments	Shallow gully
11507					
11509	11508	2	12	Miscellaneous fragments	Pit feature Roman
11511	11510	5	84	Miscellaneous fragments, 1 frag with right angle and 1 frag with groove	Ditch feature Roman
12102		1	5	Miscellaneous fragments	

14402	14401	2	24	Miscellaneous fragments	
16002	16001	2	19	Miscellaneous fragments	Ditch
23501		14	60	Miscellaneous fragments	
24406	24405	10	12	Miscellaneous fragments	Ditch
24505	24506	2	19	Miscellaneous fragments	Ring ditch
24608	24607	5	144	Miscellaneous fragments	Ditch

### ***Tile***

A total of 14 fragments of Roman tile weighing 321g were recovered from seven contexts. Only two fragments were identifiable, one as tegula and one as wall tile. The remaining were too fragmentary to identify. These fragments may demonstrate evidence for Roman structures in the area. The results are detailed in Table 21.

Table 21, the tile by context, count weight (grams) description

<b>Context</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comment</b>
11402	11401	2	50	1 unidentifiable frag, 1 tegula	Gully Roman
11502	11501	2	9	Unidentifiable fragments	Shallow gully Roman
11511	11510	3	150	2 unidentifiable frags, 1 wall tile	Ditch feature Roman
11513	11512	1	14	Unidentifiable fragment	Gully Roman
11515	11514	1	24	Unidentifiable fragment	Ditch Roman
11517		4	70	Unidentifiable fragments	Layer
11518	11516	1	4	Unidentifiable fragment	Ditch Roman

### **Potential**

The recovered fired clay/daub from this site demonstrates a good assemblage of dated and stratified deposits. The fragments from context (10702) form an interesting assemblage of a possible single oven structure with multiple organic impressions and wattle grooves. The average sherd weight from this context alone is 81.1g, which is substantially higher than the assemblages from the rest of the contexts (the next highest average sherd weight is 28.8g from context (24608)). This demonstrates that there is good potential at this site for further



exploration of daub oven structures. The presence of tile fragments also suggests that there is potential for the further recovery of ceramic building materials in the area. Both of these avenues will add to our understanding of the social and economic activities.

## The Metal workings debris

*Heidi Addison*

### Introduction and Methodology

A total of 2817g of industrial residues were collected from nine contexts during the excavation. The assemblage was subject to visual identification (with the aid of a rock saw for one of the samples), and weighed by context as detailed in Table 22, and summarised by material in Table 23. In addition a magnet was used to detect the presence of hammer scale from bulk soil samples, but in this instance none was found.

### Results

Table 22 Quantified record of the material by context

Context	Weight (g)	Description
10001	2134	1 amorphous lump of fayalite with large charcoal/organic impressions and cavities. The section shows some porosity in a mid-grey fayalite matrix though relatively dense. Some oxidised iron in the centre.
	244	3 fragments fayalite tap slap. Dense, mid-grey with flowed surface.
10402	3	1 fragment of fuel ash
10404	12	1 fragment of Fe
10502	40	2 fragments of fayalite hearth slag with Fe corrosion products
11410	7	1 fragment off vitrified hearth/furnace lining-partially oxidised and fuel ash glazing
13902	2	1 fragment of reduced ceramic hearth lining
17502	45	1 fragment natural ironstone
24410	233	35 fragments of fuel ash-vitreous-light grey.
24608	97	A right-angle fragment of vitrified hearth lining with organic impression.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2817</b>	

Table 23 Quantified list by material

#### Quantified list by material

Fe fayalite smelting slag	2378g
Fe fayalite smithing slag	40 g
Fuel ash	236g

Hearth lining	106g
Fe fragment	12g
Natural ironstone	45g

## Discussion

The excavation produced a small assemblage of industrial residues indicative of iron working and iron extraction with context (10001) providing the only evidence for iron smelting activity using the bloomery process. The three fragments of tap slag 244g have a typically flowed appearance, formed when the slag exited the furnace through a tapping arch in a semi-molten state. The furnace type with a tapping arch is generally assigned from the Roman period (Paynter 2007, 209). The large sample 2134g from context (10001) is probably smelting residue given the colour, density and its association with smelting tap slag, though not a definitively lenticular basal form, perhaps due to breakage in antiquity (Figure 64). The underside of the sample has small stones attached, further indicating its probable place at the bottom of a furnace, with the assumption that the furnace lacked the facility to tap the molten residue, and therefore descended to the bottom. The charcoal used has been burnt out leaving impressions and larger cavities suggesting a temperature of a furnace rather than a smithing hearth. Non-tapping furnaces are thought to be of a pre-Roman date (Paynter 2007, 209). Unfortunately no pottery was found associated with the smelting material but the nearby contexts are of Iron Age date.

Evidence for iron smithing comprises only hearth slag (40g) from (10502) which produced a sherd of pottery of an early Anglo-Saxon date. A fragment of iron 12g was retrieved from context (10404) but no other datable finds were present. Paltry amounts of vitrified hearth lining were excavated, 2g from (13902) a mid-late Iron Age boundary ditch and, 7g from a Roman gully feature (11410) dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century. Of a greater note is a right-angled fragment of vitrified daub, probably part of a hearth structure, retrieved from a ditch feature (24608) but did not produce any pottery, although contexts close by are of Iron Age date (Figure 65). Additionally, a small quantity of fuel ash 236g from contexts (10402) and (24410) indicates a high temperature activity, though one which cannot be established.



Figure 73 probable smelting residue



Figure 74 Right-angled daub fragment

## The Flint

*Lynden Cooper*

Some 21 pieces of worked flint were recovered. The raw material is semi-translucent flint of grey-brown colour with a thin cortex. It is till-derived in origin. No tools were recovered. The debitage is of flake technology and a general Neolithic-Bronze Age date is indicated.

Table 24 Flint

Context	Type
unstrat	2ry flake
unstrat	2ry flake
8306	3ry blade (not true)
11507	2ry flake
11904	3ry flake
13902	Flake frag
13902	3ry flake
13902	2ry flake
13902	Flake frag
14202	core
14701	2ry flake
14706	2ry flake
14706	2ry flake
14710	2ry flake
21412	core
21804	2ry flake
21804	2ry flake
21804	3ry flake, calcined
22202	2ry flake
24404	2ry flake
24608	2ry flake

## **The Small Finds**

*Nicholas J. Cooper*

Eleven objects were recovered from Trenches 107, 115, 119 and 246, ranging in date from the Iron Age to the late medieval, as catalogued below.

### **Objects of Household Use**

#### ***Roman vessel glass***

1) Sf 48 (11515). Associated with pottery of 4th century date. Small fragment from a thin-bodied (1mm), slightly bubbly colourless blue-green glass vessel, with an applied flat blob, perhaps part of a handle attachment. Too small a fragment to identify a form, but possibly from a jug of 2nd or 3rd century date.

#### ***Whetstone***

2) (11902). Associated with pottery of mid-late Iron Age date. Tapering length of fine grey sandstone of ovoid section with one surface slightly flatter and all surfaces worn. Length 66mm, width 22mm. This probably represents opportunistic use of natural pebble rather than a manufactured whetstone.

#### ***Saddle quern***

3) (11905) Associated with Iron Age pottery. Near complete saddle quern, with damage to one end, utilising a gritstone boulder (quartz crystals 1-2mm in size). Lower surface uneven, upper surface worn and slightly concave though use. Length 300mm, width 160mm, height 90mm).

### **Fastenings and fittings**

#### ***Iron nails***

Fragments from two handmade nails of Roman date, of Manning's (1985) Type 1, were recovered, as used in carpentry and roofing during the period and suggesting existence of building in the vicinity.

4) Sf49 (10702). Iron nail or stud head with upper part of square-sectioned shaft preserved. Width of head 25mm.

5) Sf50 (11517). Iron nail shaft (51mm), tapering and of square section.

#### ***Worked bone fitting***

6) Sf 47 (24608). Undated context. Short length of worked bone of square section, broken at both ends and along two long edges. Two polished long surfaces at right angles preserved. Broken length 27mm, broken width 5mm. A rather undiagnostic fragment but possibly part of a box or furniture fitting.

## Transport

### *Horseshoes*

One complete and fragments of four other iron horseshoes of later medieval date were recovered from (24609). Two other horseshoes of later medieval date came from Trench 41 during phase one of the evaluation, associated with the hunting lodge. The shoes are described using terminology from Clark (1986). Similar examples from Exeter found in contexts dating from the 15th to 16th centuries (Goodall 1984, 337, fig. 189.37-47).

7) (24609). Complete iron horseshoe with wide web (40mm on one branch and 30mm on the other). Right-angled calkin on the heel tip of the wider branch. No holes or nails apparent without x-ray, but holes assumed to be square and probably three to four on each branch. Width 110mm, length 120mm.

8) (24609) Near-complete iron horseshoe, with heel of one branch missing. Two rectangular-headed nails, one on each side of the toe are *in situ*. No other holes visible without x-ray. Web width 28mm. Width 113mm, length 106mm.

9) (24609) Branch and toe of iron horseshoe (tip of heel missing) with two rectangular-headed nails *in situ*. No other holes visible without x-ray. Web width 28mm.

10) (24609) Complete branch of iron horseshoe. One rectangular-headed nail *in situ*. No other holes visible without x-ray. Web width 26mm. Very thin and worn shoe probably re-used many times.

11) (24609) Heel fragment with thickened calkin. No holes visible without x-ray. Web width 32mm.

## The Animal Bone

Emily Banfield

### *Introduction and methods*

This report presents the results of an assessment of faunal remains recovered during archaeological excavation undertaken at West Corby, Northamptonshire. Activity at the site is divided into two broad phases; Iron Age, and Roman, through association with dated pottery sherds. It should be noted that some contexts evidence overlap between phases, although sub-phases have been identified within each of these broad periods, which would permit analysis at a finer temporal resolution, should the site progress to excavation. Species representation was assessed, with counts of numbers of individual fragments (NSP) and numbers of individual specimens (NISP) recorded. Surface preservation and completeness of individual elements together with evidence for butchery, burning, gnawing, and pathologies were noted to assess preservation and diagnostic potential. Records were made of measurable bones, mandibles, loose third molars, and deciduous fourth molars that would provide useful ageing data. Numbers of fused and unfused bones were also noted for their potential to inform on ageing, in order to assess the potential of the assemblage to provide ageing and biometrical information. The assemblage

The assemblage comprises 1085 fragments (NSP) amounting to 1042 bone specimens (NISP) recovered from 58 contexts (Table 25). Based on NISP, 10% is identifiable to taxon and 40% identifiable to taxon and broad size class, a consequence of high fragmentation; just seven specimens representing under one percent of the total assemblage excluding loose teeth were complete.

Table 25: Animal bone representation per phase (NISP)

Phase	No. contexts	NISP	% of assemblage
Iron Age	15	304	29
Roman	14	420	40
Undated	29	313	30
U/S		5	1

Preservation of the assemblage can be characterised as fair to poor, with no specimens from any phase falling within the ‘excellent’ category (Table 26). This appears largely a consequence of the impact of plant root action and surface abrasion, potentially obscuring evidence for bone modification, which is discussed further below.

Table 26: Animal bone preservation per phase (NISP)

Preservation	Iron Age	Roman	Undated	U/S	All phases
Excellent					
Good	10	13	15		38
Fair	166	295	130		591
Poor	128	112	168	5	413

### *Taxonomic diversity*

Horse, cattle, pig, sheep/goat, dog and roe deer are represented alongside remains identified to large, medium and small mammal size categories (Table 27). Of the identified taxa, cattle remains dominate all broad phases. Horse appears well represented in the Iron Age, although this is a consequence of a set of loose dentition from a single context, which appear to pertain to a single individual. Numbers of sheep/goat specimens double moving from Iron Age to Roman contexts, whilst numbers of pig remain fairly consistent, and very low. The small size of the identified sample restricts meaningful interpretation at this stage.

Table 27: Taxonomic representation per phase

Taxon/Phase	Iron Age	Roman	Undated	U/S	All phases
Horse	6	3	1		10
Cattle	15	24	23		62
Pig	1	3	2		6
Sheep/goat	5	11	12		28
Dog		2			2
Roe deer			1		1
Large mml	63	84	62		209
Medium mml	25	38	36	2	101
Small mml		1			1
Indeterminate	189	254	176	3	622

*Age at death and biometric information*

High levels of fragmentation and suboptimal preservation, together with the low numbers of specimens identifiable to taxon has resulted in a very limited suite of data from which to glean age at death and biometrical information. Fusion data were recorded for two percent of the assemblage, and just three mandibles were available for analysis of dental eruption and wear (Table 4). These numbers are too low to permit full analysis and interpretation of husbandry practices beyond that regarding age at death of the individuals represented. The presence of three loose sheep/goat third molars do add to the dataset, although all pertain to undated contexts. Just four specimens were sufficiently complete to enable collection of a full suite of standard measurements (Driesch 1976), but included in the counts detailed (Table 28) are bones sufficiently complete to allow limited recording, thereby increasing the available dataset.

Table 28: Potential for obtaining mortality profiles and biometric data

Taxa		Iron Age	Roman	Undated	U/S	Total
Horse	Mandible	0	0	0	0	0
	Identified loose dentition	6	0	0	0	6
	Fused epiphyses	0	1	0	0	1
	Fusing epiphysis	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfused epiphyses	0	0	0	0	0
	Measurable bones	0	0	0	0	0
Cattle	Mandible	0	1	0	0	1
	Loose 3rd molar/deciduous 4th molar	0	0	0	0	0
	Fused epiphyses	4	4	3	0	11
	Fusing epiphysis	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfused epiphyses	1	2	0	0	3
	Measurable bones	4	1	2	0	7
Pig	Mandible	0	1	0	0	1
	Loose 3rd molar/deciduous 4th molar	0	0	0	0	0
	Fused epiphyses	0	0	0	0	0
	Fusing epiphysis	1	0	0	0	1
	Unfused epiphyses	0	0	0	0	0
	Measurable bones	1	0	0	0	1
Sheep/goat	Mandible	0	0	1	0	1
	Loose 3rd molar/deciduous 4th molar	0	0	3	0	3
	Fused epiphyses	0	1	0	0	1
	Fusing epiphysis	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfused epiphyses	0	1	0	0	1
	Measurable bones	1	1	0	0	2

*Modification*

Evidence for butchery was present in one percent of specimens from the Iron Age assemblage, and a fraction of one percent in the Roman assemblage (Table 29). Butchery may be a contributing factor to the high levels of fragmentation observed, but coupled with poor preservation, further evidence seems likely obscured. Gnawing was also noted in low percentages in each of the broad phase based assemblages, and a single pathological specimen identified in the Roman group. Taphonomic factors have here – once again – potential to mask such evidence. Burning is a feature of the Iron Age, Roman, and undated assemblages, affecting five percent of the former two, and two percent of the latter. Specimens were characteristically small, fragmentary and unidentifiable to taxon or element.

Table 29: Evidence for bone modification

Modification	Iron Age		Roman		Undated		U/S	
	No.	% Iron Age assemblage	No.	% Roman assemblage	No.	% Undated assemblage	No.	% Unstrat. assemblage
Butchery	3	1	2	0.5	0	0	0	0

Burnt Bones	16	5	19	5	5	2	0	0
Gnawing	3	1	9	2	4	1	0	0
Pathology	0	0	1	0.25	0	0	0	0

### *Analytical potential*

The faunal assemblage recovered from the assessment excavation at West Corby, Northamptonshire comprises 1042 specimens (NISP), but with just 10% identifiable to taxon, a consequence of high fragmentation and poor preservation, its size is insufficient to permit meaningful analysis of husbandry practices and mortality profiles that reach beyond the scale of the individual animal. Further excavation may offer potential for recovery of additional samples, which could increase the dataset to enable the development a more refined understanding of the site, and provide a better understanding of changes in animal management and exploitation through time. However, the impact of taphonomy would seem to present potential limitations and must be factored in to any decisions.

## **The Environmental Remains**

*Rachel Small and Adam Santer*

### **Introduction**

During the second phase of archaeological excavation at West Corby, twenty-three bulk environmental soil samples (121 to 143) were taken and processed for the analysis of charred plant remains. Seventeen of the samples came from Iron Age features, whilst the remaining six came from Roman features, and included ditch, gully and pit fills, a spread, wall footing and cremation deposit. The analysis of the charred plant remains recovered from these samples are presented here, together with a discussion of what they can potentially tell us about the diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site through time.

### **Methodology**

All of the samples were a silty clay and were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flot) were transferred into plastic boxes and left to air dry before being sorted for plant remains under a x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were air dried and the fractions over 4mm were sorted in their entirety. The under 4mm fraction were sorted for metal working waste by running a magnet over the material and collecting the material that was attracted (the results of this are presented in a separate report). The 4 to 2mm fraction of the cremation deposit was also sorted for human bone (this is presented in a separate report). Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991). The plant remains were counted as follows: each whole grain and fragments which included an embryo were counted as one; for chaff, each glume base was counted as one; and for seeds each fragment was counted as one (identifications and counts are listed in table 1).

### **Results**

Sixteen of the samples (70%) did not contain any charred plant remains. These samples were from a variety of features which dated to both the Iron Age and Roman periods and included a



fill (11907) of a cremation. Trench 56 was the only area sampled which did not contain charred plant remains, however, this could be due to that fact that only one sample was taken.

Seven of the samples (121, 122, 127, 132, 134, 135 and 139) contained charred plant remains. This included pit fills, ditch fills and a wall footing, dating to both the Iron Age and Roman periods. The samples were of a low density, six contained less than one item per litre, but sample 134, a wall footing/robber fill, dating to the Roman period contained more, 4.88 items per litre (this sample was taken from the area of the ‘Green Lawn’).

The six samples which contained low densities contained cereal grain fragments which could not be identified to species. Three wild seeds were present, a pale persicaria/red-shank (*Polygonum lapathifolium/persicaria* L.) seed, which is typical of arable and disturbed land, and two large grass seeds, which inhabit a variety of habitats (Stace 1991). Sample 134, which contained a moderate density of remains, was dominated by wheat (*Triticum* spp.) glume bases, these were abraded and therefore identification to species was not possible. Five cereal grains were also present and it was possible to identify one as glume wheat.

### Comparison to previous work

A previous evaluation was carried at the site in 2016 and this was located to the south of the current trenching, and nine samples dating to the Iron Age were collected from a range of features including gullies, pits, ditches and hearths. These were assessed (see Small 2016) and a higher proportion of the samples contained charred plant remains (78%), when compared to the second phase. However, the density of remains in the samples was low, similar to phase two (under five items per litre). The composition of the samples was slightly different to those collected in phase two, as chaff fragments were more commonly found (present in four out of the seven samples) and it was possible to identify a small proportion as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L.). Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) grains were also present and dock (*Rumex* spp.), chickweed (*Stellaria media* L.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.) and vetch (*Vicia* spp.) seeds, the latter are all typical of agricultural and disturbed lands. The composition and density of samples is similar to other Iron Age and Roman sites listed in Monckton (2011, 134) such as Kirby Muxloe and Stamford Road, Leicestershire.

Table 30 assessment of charred plant remains present in the samples

Sample	Context	Trench	Cut	Feature Description	Period	Litres	Plant remains
21	7403	74	7401	Upper fill of domestic ring ditch	Iron Age	8	1 x cereal grain 1 x large Poaceae = 0.25 items per litre
22	14503	51	14501	Domestic waste and charcoal in pit	Iron Age	14	1 x cereal grain = 0.07 items per litre
23	21402	56	21401	Fill of ditch by round house	Iron Age	9	Absent
23	21402	56	21401	Fill of ditch by round house	Iron Age	9	Absent
24	11517	123		Layer spread humic organic	Roman	8	Absent
25	11002	123	11001	Ditch upper fill	Roman	9	Absent

26	12307	123	12306	Ring gully domestic refuse	Iron Age	8	Absent
27	10406	123	10405	Shallow pit domestic	Iron Age	9	1 x cereal grain = 0.1 items per litre
28	11907	123	11906	Cremation	Iron Age?	10	Absent
29	11408	123	11407	Ditch fill domestic	Roman	17	Absent
30	12004	123	12003	Ring ditch gully domestic	Iron Age	9	Absent
31	12104	123	12103	Ring ditch gully domestic	Iron Age	6	Absent
32	10907	123	10908	Ditch fill domestic	Roman	8	2 x cereal grain/large Poaceae = 0.25 items per litre
33	10702	123	10701	Spread feature? Daub industrial?	Roman	18	Absent
34	11008	123	11007	Wall footing/robber fill	Roman	8	1 x <i>Triticum</i> sp. (glume wheat) grain 4 x cereal grain 34 x <i>Triticum</i> spp. glume base (fragmentary) = 4.88 items per litre
35	10412	123	10411	Ditch	Iron Age	17	1 x <i>Polygonum lapathifolium/persicaria</i> L. 1 x large Poaceae seed = 0.12 items per litre
36	10402	123	10401	Ring ditch gully roundhouse	Iron Age	7	Absent
37	10502	123	10501	Pit traces of Fe slag industrial	Iron Age	16	Absent
38	12309	123	12313	Ditch domestic refuse	Iron Age	16	Absent
39	24505	58	24506	Ditch fill domestic refuse	Iron Age	25	1 x cereal grain fragment = 0.04 items per litre
40	24512	58	24511	Pit domestic	Iron Age	19	Absent
41	24602	58	24601	Ditch domestic	Iron Age	18	Absent
42	10704	123	10703	Pit fill charcoal rich	Iron Age	10	Absent
43	24410	58	24409	Ditch fill slag charcoal Industrial	Iron Age	15	Absent

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that glume wheat (spelt) was processed at the site in the Iron and Roman periods. Sample 134, which dated to the Roman period was dominated by glume bases, and this is typical of a fine sieving residue (fine sieving is a later stage of processing the grain for consumption and glume bases are a by-product of this process - Van der Veen 2007, 987). The other samples also contained residues from processing grain (glume bases and wild seeds) but also consumption waste (burnt grain), they represent mixed deposits (ibid.). Glume bases

formed a larger spread in the first evaluation (they were present in more samples), however, sample 134 from phase two, had a denser concentration, an explanation for this is not yet clear (no other differences between feature type, area or time period were noted for the assemblage). It is likely because of the low density of charred plant remains, that processing was only carried out on a small-scale on a day to day basis over time (this is considered typical - see Monckton 2011, 135). Barley, along with spelt, was likely consumed, however, there is no clear evidence for its processing as no chaff was present (however, absence may be due to poor preservation as free-threshing chaff more readily burns/degrades – Boardman and Jones 1990). Little information was gained as to the field conditions in which the crops were grown or the surrounding environment as the wild seeds present had a wide tolerance range (see Hill et al 1999).

### **Suggestion for further work**

The assemblage has a low density of plant remains and is of a poor preservation. This is typical of many other rural sites in the East Midlands dating to this period. Despite the larger number of samples and the greater volumes processed, compared to phase one, it was still only possible to draw limited conclusions. Based on this, it is not believed that further work will significantly add to the interpretation of the site or help to address current regional research aims, such as gaining a greater understanding of the diversity in expansion of agricultural and the relative importance of crops in the Iron Age (Monckton 2006, 272). Therefore, further work is not advised.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation results have shown that well-preserved archaeological remains are present across the development area. Archaeological features were found in 46 of the 187 excavated trenches. Similar to the picture presented by the last evaluation the latest trenching has helped confirm the interpretations of the geophysical survey, but has also added information by discovering remains that were not previously revealed, in the apparently 'blank' areas. The picture appears to be one of an archaeological landscape containing several core settlement areas, within a network of landscape boundaries and smaller areas of occupation.

In general the depth of the trenches was very shallow (less than 0.30m on average) and the majority of trenches displayed no evidence for a subsoil horizon. It is thought that recent plough damage has removed the subsoil and truncated archaeological features surviving just below the modern surface.

Truncation by modern ploughing may have occurred to archaeological features within Field 56 which were generally very shallow in depth. In other fields archaeological survival appears relatively good, for example the trample surfaces or spreads in Trench 115 Great Lawn and the stone-cobble surface found in Trench 246 Field 58, which all lie only just beneath the modern surface. Similar relatively good areas of archaeological survival were also revealed during the Phase 1 evaluation. It is thought that such survival is likely to be a result of the relatively late date for Parliamentary Enclosure of the area, resulting in a more limited period of cultivation (Thomas 2016). However the shallow depth encountered across all the fields in this phase of the evaluation provides a good indication of the vulnerability of the archaeology and the potential for damage from modern ploughing and the development proposals.

### ***Earlier Prehistoric Activity***

A small collection of worked flint in the form of debitage was recovered during the evaluation. The material was generally flake technology associated with Neolithic-Bronze Age activity, all of these flakes had become incorporated into the fills of later features. They indicate the presence of a background scatter relating to earlier activity across the evaluation area and raise the possibility that as yet undetected features associated with the Bronze Age finds may exist.

### ***Iron Age Activity***

Two core areas of Iron Age settlement were found within the development area. This comprised several widespread concentrations of archaeological remains located in Field 58 and the 'Great Lawn'.

In Field 58 two areas of Iron Age settlement consisting of roundhouses and other features, lay close to one another and may represent either separate phases, or parts of the same wider occupation area.

The more northerly cluster in this field appeared to be a continuation of the large linear spread of Iron Age occupation located to the east, and confirmed by the first evaluation, in the field known as 'The Wood'. The continuing spread of geophysical anomalies into Field 58 had

indicated roundhouses, enclosures and other associated features. This second phase of evaluation had also targeted these anomalies and confirmed their Iron Age date but also proved that the archaeology of this settlement spread was more complex than expected. The geophysical survey results did not represent the full density and complexity of the archaeological remains, which were found to consist of several overlapping phases of settlement activity. Several roundhouses were identified, along with enclosure ditches and associated pits/post holes, many of which produced quantities of Iron Age pottery, animal bone and heat-cracked stones, all indicative of domestic activity.

Towards the southern end of the Field 58 trenches were placed across a linear geophysical anomaly representing a possible ditch or boundary on SE to NW alignment. Sample trenches revealed the presence another cluster Iron Age features which displayed at least one roundhouse and associated ditches at the centre of the field, perhaps indicating an enclosed settlement in contrast with the 'open' settlement remains to the north. 'Belgic'-style Iron Age pottery, associated with the cluster of activity to the south, may indicate a slightly later date for the activity on this part of the field and therefore may be a different settlement area altogether.

Towards the northwest and northeast corners of the field on the crest of a hill two clusters of geophysical anomalies were thought to represent a series of overlapping ditches and enclosures associated with settlements.

The cluster of geophysical anomalies located in the northeast corner was previously thought to be an area of Roman occupation and this was confirmed by the evaluation. However in addition the presence of Iron Age pottery in Roman features and other areas of potential Iron Age features suggest earlier occupation of the same location. Another group of features excavated in the northwest corner of the field targeted another concentration of geophysical anomalies. These proved to represent Iron Age settlement activity defined by a series of ditches and probable roundhouses that corresponded with a concentration of geophysical anomalies, and probably indicate another focus of habitation.

Iron Age activity in the form of ditches, pits and possible structural evidence was also revealed in other areas of the 'Great Lawn'. These activity areas were located off the crest of hill on a south facing slope and had not previously been revealed by the geophysical survey. Excavations uncovered a cluster of activity in the southwest corner of the field that was represented by a series of ditches, pits and post holes and probably eaves drip gullies associated with roundhouses. Another focus of habitation was found within the south east corner of the 'Great Lawn' which appeared to spread further east into the 'Little Lawn' field. There appeared to be a scatter of ditches and pits associated with Iron Age pottery and animal bone and may have been associated with the settlement remains. Traces of industrial residues in the form of fuel ash and fragments of iron perhaps associated with metal working were also present. This may represent a separate phase of occupation or a specific activity zone associated with the larger settlements.

Away from these three main core areas of settlement remains, several large-scale linear features crossed the northern and western parts of the area, running through Fields 49, 50, 51, 52 and 56.

Geophysical anomalies within these fields located northwest corner of the development area suggested a potential boundary ditches running on SE to NW alignment Fields 49, 50, 51 and 52. These features were thought to have reflected the presence of large boundaries dividing

areas of the landscape between zones of settlement. Sample excavations in these fields confirmed the presence of these ditches and some were large multi-phased features displaying re-cuts indicating clearances or remodelling. Some of the ditches appeared to have as their earliest phase, a series of pits as their primary cut which potentially indicates that pit alignments formed original boundary before they were recut as a complete ditch.

In Field 51 a scatter of archaeological features was identified in the apparently blank area located to the east of the field boundary. As with the other Iron Age remains an assemblage of pottery, animal bone and heat-cracked stones was associated with the excavated features and within some of the boundary ditches. This suggests a potential for an enclosed settlements associated with large boundary ditches and contrast with the 'open' settlement remains to the south located in Fields 58 'The Wood'

Evidence was also discovered for smaller scale Iron Age settlement activity, sometimes in association with the large boundaries, indicating widespread use of the landscape during this period.

In the north and north-west corner of Field 53 a scatter of archaeological features indicated another Iron Age settlement that comprised a domestic area consisting of a single roundhouse and associated ditches and another area produced set of ditches with some filled abundant heat-cracked stones suggesting another area of activity.

On the west side of the development area within Field 55 geophysical anomalies within this field a potential boundary ditches running on SE to NW alignment and believed to be large boundaries dividing areas of the landscape between zones of settlement. Another domestic settlement comprising of a roundhouse and enclosure ditches was found on the east side of the boundary

At the centre of Field 56 the excavation revealed another set of geophysical anomalies that were possible boundary ditches dividing up the landscape believed to be dated to the Iron Age period. At extreme north end of the development area within access road area sample excavation indicated the presence of curvilinear ditch perhaps associated roundhouse which contained Iron Age pottery and animal bone indicative of domestic activity. Thought to be indicating the potential for another Iron Age settlement within this area

The Iron Age archaeology represented in the Phase 2 evaluation was very similar to the Phase 1 area and has great potential to provide important information on settlement and land use during the First Millennium BC in an area of the county that has seen little previous archaeological work. The spread of settlement activity indicates broadly contemporary occupation on a landscape scale within a network of land divisions and other activity areas. A relatively large assemblage of Iron Age pottery in the East Midlands scored ware tradition was recovered, as well as animal bone, fired clay, a small amount of metalworking debris and environmental remains of crop-processing. All of these results indicate that sufficient evidence survives to establish a better understanding of the date and character of the Iron Age occupation represented across the evaluation area.

### ***Roman Settlement***

A major settlement core area was located within the 'Great Lawn' field and this largely corresponded to an area of geophysical anomalies on the crest of a hill. The survey had indicated a dense number magnetic anomalies that were suggesting overlapping multi-phased enclosures and internal features. A previous fieldwalking survey, undertaken on this field in the 1980's, had also retrieved Roman pottery from the approximate same location.

A number of trenches targeted the cluster of geophysical anomalies and excavation revealed numerous dense areas of phased Roman remains that occupied the full length of some of the trenches. The archaeological features were identified as either ditches, gullies which may have functioned as enclosures or drainage. Other features were potential timber beam slots, surfaces and robbed wall foundations associated potential buildings. Associated pottery finds reflected activity from the late 1st to early 2nd century through to the 3rd and 4th century AD.

At the centre of one of the trenches excavation revealed a highly complex a multi-phased complex archaeological remains that comprised a series of layers and spreads and ditches. The first phase comprised a large ditch that is later re-cut and cleared both cuts contained pottery sherds dated late 1st or early 2nd century AD.

A second phase appears to suggest the two large ditches at the centre of the trench that were backfilled and deliberately sealed by a layer of stone rubble. Trample surfaces appear to have accumulated over the backfilled ditches which contained domestic waste that included 3rd to 4th century AD Roman pottery sherds and animal bone. This was followed by a third and final phase comprised a shallow ditch which cut the trample surfaces which was dated to the 4th century AD.

Overall the evaluation of this area indicates an extensive and long lived settlement throughout the Roman period. Archaeological features dating to the Late Iron Age were also found in the trenches, suggesting that settlement was established at this time and continued into the Roman period.

An additional Roman ditch was found within Field 58 containing pottery sherds dated to transitional period of late 1st century AD. Located within Iron Age settlement this feature provides further evidence to suggest that there is continuity of occupancy within the development area from the middle to late Iron Age then carrying on into the Roman period

The Roman archaeology represented in the evaluation area has great potential to provide important information on settlement and land use from late 1st century transitional period and right through to early 4th century. In this area to the west of Corby little previous archaeological work in this period has taken place. The only other notable known Roman sites that have been investigated in the locality is the site of Roman Villa at Weldon located east of Corby and a section Roman Road in Hazel Wood located towards centre of Corby.

The spread of Roman settlement activity appears to be broadly centred in the 'Great Lawn' area which dates from late 1st century to early 4th century AD. An additional potential Roman settlement was found with Field 58 and dates from the late 1st century. Both settlements overlap Iron Age settlements and have potential to provide important information about

possible continuity and transition of settlement and land use from the Iron Age to the Roman period.

As was the case with the Iron Age period the Roman features provided a quantity of animal bone, fired clay, a small amount of metalworking debris and environmental remains of crop-processing. All of these results indicate that sufficient evidence survives to establish a better understanding of the date and character of the Roman occupation represented across the evaluation area.

### ***Anglo Saxon Activity***

In the south east corner of the 'Great Lawn' a small shallow pit produced a single sherd of Anglo Saxon pottery along with evidence for iron smiting in form hearth slag. The only other evidence of Anglo Saxon activity found within the area is single possible annular glass bead that represents Anglo Saxon activity from the area (HER Monuments Record **MNN102368**) (Kipling 2015). This was located towards the southeast corner of the development area within Field 62.

### ***Medieval/Post Medieval Activity***

On the east side of Field 58 an Iron Age ditch was sealed by what was thought to be post medieval surface or track comprising angular limestone blocks imbedded in mid yellow containing a concentration of iron horse shoes. It is thought that the track way or surface is associated with hunting lodge found during the Phase 1 evaluation. This lodge was located directly to the south-east the western edge of 'The Wood' excavations had revealed foundations trenches and enclosures ditches associated with a hunting lodge dated to 15th/17th century.

### **Publication**

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Appendix 1). A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

### **Archive**

The site archive will be held, *under Events Number ENN 108 443*.

The site archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 87 A4 Trench recording sheets
- Site Indices
- A5 Context sheets
- A4 Context Record sheets
- A4 Drawing Record sheets
- A4 Sample sheets
- A4 Small Find sheets
- A4 Photo record sheet



A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of digital photos  
A2 Permatrace  
A3 Permatrace  
The archive will be held under the Events number ENN 108 443

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## Appendix 1: OASIS data entry

## OASIS data entry

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1-360431		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Field Evaluation (Access Road Phases 2, 3, 5 & part of Phase 4), In Advance of the Proposed West Corby Urban Expansion, Northamptonshire NGR: SP 855 884		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	018-09-2017 - 24-11-2017		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Field Walking/Geophysical Survey		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Arable		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Iron Age/Roman		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Pre Planning		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	Pre Planning		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Middleton Lodge A6003 Uppingham Road/ A427 Corby Road, Corby NN17		
	<b>Study Area</b>	360 ha		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SP 855 884		
	<b>Height OD</b>	135m to 125m AOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Planning Authority (NCC)		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Richard Buckley John Thomas		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Tim Higgins		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>			
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>			
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	ENN 108 443	ENN 108 443	ENN 108 443
	<b>Contents</b>	Pottery, animal bone, daub/tile, metal debris/slag	Photos	Evaluation records Field Notes
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation		
	<b>Author</b>	Higgins, T.		
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