

**An Archaeological evaluation at Hallam Fields,
north of Birstall, Wanlip, Leicestershire.
(SK 585 103 area).**

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An Archaeological evaluation at Hallam Fields, north of Birstall, Wanlip, Leicestershire (SK 585103 area).

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Hallam Fields, Wanlip, Leicestershire (SK 585 103 area) during summer 2004. The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed mixed-use development. The evaluation identified three areas of archaeological activity all dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age including an enclosure with settlement evidence.

Records will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services under the Accession no. XA25.2001.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by GVA Grimley and Jelson Homes to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Hallam Fields, Wanlip, Leicestershire (SK 585 103 area). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed mixed-use development (including residential, business and community developments- Grimley *et al* 2000:1.1).

The development site has been subject to a desk-based assessment (Grimley *et al* 2000), extensive fieldwalking (Priest 2001, Coward & Speed 2004) and geophysical survey (Butler 2001, Coward & Speed 2004, Sabin 2004). This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out in June, July, and September 2004, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located 6.5km north of Leicester city centre beyond the northern housing limits of Birstall, in the Borough of Charnwood. The application area in total is 71.51ha, south of the A46 dual carriageway, divided by the A6 road and bounded to the west by the line of the Great Central Railway. The main development area to the west of the A6 comprises of 62.20 hectares and it was these fields, which were subject to the archaeological evaluation (Fig. 1).

The western area of the site is situated on a hill, c.87m above O.D, which slopes down to the west and southeast. East to west across the site these are boulder clay, sand and gravel, river gravel and Mercia mudstone substrata (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156). Some colluvial deposits were also present.

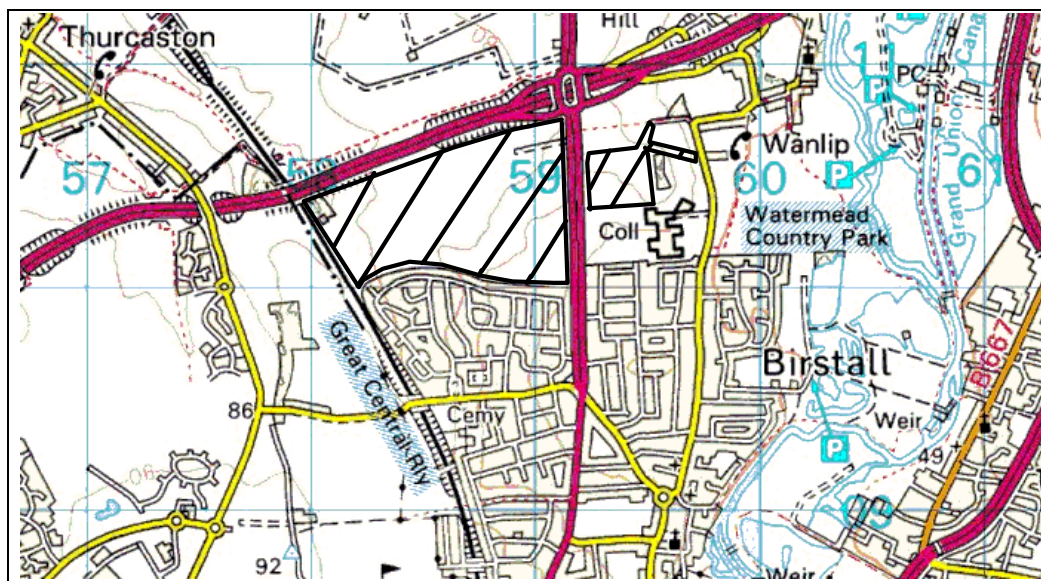


Figure 1: Site location plan. 1:25000.

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3. Archaeological Background

The application area has been investigated for archaeological potential by a desk-based assessment, including a walk over survey in 1997 and an extensive fieldwalking, magnetic susceptibility, and geophysical surveys in 2000 and 2003.

3.1 Desk-based assessment

A desk-based assessment was prepared by RPS Consultants (Grimley *et al* 2000) that included a walkover survey. This identified evidence for Neolithic/Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon activity. The land west of the A6 was identified as having some archaeological potential, with eight known sites within the area as well as four areas of medieval ridge and furrow.

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

Several flint scatters have been identified during fieldwalking and walkover surveys and watching briefs in this area (prior to the 2000/2003 surveys). These include a probable Neolithic scatter south of Breech Spinney and a possible occupation site in the north of the site. A flint scatter from a fieldwalking survey in 1985, recovered flints comprising of scrapers and cores in Field 8. Further flint scatters were noted during the walkover survey in 1997. In addition there are several prehistoric flint scatters located to the east of the site. Further flint scatters have also been located to the north of the development area.

The Leicestershire Sites & Monuments record (SMR) locates an undated cropmark complex with a rectilinear enclosure and other irregular features within the southeast corner of the site. Study of vertical aerial photographs also located another possible cropmark east and south of Breech Spinney.

Further prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the development area include a burnt mound discovered during excavations by ULAS at Watermead Country Park (east of the site) in 1996, and an Iron Age farmstead to the northeast excavated by Leicester Archaeological Field Unit in 1992-1993. Romano-British activity has also been identified to the northwest of the site and there is a possible villa site to the northeast.

Both the villages of Wanlip and Birstall are thought to have their origins during the Anglo-Saxon period and evidence was found for a 5th-6th century inhumation cemetery during the construction of Longslade School to the east. Fieldwalking of this area produced several sherds of Anglo-Saxon handmade pottery. Two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered during fieldwalking within the north of the site. Further Anglo Saxon occupation has been identified north of the development area.

The fields to the east contain a brick built, Grade II listed ice house constructed during the 18th – 19th centuries. This structure was probably associated with the now demolished Wanlip Rectory.

Probable post medieval ridge and furrow (orientated east–west) has been identified by aerial photographs in fields 2, 7, 6 and 8. None of this is visible as earthworks and appears to have been destroyed by modern ploughing.

3.2 Fieldwalking survey

A fieldwalking survey was carried out in 2000 and 2003 by ULAS. The following is a summary of the results:

There is a medium-level spread of flint across the site indicating some prehistoric activity in the area. The fieldwalking surveys have revealed three potential areas of possible prehistoric activity, these being the southeast corner of the survey area in fields 1 and 9, the north area of field 5, and the central area of field 6.

The east of field 1 and south ends of fields 7 and 9 contained evidence to suggest prehistoric activity. Two lithic tools and three cores were recovered, as well as a dispersed scatter of debitage. The fieldwalking results correspond with the gradiometer survey results from field 1 (Butler 2001). These suggested the presence of sub-rectangular ditched enclosures, ring ditches, pits, and hearths. Taking this evidence into account this area of the application site has high potential for archaeological deposits of a prehistoric date.

Field 5 contained four lithic tools and one core, as well as evidence of debitage. Previous surveys within this area have also recovered scrapers and cores. The 1997 walkover survey also produced a number of flint flakes, blades and scrapers. Although the pieces are spread over a large area this may indicate possible prehistoric activity, perhaps on the top of the ridge in the northeast corner of Field 5 with flints being worked down slope to the west by ploughing.

The central area of fields 6 and 2 contained another dispersed scatter containing three lithic tools and three cores, again with a general scatter of flint debitage. There is therefore some potential for prehistoric activity in this area.

The absence of flint in Field 8 is interesting as this was the site of a flint scatter previously located by the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team. This scatter included arrowheads, scrapers, cores a knife and a piercer and was thought to represent a possible occupation site. As this site lies on the top of the hillside it may be that the evidence for prehistoric activity has been eroded away in this area. If this is the case then the site has taken just 10 years to erode. Another possibility is that this area may have been disturbed during the recent construction of the A46 bypass.

3.3 Magnetic Susceptibility

Topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out using a Bartington MS2D field coil over fields 2, 3, and 7 in 2003. The following is a summary of the results:

The magnetic susceptibility survey has defined areas of enhancement, but the interpretation of the enhancement is not straightforward. Apart from the usual caveats concerning how previous agricultural regimes can affect enhancement levels, the site has further complications in that much of it is under arable and on a slope, leading to possible colluvial enhancement down-slope. Moreover the difference in underlying geology across the site could well be affecting the magnetic enhancement more than any archaeological activity. Field 3 shows considerable enhancement, but there are several other areas where absolute values are low, yet higher than the surrounding areas. The safest course of action would be to use the results of this survey as a backcloth on which to view the results of other survey techniques.

3.4 Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken by ULAS in 2000, and by Stratascan in 2004. The following is a summary of the results from both surveys:

The 2000 survey identified two significant areas of enhanced topsoil susceptibility in Fields 1 and 9. 2.6ha of fluxgate gradiometer survey targeted at the enhanced MS areas revealed a group of magnetic anomalies forming a large sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, further ditches, pits or hearths, and possible ring ditches in Field 1. In Field 9 several possible lengths of ditch and pits were identified. The strongest magnetic anomalies were detected from the putative ditched enclosure in Field 1, suggesting a focus of occupation in this area (Butler 2001).

The 2004 survey had more problems with the interpretation of the results from all the surveyed areas due to the low magnitude of the magnetic response. The strongest evidence was located in field 2 due to the sub-circular and curving form of the anomalies (Sabin 2004).

4. Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation are:

- To identify possible areas of archaeological potential liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To establish the location, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits located.
- To define the quality and state of preservation of these deposits.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

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

5. Methodology

Eighty-four trenches were located within areas to target geophysical anomalies and in apparently archaeologically 'blank' areas according to the geophysical results.

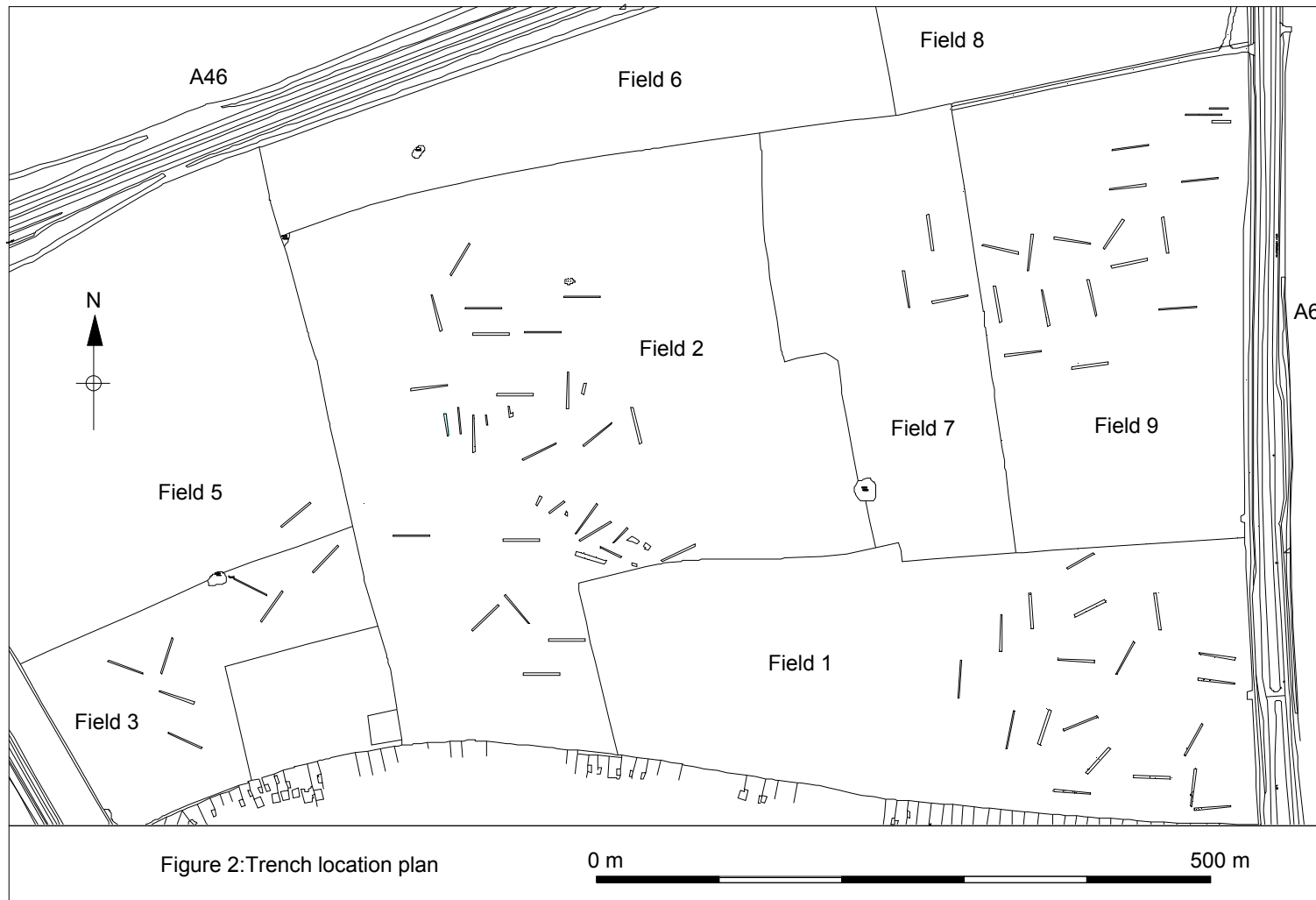
The trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical digger equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural undisturbed ground was reached, or to a depth of 1.20m.

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

The evaluation was carried out within six fields of the development area (Fig. 2). For convenience of use this report will use the same field numbers and archaeological site numbers as those used in Grimley *et al* 2000. Details of the location of the trenches and dates of fieldwork are illustrated below:

Field	Trenches	Date
1	46-62,66-67	June 2004
2	8-26, 64-65, 70-84	September 2004
3	1-7	September 2004
5	63	September 2004
7	27-29	September 2004
9	30-45, 68-69	July 2004

The bases of the trenches were hand cleaned and examined for archaeological remains. Where archaeological remains existed they were planned to scale and recorded. Limited excavation of archaeological features was carried out to determine the character and date of any remains. Archaeological features were recorded with reference to the ULAS recording manual. All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service).



6. Results and interpretations

A total of 84 trenches were excavated in the proposed development area. All trenches were 30m in length (unless stated) and 1.6m in width. Their locations are shown on figure 2. They were arranged so as to target the areas of archaeological potential based on the desk-based assessment, fieldwalking results, and the geophysical surveys.

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

6.1 Field 1 (Trenches 46-62, 67)

Twenty trenches were excavated in field 1. The trenches were targeted to test the presence and quality of survival of a large feature previously identified by aerial photographs (Grimley 2000:13.39) and geophysical survey, and believed to be an enclosure of unknown date (Fig.3).

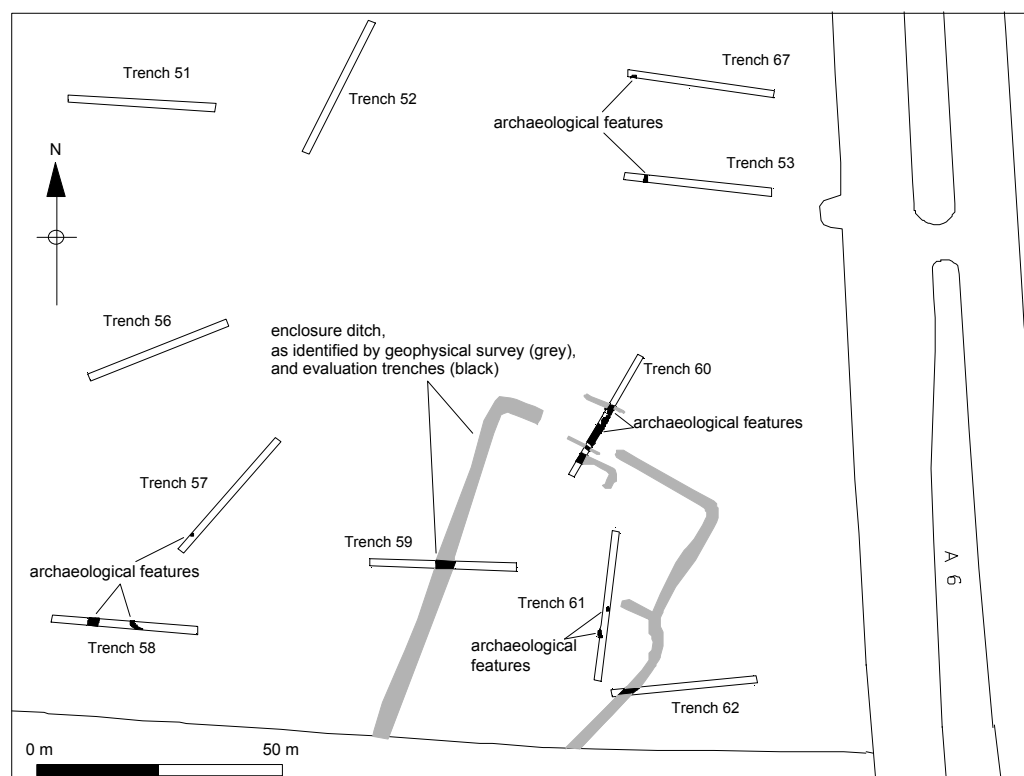


Figure 3: Field 1.

Trench 53

A linear feature [07] was located and excavated in the west end of trench 53 aligned north-south (Fig.3). The feature spanned the width of the trench, and measured 0.9m in width, and 0.43m in depth. The fill contained a mid grey-brown silty-sand, no dating evidence was found. A quern-stone fragment was recovered from the subsoil in the centre of the trench.

Trench 57

A circular feature [33] was located, and excavated, towards the south-east end of the trench. It measured 0.53m by 0.66m and was 0.24m in depth. The fill was a light yellow-brown sandy-silt and contained no dating evidence.

Trench 58

A linear feature [25] and an irregular feature (31) were located in this trench. The linear feature [25] aligned north-south, spanned the width of the trench, and measured 1.6m in width, and 0.37m depth. The fill consisted of a mid grey-brown sandy-silt containing some fire-affected stone, however, it contained no dating evidence. The irregular feature (31) was not excavated.

Trench 59

A linear feature [30], aligned north south, was located in the centre of the trench. It spanned the width of the trench and measured 3.9m in width, and 1.14m in depth. The ditch contained three separately identifiable fills (27), (28), (29). Contexts (28) and (29) appear to represent slumping, whilst (27) is the main silting up fill. All three contexts consisted of sandy-silt, the slump layers (28) and (29) were an orange-brown colour, whilst the main fill (27) was more of a mid brown-grey. Twenty-five pottery sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age date were recovered from context (27).

Trench 60

Eight features were identified within the trench, the highest density of archaeological features in the entire evaluation. Four linear features ([9],[11], [13], [15],[24]) aligned northwest-southeast were located in the south end of the trench. Three (probable) circular features ([11], [20], [22]) were located in the centre of the trench (Fig.5).

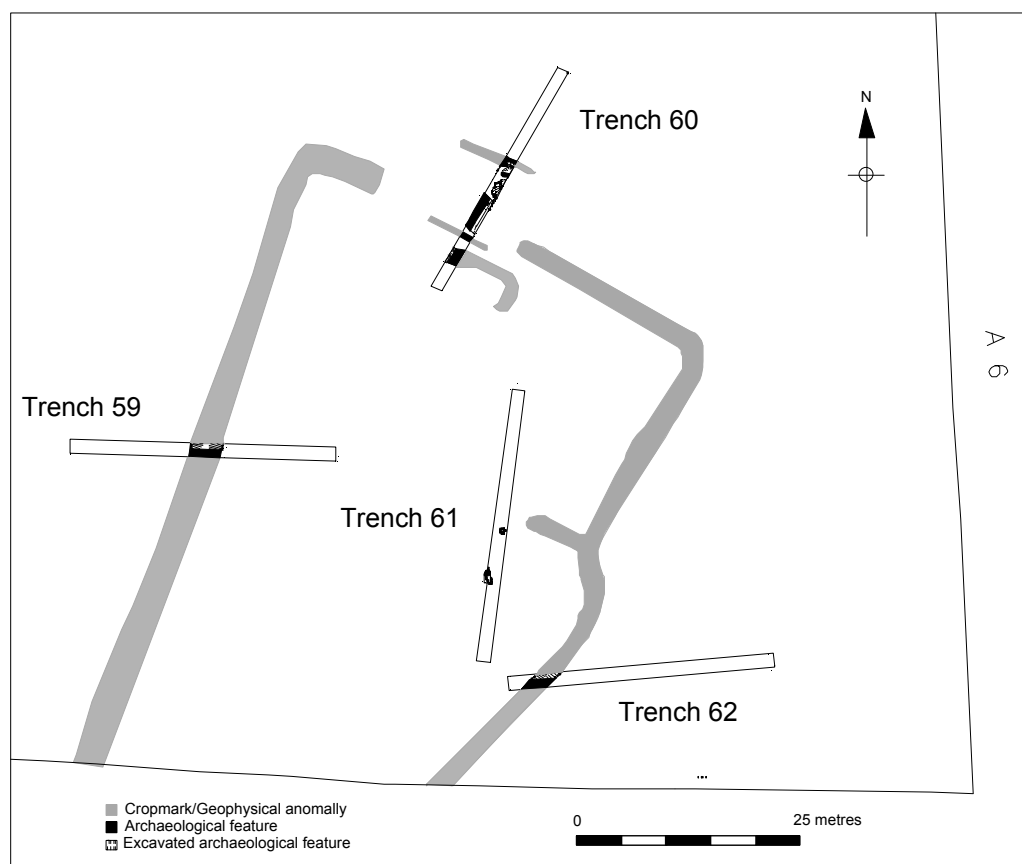


Figure 4: Enclosure, field 1.

Feature [11] was a linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast. It spanned the width of the trench and measured 1.02m in width, and 0.48m in depth. The ditch appeared to contain only one identifiable fill (1). The fill consists of a mid brown-grey sandy-silt, fifteen pottery sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age date were recovered from the context. From this a complete vessel profile survives in an ovoid neckless form, paralleled locally at Wanlip. Lying centrally in the linear was a small circular depression; a difference in the fills could not be established. Feature [11] is cut by feature [12].

Feature [12] was a sub-circular feature with concave sides. It measured 0.7m in width and 0.44m in depth. The feature contained a mid brown-grey sandy-silt fill (2). Eight pottery sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age date were recovered from this context.

Feature [9] was a linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast. It spanned the width of the trench and measured 0.86m in width, and 0.56m in depth. The grey-brown sandy-silt fill (8) contained seventeen pottery sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age date. Feature [9] cuts feature [13].

Feature [13] was a linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast. It spanned the width of the trench and measured 2.70m in width, and 0.3m in depth. The brown-grey silty-sand fill (3) contained nine pottery sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age date. Feature [13] is cut by feature [9].

Feature [15] was a linear feature aligned northwest-southeast towards the south end of the trench. It spanned the width of the trench and measured 1.78m in width, and 0.56m in depth. The grey-brown sandy-silt fill (14) contained seven pottery sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age date.

Feature [22] was a sub-circular feature with gradual sides and a flat base. It measured 1.96m in width, and 0.27m in depth. The feature contained one fill (21), a mid grey-brown sandy-silt. No dating evidence were recovered from this context. This feature is cut by another sub-circular feature [20]. This feature appears to be a re-cut of [22] and contained two distinct fills (19) and (23). The primary fill consisted of dark black silt with 70% large charcoal fragments; no finds were recovered from this context. This feature contains good potential for environmental remains. The secondary fill (23) was a mid to light grey-brown sandy-silt. One small pottery sherd was recovered which dates to the Middle to Late Iron Age.

Feature (24) was a linear feature aligned northwest-southeast, and consisted of a mid brown-grey sandy-silt. The feature was unexcavated, however, one pottery sherds was recovered from it which dates to the Middle to Late Iron Age.

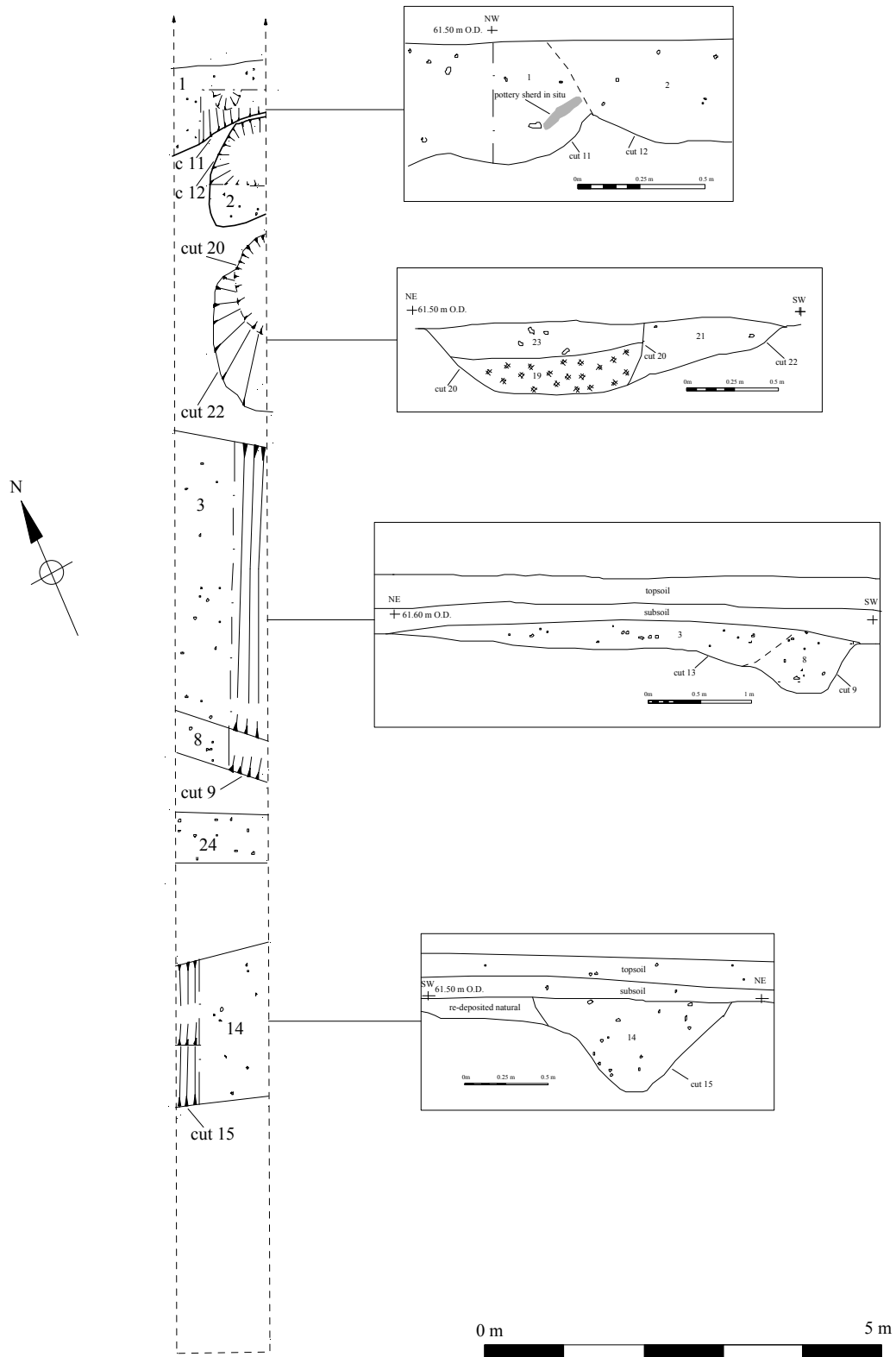


Figure 5: Trench 60 plan and sections

Trench 61

A curvilinear feature [10] and circular feature [18] and were located in this trench. The curvilinear feature [10] measured 1.2m in length, 0.55m in width, and 0.14m in depth. The feature contained a grey-brown sandy-silt fill (5). The grey-brown sandy-silt fill (5) contained 213 pottery sherds of a single vessel dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age. It was a substantially complete large, shouldered storage jar in East Midlands scored ware.

The circular feature [18] contained a grey-brown sandy-silt fill (4), within this three pottery sherds were recovered from it which date to the Middle to Late Iron Age.

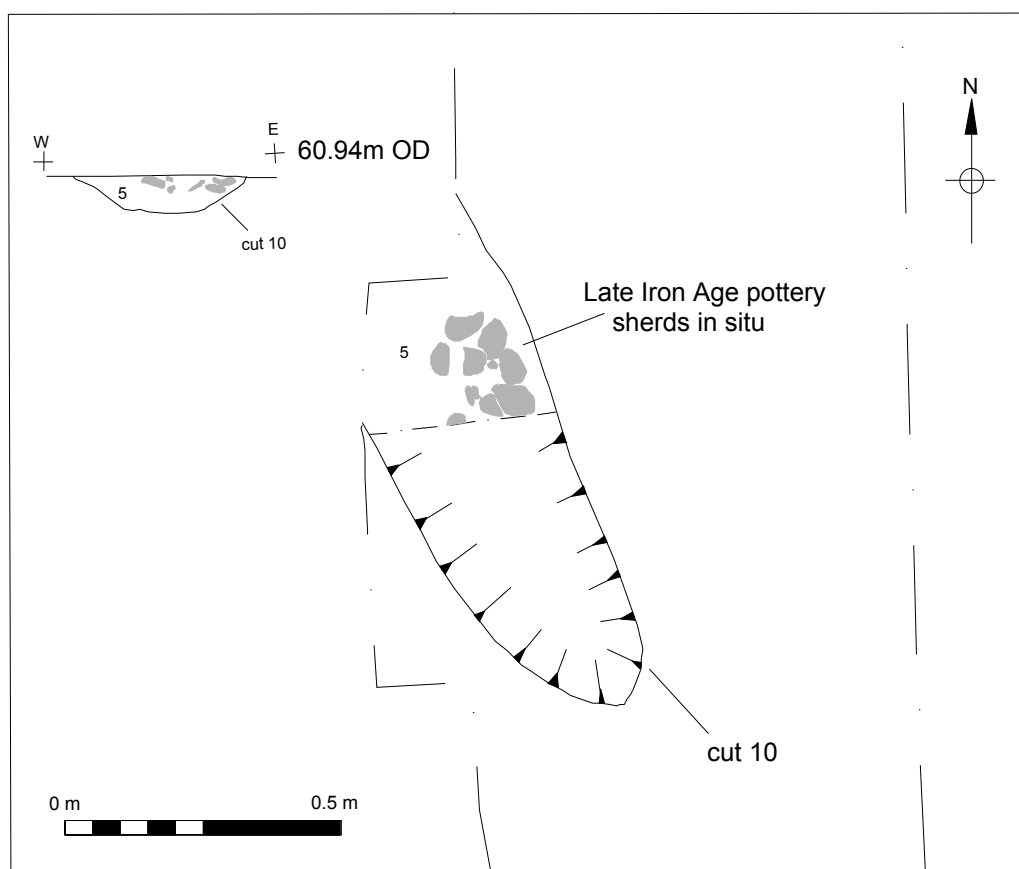


Figure 6: Gully [10], trench 61.

Trench 62

A linear feature [16] was located in this trench. It was aligned northeast-southwest and spanned the width of the trench. It measured 2m in width and 0.8m in depth. Within the brown-grey sandy-silt fill (17) fifteen sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered, as were three flint flakes.

Trench 67

A circular feature [34] was located in this trench. It measured 1.09m in width and 0.5m in depth. The light brown sandy-silt fill (35) contained no finds.

Trenches 46-52, 54-56, 66.

These trenches contained no archaeological deposits. Trench 55 contained one pottery sherd in the subsoil. Some colluvium was present in trenches 50 and 55.

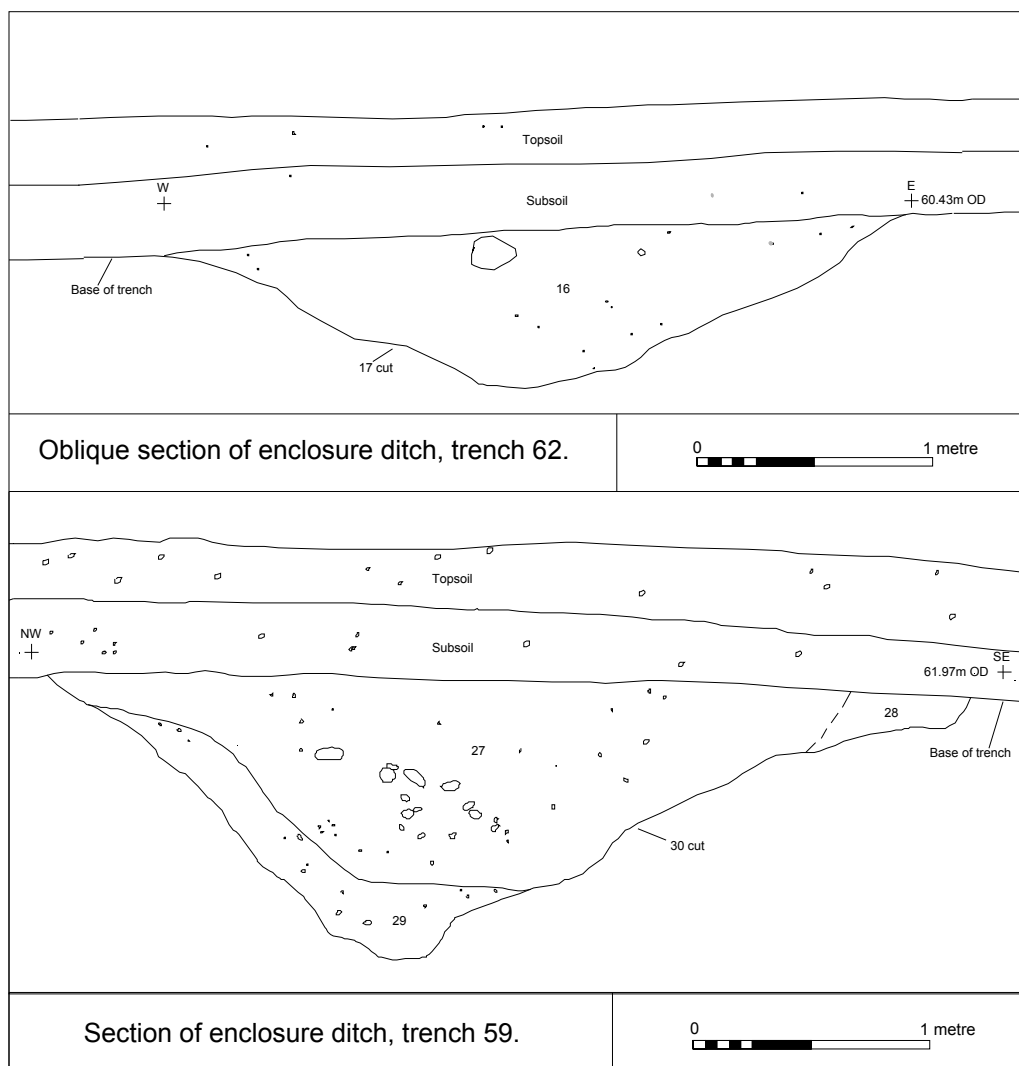


Figure 7: Enclosure sections.

6.2 Interpretation of results from field 1

The evaluation of this field has successfully confirmed the location of an Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure (Fig. 4). The enclosure ditch was identified and excavated in trenches 59 and 62. From the pottery present (appendix 3), the ditch dates to the Middle to Late Iron Age. The enclosure is *c.*50m+ in width, and *c.*74m+ in length covering an area of 3155 square metres (0.31 ha). The full extent of the enclosure is unknown as it continues towards (and into) the housing estate at Birstall.

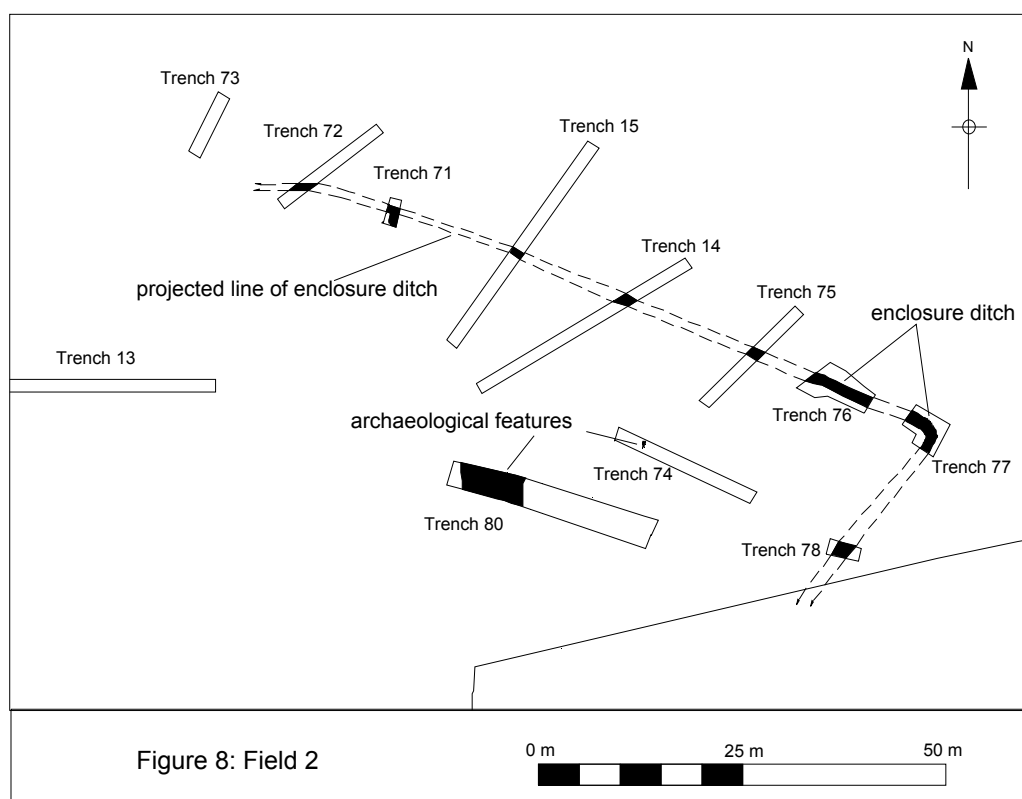
Trench 60 was located at the north entrance of the enclosure, and subsequently picked up the highest density of archaeological features in the entire evaluation. These features relate to Iron Age domestic activity within and around the enclosure.

The curvilinear feature [10] within trench 61 may be the truncated remains of a roundhouse drip-gully. Given the substantial amount of Iron Age pottery found at the terminus of this gully, the potential for further domestic activity in this area is high.

Outlying features from the enclosure have been identified in trenches 53, 57, 58, and 67, these are small ditches and pits. These indicate that archaeological activity is not limited to the enclosure, and that it potentially spreads beyond it over an area of *c.*18,400 square metres (see activity area, fig. 13).

6.3 Field 2 (Trenches 8-26, 64, 65, 70-84)

Thirty-six trenches were excavated in field 2. The trenches were targeted to test the presence of archaeological deposits, as indicated by geophysical survey (Sabin 2004).



Trenches 14,15, 71-73, 75-78

Within these trenches a linear feature was identified (Fig.8). It was aligned northwest-southeast, and measured *c.*1.40m in width in trenches 14, 75, 76, 77, 78. Further towards the northwest end (trenches 15, 71, 72) the linear became narrower (*c.*0.8m). It was excavated in trenches 14 and 71. In trench 14 the linear contained two fills (53) and (59). The primary fill (59) was a green-grey silty-clay, it contained no finds. The secondary fill (53) consisted of a black-brown silty-clay. Forty pottery sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age date were recovered

from this context. The linear was also excavated in trench 71. The grey-brown silty-clay fill (56) contained a flint bladelet, core, denticulate and seven flakes.

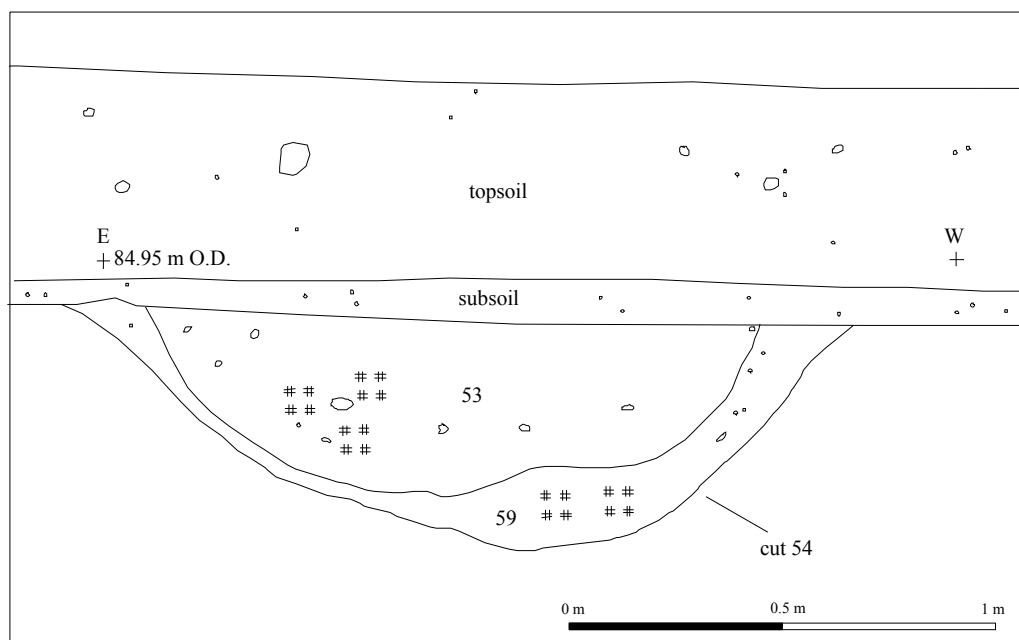


Figure 9: Enclosure ditch section [54], trench 14.

Trench 16 and 81-84

The remains of furrows were identified in these trenches. They were aligned east-west. A circular feature [60] was located at the south end of trench 16; it contained a grey-brown silt-clay fill (61).

Trench 23

Linear feature [49] aligned north-south spanned the width of the trench and measured 0.53m in width and 0.48m in depth. The primary grey-brown silt-clay fill (51) contained struck flint. The secondary brown-grey clay-loam fill (50) contained no dating evidence.

Trench 74

A small sub-rectangular feature [63] was excavated at the northwest end of the trench. It measured 1m by 0.25m, and was 0.15m in depth. The grey-brown silty-clay fill contained no dating evidence.

Trench 80

A large feature [62] measuring 8m by 3m+ was located at the northwest end of the trench. The feature contained two distinct fills, the blue-grey slit-clay primary fill (64) and a secondary grey silt-clay fill (65) neither of which contained dating evidence. Due to problems with water the feature was machine excavated to the base (c. 1m in depth).

Trenches 8-13, 17-25, 64-65, 70

No archaeological deposits or finds were identified within these trenches.

6.4 Interpretation of results from field 2

The linear feature seen in trenches 14,15, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, and 78 (based on the pottery finds) is of late Iron Age date and is an enclosure, similar to that seen in field 1. Features have been identified within this enclosure, although, at present their nature and relationship to the enclosure is uncertain.

The large undated feature [62] in trench 80 may be a back-filled pond. It does not appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey map from 1885 (Grimley 2000: drawing 13.7) and therefore the exact nature of the feature remains uncertain until further archaeological work is undertaken in the area. It does lie within the Iron Age enclosure and therefore there is some possibility of it being contemporary to this.

6.5 Field 3 (trenches 1-7), 5 (trench 63), and 7 (trenches 27-29)

No archaeological deposits were identified within these fields.

6.6 Field 9 (Trenches 30-45, 68, 69)

Eighteen trenches were excavated in field 9 in order to test the geophysical survey results that indicated potential archaeological deposits. The archaeological evaluation of this field has identified three trenches (34, 39, 42) with archaeological deposits (Fig. 10).

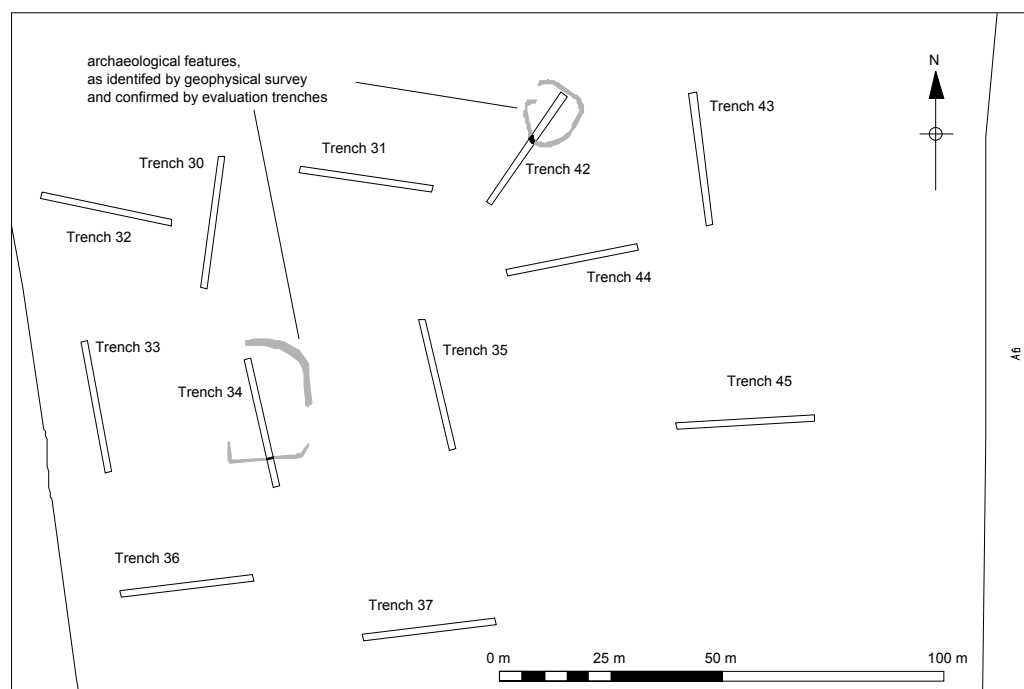


Figure 10: Field 9.

Trenches 30-33, 35-38, 43-45, 68-69

These trenches contained no archaeological deposits or finds.

Trench 34

The trench was located to target a geophysical anomaly (Fig. 11). A linear feature [46] was aligned east-west and spanned the width of the trench. Its width was 0.75m and depth 0.25m, the grey-brown silt-clay (47) fill contained a flint scraper.

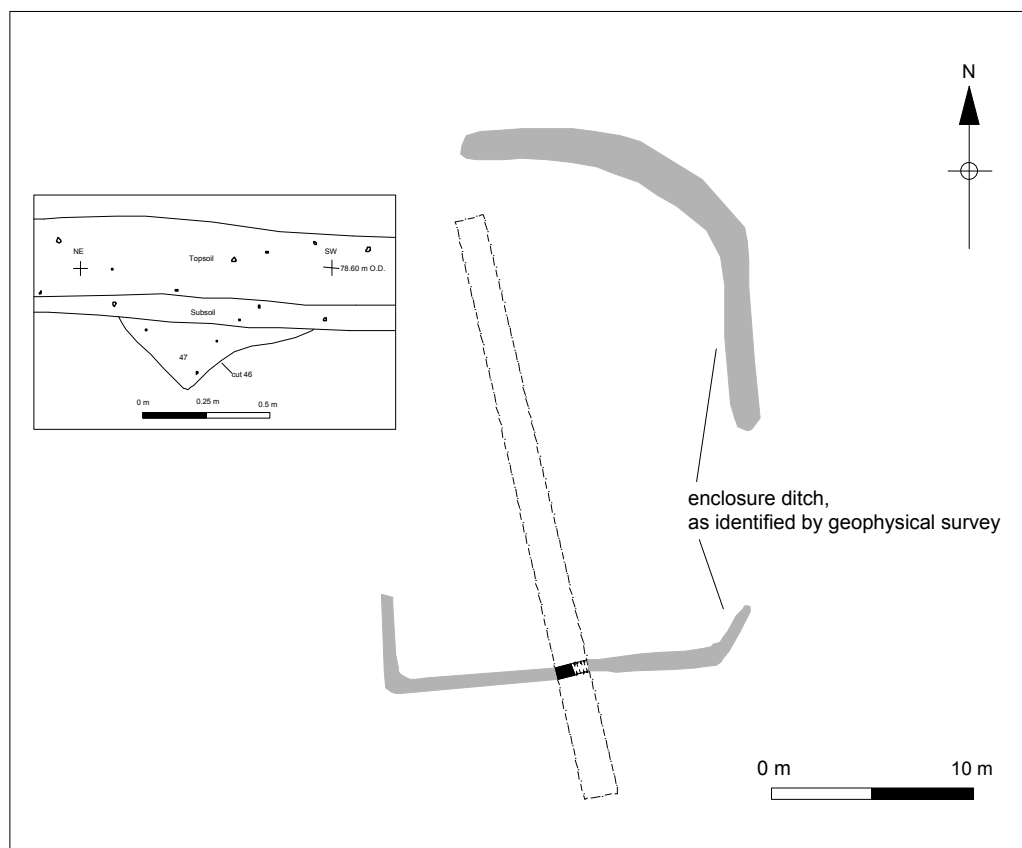


Figure 11: Enclosure [46] in plan and section, trench 34..

Trench 39

The trench was located to target a geophysical anomaly. A linear feature [37] was aligned northwest-southeast and spanned the width of the trench. Its width was 0.90m and depth 0.22m and the orange-brown clay-sand fill (36) contained no dating evidence.

Trench 42

A linear feature [38] was aligned east-west and spanned the width of the trench (Fig.12). Its width was 0.65m and depth 0.45m, is contained a grey-brown silt-clay fill (39).

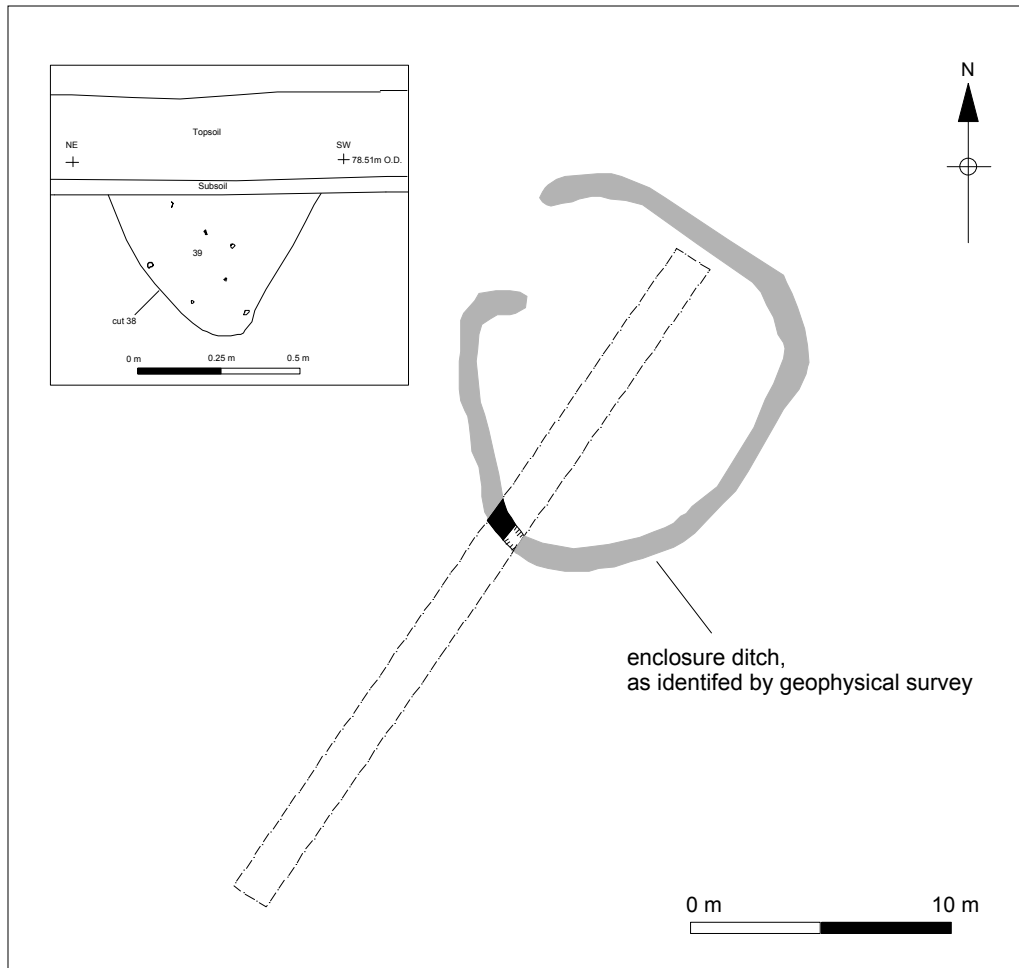


Figure 12: Enclosure [38] in plan and section, trench 42.

6.7 Interpretation of results from field 9

The linear features in trenches 34 and 42 appear to correspond to geophysical anomalies that may represent small enclosures and based on the finds and surrounding evidence probably date to the Iron Age.

6.8 Summary of results

Field 1

In the southeast corner of this field a late Iron Age enclosure with associated domestic activity was identified and sample excavated. A curvilinear feature located within the enclosure may represent a drip-gully of a roundhouse. The features here indicate a small Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead.

Field 2

One area of archaeological activity has been identified. As with field 1, a Late Iron Age enclosure and associated activity has been identified and sample excavated. At present it remains unclear if the evidence in this area is another farmstead or simply field boundaries.

Field 9

Two areas of archaeological activity have been identified. These features may represent an outlying settlement to that located in field 1.

Other areas

All other areas of the site surveyed contained very little or no archaeological activity.

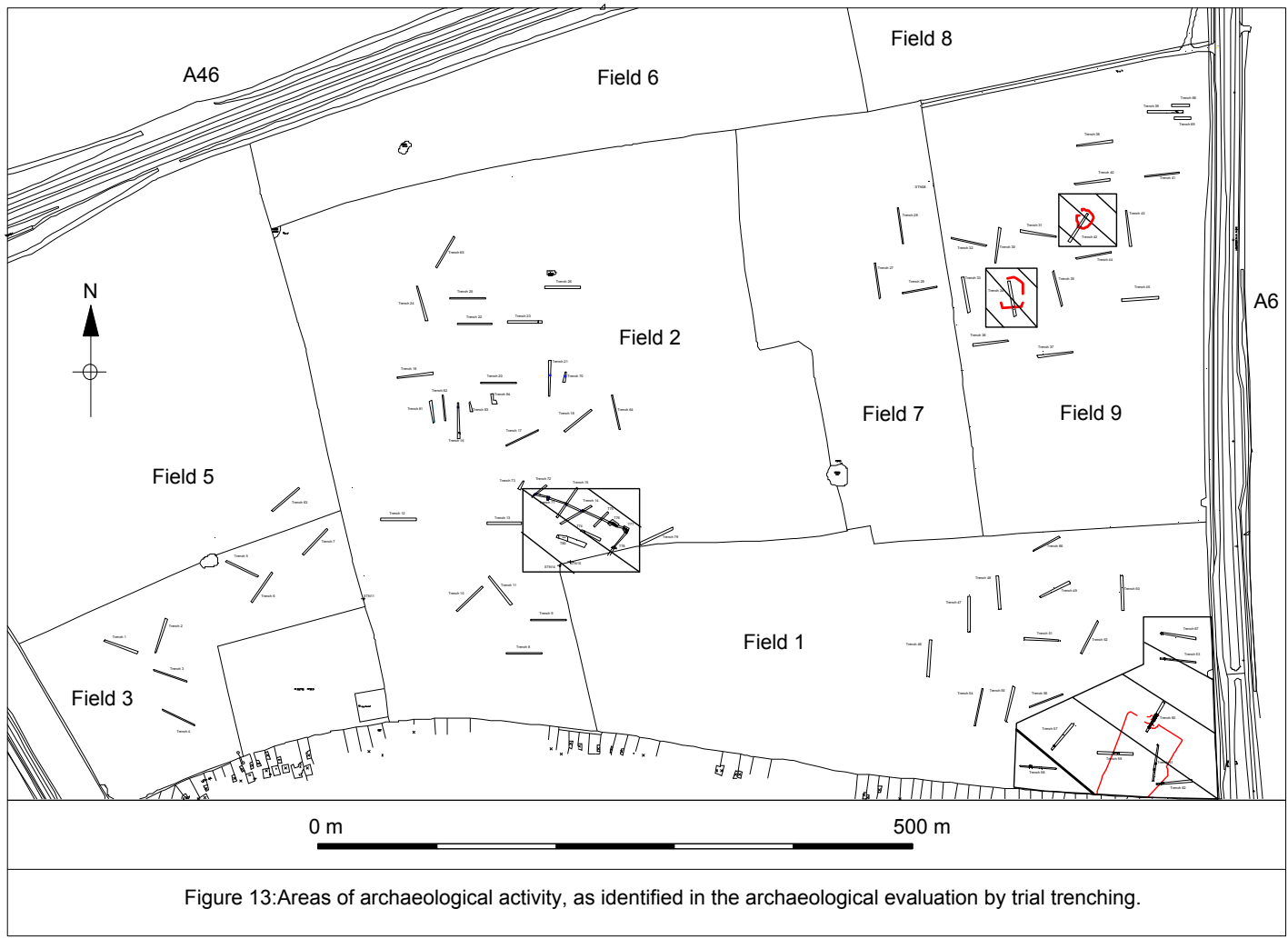


Figure 13: Areas of archaeological activity, as identified in the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching.

7. Discussion

The evaluation has identified three areas of archaeological activity with the main focus of activity situated in the southeast corner of field 1 (Fig.13). Located here was an enclosure with associated domestic and structural features.

The evidence indicates that the archaeological activity in field 1 was a farmstead dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age (c. 400 BC-AD 43). Two other areas of archaeological activity have been identified in fields 2 and 9 dating to the same period. These may represent smaller outlying activity to the main farmstead in field 1. Small farmsteads such as these would have been mainly self sufficient, with some trade with larger settlements in the area at Leicester and Humberstone (Meek *et al* 2004). Investigations into small farmsteads typical of this period can inform much about the everyday life and times of the Iron Age and have their own particular distinctiveness.

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

The truncated remains of a possible roundhouse drip-gully were located within the enclosure. The gully contained a substantial amount of Iron Age pottery at the terminus of this gully, indeed, special deposition of artefacts has been identified on several Iron Age sites (Hill 1995). However interpretation of these should be treated with caution. While a combination of different artefacts showing evidence of having been deliberately placed has been noted close to the development site at Wanlip (Beamish 1998), the interpretation of concentrations of pottery around entrances as deliberate and structured might be occasionally open to question as these areas can equally be interpreted as locations of rubbish disposal (Charles *et al.* 2000). There is also evidence that enclosure ditches were a focus for votive and structured deposits during the Iron Age (Meek *et al* 2004). Further intrusive investigations may help to identify if there are deposits of this type. There is good potential for environmental remains, in view of substantial charcoal deposits in some features in field 1.

Evidence of earlier prehistoric activity from the Early Bronze Age was identified during the evaluation, although the finds were unstratified. This indicates that there is some potential for activity from earlier periods.

In view of the lack of stratigraphic relationships and the difficulty in closely dating undiagnostic Iron Age pottery, it is difficult to provide a clear sequence of phases of activity associated with the enclosure. Further work may establish the development of archaeological activity in the three areas of archaeological activity at Hallam Fields.

8. Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, under accession number X.A.25.2001.

9. Publication

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

10. Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: Trench summaries

Trench	Field Length (m)	Average depth O.D	Notes	Minimum depth to archaeology (m)	
1	3	30	83.9	negative	N/A
2	3	30	84.2	negative	N/A
3	3	30	83.8	negative	N/A
4	3	30	83.7	negative	N/A
5	3	30	84.4	negative	N/A
6	3	30	84.2	negative	N/A
7	3	30	84.5	negative	N/A
8	2	30	82.3	negative	N/A
9	2	30	82.5	negative	N/A
10	2	30	82.8	negative	N/A
11	2	30	82.6	negative	N/A
12	2	30	84.0	negative	N/A
13	2	30	83.8	negative	N/A
14	2	30	84.1	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.42
15	2	30	83.8	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.42
16	2	30	84.7	Pit (IA?) and furrow	0.45
17	2	30	84.5	negative	N/A
18	2	30	84.2	negative	N/A
19	2	30	84.1	negative	N/A
20	2	30	84.5	negative	N/A
21	2	30	84.6	negative	N/A
22	2	30	85.2	struck flint in subsoil	N/A
23	2	30	84.9	Ditch of unknown date	0.48
24	2	30	85.2	struck flint in subsoil	N/A
25	2	30	85.5	struck flint in subsoil	N/A
26	2	30	85.1	negative	N/A
27	7	30	81.0	negative	N/A
28	7	30	81.3	negative	N/A
29	7	30	81.6	negative	N/A
30	9	30	80.0	negative	N/A
31	9	30	79.8	negative	N/A
32	9	30	80.5	negative	N/A
33	9	30	78.7	negative	N/A
34	9	30	79.0	ditch, undated	0.34
35	9	30	77.3	negative	N/A
36	9	30	77.1	negative	N/A
37	9	30	75.9	negative	N/A
38	9	30	77.8	negative	N/A
39	9	30	77.3	curvilinear gully, undated	0.5
40	9	30	78.7	negative	N/A
41	9	30	75.1	negative, some colluvium east end	N/A
42	9	30	78.5	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.33
43	9	30	76.8	negative	N/A
44	9	30	77.5	negative	N/A
45	9	30	75.5	negative	N/A
46	1	30	70.5	negative	N/A
47	1	30	70.1	negative	N/A

48	1	30	68.5	negative	N/A
49	1	30	66.0	negative	N/A
50	1	30	64.1	negative	N/A
51	1	30	65.5	negative	N/A
52	1	30	64.2	negative, colluvium throughout	N/A
53	1	30	72.1	undated ditch, Iron Age quern fragment	0.42
54	1	30	66.0	negative, colluvium throughout	N/A
55	1	30	65.0	Iron Age pottery sherd in subsoil	N/A
56	1	30	64.5	negative	N/A
57	1	30	63.3	prehistoric pit	N/A
58	1	30	63.5	prehistoric ditch, undated irregular feature	N/A
59	1	30	62.0	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.46
60	1	30	61.5	eight features of Iron Age date	0.48
61	1	30	61.5	Iron Age domestic activity	0.46
62	1	30	60.5	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.45
63	5	30	84.3	negative	N/A
64	2	30	84.8	negative	N/A
65	2	30	85.3	4 struck flints in subsoil	N/A
66	1	26	66.3	negative, colluvium throughout	N/A
67	1	30	62.1	negative	N/A
68	9	18	77.1	negative	N/A
69	9	15	77.2	negative	N/A
70	2	9	85.8	negative	N/A
71	2	4	84.5	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.42
72	2	15	84.3	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.4
73	2	8	84.8	negative	N/A
74	2	19	83.9	undated feature	0.42
75	2	17	84.1	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.34
76	2	7	84.1	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.4
77	2	5	83.9	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.42
78	2	4	83.5	Iron Age enclosure ditch	0.4
79	2	30	83.8	negative	N/A
80	2	25	82.9	undated feature	0.38
81	2	19	85.5	negative, furrows e-w	N/A
82	2	22	84.8	negative, furrows e-w	N/A
83	2	8	85.3	negative, furrows e-w	N/A
84	2	9	85.2	negative	N/A

Appendix 2: Context summaries

Hallam Fields, Birstall. Evaluation. XA.25.2001				
Context	Cut	Below	Area	Description
1	11	-	T60	Fill of linear
2	12	-	T60	Fill of pit
3	13	-	T60	Fill of ditch
4	18	-	T61	Fill of pit
5	10	-	T61	Fill of gully
6	7	-	T53	Fill of linear
7	-	6	T53	Cut of linear
8	9	-	T60	Fill of ditch
9	-	8	T60	Cut of ditch
10	-	5	T61	Cut of gully
11	-	1	T60	Cut of linear
12	-	2	T60	Cut of pit
13	-	3	T60	Cut of ditch
14	15	-	T60	Fill of ditch
15	-	14	T60	Cut of ditch
16	-	17	T62	Cut of ditch
17	16	-	T62	Fill of ditch
18	-	4	T61	Cut of gully
19	20	-	T60	Fill of pit
20	-	19	T60	Cut of pit
21	22	-	T60	Fill of pit
22	-	-	T60	Cut of pit
23	20	-	T60	Fill of pit
24	-	21	T60	Fill of ditch
25	-	20	T58	Cut of ditch
26	25	-	T58	Fill of ditch
27	30	-	T59	Fill of ditch
28	30	-	T59	Fill of ditch
29	30	-	T59	Fill of ditch
30	-	29	T59	Cut of ditch
31	-	-	T58	Fill of gully
32	33	-	T57	Fill of posthole
33	-	32	T57	Cut of posthole
34	-	35	T67	Cut of pit
35	34	-	T67	Fill of pit
36	37	-	T39	Fill of ditch
37	-	36	T39	Cut of ditch
38	-	39	T42	Cut of ditch
39	38	-	T42	Fill of ditch
40	41	-	T39	Fill of pit
41	-	40	T39	Cut of pit
42	43	-	T39	Fill of pit
43	-	42	T39	Cut of pit
44	45	-	T39	Fill of gully
45	-	44	T39	Cut of gully
46	-	47	T34	Cut of ditch
47	46	-	T34	Fill of ditch

48	49	-	T23	Fill of ditch
49	-	48	T23	Cut of ditch
50	52	-	T21	Fill of ditch
51	52	50	T21	Fill of ditch
52	-	51	T21	Fill of ditch
53	54	-	T14	Fill of ditch
54	-	59	T14	Cut of ditch
55	-	56	T71	Cut of ditch
56	55	-	T71	Fill of ditch
57	-	58	T71	Cut of ditch
58	57	-	T71	Fill of ditch
59	54	53	T14	Fill of ditch
60	-	61	T16	Cut of ditch
61	60	-	T16	Fill of ditch
62	-	65	T80	Fill of pit
63	-	65	T74	Cut of feature
64	63	-	T74	Fill of feature
65	62	66	T80	Fill of pit
66	62	-	T80	Fill of pit

Appendix 3: Pottery assemblage**Nicholas J. Cooper*****Introduction and Quantitative Summary***

A stratified assemblage of 355 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery, weighing 7.364kg and with an estimated vessel equivalent (EVEs) value of 1.625, was retrieved during the trenching programme. Fifteen other sherds of Prehistoric pottery including ten, possibly from an Early Bronze Age beaker (Trench 16), and five of Iron Age date (Trenches 49 and 54) were unstratified. Additionally, two sherds of Romano-British pottery (one from Trench 49) and eight sherds of medieval pottery were also unstratified. The Roman and medieval material is likely to result from manuring of the area rather than occupation, whilst the Iron Age material derives from stratified contexts indicative of settlement.

Methodology

The Iron Age material has been analysed by form and fabric using the ULAS prehistoric pottery fabric series, with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Groups Guidelines (PCRG 1992), and quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rim and base values and divided by two). Two major contemporary assemblages have been published in recent years from sites in the immediate vicinity at Wanlip and Hamilton (Marsden 1998 and 2000).

Spatial Analysis of Assemblage by Fabric and Form

Note: the tables from which the following data derive, can be found in the appendix with the full record stored as an excel workbook in archive.

Table 1 summarises the quantification of the assemblage by trench.

Summary by Trench			
Trench	Sherds	Weight	EVEs
14	40	310	0.245
59	25	152	0.125
60	58	1081	0.66
61	216	5626	0.445
62	15	194	0.15
71	1	1	
Total	355	7364	1.625

The greatest proportion of the assemblage comes from the south-eastern part of the development area (Field1), especially Trenches 60 and 61, corresponding to features lying within the entrance and within the enclosure respectively, with smaller amounts deriving from the sections across the enclosure ditch (Trenches 59 and 62). The remainder of the assemblage comes from Trenches 14 and 71 in Field 2, 500m east-northeast of the enclosure.

Table 2 summarises the quantification of the assemblage by fabric. Four Iron Age fabrics are represented and one transitional oxidised fabric (OT) probably dating to the very early Roman period.

Fabric Summary			
Fabric	Sherds	Weight	EVEs
Q1	73	1071	0.87
R1	270	6177	0.65
RP	4	80	0.1
S1	6	30	
OT	2	6	
Total	355	7364	1.62

The range of Iron Age fabrics matches those from the nearby assemblages at Wanlip and Humberstone and are described briefly here for convenience (Marsden 2000, 171; 1998, 45). As is typical of Prehistoric fabrics there is wide variation within each fabric category, which is defined by the predominant inclusion type present.

Q1 Sandy ware

Moderate to very common sub-rounded or rounded quartz (well to moderately sorted, up to 1mm) and sparse-moderate angular quartz.

R1 (formerly RQ1) igneous rock inclusions (granodiorite)

Sparse to very common sub-angular igneous rock fragments (poorly sorted, most up to 5mm).

RP

similar to R1 but with rounded, ferruginous clay pellets of 0.5-1.5mm.

S1 Shell tempered

Moderate to very common well to poorly sorted fossil marine shell up to 8mm.

The assemblage is dominated by sandy (Q1) and granite tempered (R1) fabrics as would be expected in this part of the East Midlands although fabric Q2, which dominated the Middle Iron Age site at Wanlip, is absent. This absence may be of chronological significance as clay preparation changed from the use of larger quartz and rock inclusions towards the greater use of quartz sand, but this transition is poorly understood at present. The proportion of R1 is greatly enhanced by the survival of a substantially complete large, shouldered storage jar in East Midlands scored ware, with an upright flattened rim (of 350mm diameter) from context (5), which may be the fill of a roundhouse gulley (10). The form is paralleled generally within the tradition (Elsdon 1992, 85 fig.1.6 from Whitwell, Rutland) and more specifically from Empingham, Rutland (Cooper 2000, fig.32.2 but without the findgertip decoration on the rim top). Only one other substantially complete vessel profile survives (in fabric Q1) from Trench 60 (1) an ovoid neckless form paralleled locally at Wanlip (Marsden 1998, fig.27.38). Otherwise the forms comprise barrel-shaped vessels with upright or flaring rims. Such vessel and rim forms are typical of East Midlands scored ware tradition which dates from the fourth century BC to the first century AD (Elsdon 1992, 89

fig. 1), although scored decoration is only apparent on some of the vessels in fabric R1, and notably none in the finer, sandy fabric, Q1. Broadly speaking the two fabrics appear to occur in roughly equal proportions in the trenches in Field 1, but only Q1 occurs in those in Field 2. Only one form is recognised from Field 2 (trench 14), with a small everted, rolled rim paralleled by examples from Humberstone (Marsden 2000, fig.51.25) and Whitwell, Rutland (Todd 1981, no.37) for which a later Iron Age date may be possible.

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Tables

Tables 3-8 detail the findings from each Trench arranged by context.

Trench 14

Area	Context	Cut	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
T14	53	54	Q1	25	190	0.27	155
T14	53	54	Q1	9	90	0.22	120
T14	53	54	S1	6	30		
Subtotal				40	310	0.49	

Trench 59

Area	Context	Cut	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
T59	27	30	Q1	12	62	0.2	80
T59	27	30	Q1	6	8	0.05	180?
T59	27	30	R1	5	14		
T59	27	30	Q1	2	68		
Subtotal				25	152	0.25	

Trench 60

Area	Context	Cut	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
T60	1	11	Q1	2	410	0.15	220
T60	1	11	RP	3	46		
T60	1	11	R1	1	20		
T60	1	11	Q1	3	36	0.05	100
T60	1	11	R1	1	42		
T60	1	11	R1	2	10	0.05	160?
T60	1	11	R1	1	1	0.05	80?
T60	1	11	OT	2	6		
T60	2	12	Q1	2	16		
T60	2	12	R1	4	66		
T60	2	12	R1	1	4	0.02	?
T60	2	12	R1	1	2		
T60	3	13	R1	4	28		
T60	3	13	Q1	5	16		
T60	8	9	R1	2	150		
T60	8	9	R1	14	44		
T60	8	9	Q1	1	34	0.4	70
T60	14	15	RP	1	34	0.2	90
T60	14	15	Q1	2	58	0.4	70
T60	14	15	R1	4	12		
T60	23	20	R1	1	44		160
T60	24		R1	1	2		
Subtotal				58	1081	1.32	

Trench 61

Area	Context	Cut	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
T61	4	18	R1	1	2	0.12	60
T61	4	18	R1	2	12		
T61	5	10	R1	213	5612	0.77	350
Subtotal				216	5626	0.89	

Trench 62

Area	Context	Cut	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
T62	17	16	R1	3	62	0.3	100
T62	17	16	R1	9	50		
T62	17	16	Q1	3	82		
Subtotal				15	194	0.3	

Trench 71

Area	Context	Cut	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
T71	56	55	Q1	1	1		

Appendix 4: The lithics**Lynden Cooper**

Some 91 worked flints were recovered during the evaluation programme. The flints were all derived from glacial till deposits, mostly semi-translucent and brown. There were two re-used pieces on blanks of probable Palaeolithic date. Two bladelets point to some Mesolithic activity as indicated from the fieldwalking.

The remaining material represents a flake technology. The tool range is limited and dominated by scrapers. Many of these were quite crude, often on older or natural potlid blanks and several exhibited straight-edged retouch. These probably date from the later Bronze Age, or feasibly, the Iron Age (Ford et al. 1984). The high proportions of tools (22.3%) is a feature observed on other later prehistoric sites (eg Willows Farm, Castle Donington), although in this case it may well be a case of recovery bias. The flake technology was simple with no core platform preparation and the invariable use of hard hammer percussion. These would be best described as of a general later prehistoric character. The pieces recovered from features were relatively fresher when compared to the unstratified material, though this need not imply that they were contemporary with the features. Further fieldwork has the potential to address the question of Iron Age flint usage (Young and Humphrey 1999), although the presence of flint must be evaluated critically (Cooper and Humphrey 1998).

Catalogue

T2	Core	On shatter
T6	Scraper	Straight edge
T8	Flake	
T10	Core	On flake
T11	Flake	
T20	Flake	
T21	Flake x 3	
	Piercer	
T22	Shatter	
	Retouched potlid	
T24	Flake	
T25	Scraper	Reused ancient scraper (**) – worn arrises. Meso or earlier.
T49	Flake	
T63	Scraper	Thumbnail type but 'non-fancy'
T65	Flakes x 2	
	Bladelet frag	Burnt
T71	Flakes x 2	
	Scraper	Straight edge
F2	Concave scraper	On potlid
	Shatter (**)	
	Shatter	
	Core	
	Flakes x 11	One with previous heavily patinated scars - Palaeolithic
	Retouched flake	
	Scraper x 3	Two with straight retouch
U/S	Cores x 3	

	Flakes x 16	
	Retouched flakes x 5	
	Concave scraper	On potlid
16	Flakes x 3	
27	Flake	
44	Flakes x 2	
47	Scraper	
48	Burnt shatter x 2	
51	Flakes x 2	
	Shatter x 2	
	Retouched flake	
53	Flake	
56	Bladelet (**)	
	Flakes x 7	
	Denticulate	Very fresh – modern??
	Core	

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Appendix 5: Animal Bone**Jen Browning**

A small number of bones were recovered from evaluation at Hallam Fields, Birstall and quickly scanned. Although, the bones were poorly preserved and fragmented, cattle, sheep/goat and red deer were identified. A deciduous tooth and fragment of metatarsal suggest the presence of young ungulates at the site, while the antler, although shed, indicates the utilisation of nearby natural resources.

<i>Context</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>No fragments</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Notes</i>
5	gully fill	13	unidentified	shaft fragments. Very poor condition
51	ditch fill	4	sheep-size	atlas fragments.
51	ditch fill	1	sheep/goat	upper 3rd molar.
53	enclosure ditch fill	1	cattle	premolar
53		1	cattle	pelvis. ischium part of acetabulum. Burnt/charred?
53		1	cattle-size	long bone shaft fragment, very abraded surface and fresh breaks.
53		12	cattle-size	shaft fragments. mainly limb bone.
53		1	cattle-size	right scapula, part of blade and spine
53		1	cattle-size	radius fragment
53		3	red deer	antler. Shed burr and two beam/tine fragments. Large antler.
53		1	sheep- size	shaft fragment
53		1	sheep/goat	metatarsal shaft- probably immature
53		1	sheep/goat	deciduous molar
53		2	unidentified	burnt bone, completely calcined
<i>Total fragments</i>		43		