

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by NMC Nomenca to undertake a watching brief to mitigate the potential loss of archaeological remains during the replacement of a rising mains at Draycott, Derbyshire (hereafter 'the Scheme') (**Figure 1**).

The Scheme was approximately 6km long and passed largely through arable land on the banks of the River Derwent, south of the A6005 in Derbyshire. The insertion of the pipeline was carried out under permitted development rights and involved the stripping of topsoil within a 20m easement and the excavation of an open cut trench within this stripped area.

Two definitive cremation burials and seven cremation related deposits were identified at the eastern end of the Scheme along with a collection of Romano-British pottery at the western end. The cremation burials were radiocarbon dated to the Middle Bronze Age. Further medieval and post-medieval pottery was found along the length of the Scheme, however. none were recovered from secure contexts. Neither the cremation burials nor the pottery and finds were found in association with any other archaeological features or deposits.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 75333 and will be deposited in due course with the repository museum.



Archaeological Watching Brief Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by NMC Nomenca.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Fairhead, Jess Tibber, Michael Keech, James Thomson and Justin Wiles. The report was researched and compiled by Grace Corbett. The illustrations were prepared by Chris Swales. Find analysis was undertaken by Lorraine Mepham. Osteological analysis was undertaken by Jackie McKinley and radiocarbon dating by Chris Stevens. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrea Burgess.



Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by NMC Nomenca to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate the potential loss of archaeological remains during the replacement of a rising mains at Draycott, Derbyshire from NGR 438650, 334142 to 444934, 332978 (hereafter 'the Scheme') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Scheme was approximately 6km long and passed largely through arable land on the banks of the River Derwent, south of the A6005 in Derbyshire. The insertion of the pipeline was carried out under permitted development rights and involved the stripping of topsoil within a 20m easement and the excavation of an open cut trench within this stripped area. Fieldwork took place from May 31st to August 11th 2011.
- 1.1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared for the Scheme in 2011 (Wessex Archaeology 2010) which highlighted the potential for archaeological remains to be encountered, particularly at the eastern end of the Scheme. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2011) in line with industry best practice, detailing the methods and standards to be employed during the archaeological works.
- 1.1.4 This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed, the results of the work, and an archaeological interpretation of the findings.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Scheme extends for approximately 6km (NGR 438650 334142 to 444934 332978) across arable land on the banks of the River Derwent, extending from north-east of Alvaston, Derby, to a pumping station east of Draycott. The Scheme swaps from the southern bank to the northern bank of the river south of Borrowash. From the west the route runs through the parishes of Derby, Elvaston, Ockbrook and Borrowash, and Draycott and Church Wilne. The Scheme falls from 40m AOD at the west of the route to 33m AOD at the east (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The geology along the Scheme is largely comprised of Gunthorpe and Branscome Mudstone formations (formerly Keuper Marl), of the Mercian Mudstone Series. The overlying superficial deposits comprise up to 2m of alluvium in the flood plains beside the river, with gravel terraces to the north and south (BGS map sheet E141).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The area surrounding the Scheme is rich in archaeological remains including finds from prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. A 100m Study Area was defined either side of the Scheme. The following information has been summarised from the desk-based assessment produced for the Scheme (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The earliest evidence for human activity within the Study Area dates from the Neolithic period, by way of a single flint implement recovered during field-walking south of Borrowash. The scarcity of evidence within the Study Area is in large part attributable to intensity of agricultural activity alongside the river from the medieval period onwards which will have had an adverse impact on the survival of archaeological evidence. Furthermore, periods of erosion and alluviation caused by the gradually shifting course of the River Derwent will also have impacted early prehistoric sites within the Study Area.
- 2.2.2 Several crop marks have been identified from aerial photography on the course of the rising main just to the south of Draycott. Whilst not yet investigated, the features appear to comprise a curvilinear enclosure, a rectilinear enclosure and a possible ring ditch all possibly of Bronze Age or Iron Age date.
- 2.2.3 Within the Study Area there is evidence for a Roman Road running parallel to the River Derwent, linking a fort at Little Chester in Derby to Sawley on the River Trent (Burnham and Wacher 1990).
- 2.2.4 The earliest settlement evidence comes largely from place names which appear to date to the late Saxon and medieval periods. The earliest mention of most of the settlements comes in 1086 from the Domesday Book, although the inclusion of Old English elements within their names can be an indicator of earlier origins. Borrowash is plausibly named after a late Saxon fortification, with the present village situated in a commanding position for controlling trade on the river and road as well as the route to Derby from the Trent Valley.
- 2.2.5 There are a high number of ridge and furrow earthworks commonly associated with medieval open field systems within the Study Area, although they may also date to the 10th century or before. The extent of ridge and furrow along the length of the Study Area illustrates the agricultural character of the land during this period, while comparison with modern field boundaries demonstrates how field boundaries have changed. Archaeological excavations at the west end of the Study Area, associated with the construction of the A6 Alvaston by-pass, identified further medieval ridge and furrow suggesting the land had largely been under pasture since the post-medieval period (ULAS 2002).
- 2.2.6 The post-medieval period was one of intensification of land use, agricultural and industrial, culminating in the rapid expansion of the 19th century. The



extent of the enclosure of the landscape at this time is evident from the first edition of the Ordnance Survey of 1887 where the entire Study Area had been divided into fields, with occasional lines of trees within the fields fossilising earlier enclosures that by the 19th century had already been lost. Around the Study Area there are few examples of the rapidly increasing industrial character evident in Derby and other large urban centres. The area did not remain untouched however, for by the 19th century two cotton mills had been built comprising Borrowash Mills within the Study Area, and another in the centre of Draycott north of the Study Area.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief was to allow for the collection and assessment/analysis of archaeological data impacted upon during groundworks associated with the Scheme.
- 3.1.2 The general aims of the project were:
 - to identify any archaeological remains along the route of the pipeline;
 - to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
 - to record all archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks;
 - to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
 - to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed with their local, regional and national contexts;
 - to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works; and
 - to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works.

3.2 Fieldwork strategy

- 3.2.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the following methodology in order to meet the aims set out above. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance and recognised professional standards issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008, 2009).
- 3.2.2 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on all groundworks that may have impacted on archaeological features and deposits. Topsoil was stripped within a 20m corridor. A continuous watching brief was carried out within the area of high archaeological potential as identified in the desk based assessment (2010). An intermittent watching brief was carried out on groundworks within the area of low-moderate archaeological potential. Upon the discovery of Romano-British pottery within the area of low-moderate potential the watching brief was carried out on a continuous basis until it was no longer deemed necessary.
- 3.2.3 Topsoil was not stripped in the area surrounding the possible prehistoric cropmark enclosures at the eastern end of the Scheme (**Figure 2b**). This

area was directionally drilled along the route of the old mains in order to avoid any impact upon the potential archaeological remains in this area. No topsoil stripping took place in this area; a temporary trackway was laid above the topsoil in order to allow plant to move on to the next section of the Scheme.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. Details of Wessex Archaeology's recording system are available on request.
- 3.3.2 A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections).
- 3.3.3 All recorded archaeological features revealed were surveyed using a GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.3.4 A full photographic record was created.

3.4 Copyright

- 3.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.
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4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Topsoil stripping was monitored along the length of the Scheme (Figures 2a and 2b). The excavation of the pipe trench was also monitored in Fields 9-12 due to the presence of human remains. The recorded contexts are described in detail in Appendix 2.

4.2 Watching Brief Results

Area of Low-Moderate Potential (Areas 1-3) (Figure 2a)

- 4.2.1 The stripping of topsoil in these areas was monitored intermittently. Topsoil and, in places, subsoil was stripped to a maximum depth of 0.5m below ground level (bgl) with alluvium exposed in patches in some areas. No archaeological features were identified within these areas.
- 4.2.2 A collection of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil west of Station Road (see section 5 for further information). These finds were not associated with any archaeological features.

Area of High Potential (Figure 2b-3)

4.2.3 Stripping of topsoil in **Fields 1-5** and **9-14** was monitored continuously; the excavation of the pipe trench was monitored in **Fields 9-12**.

Fields 1-5

- 4.2.4 The stratigraphic sequence was largely consistent throughout these fields with silty clay subsoil underlying silty sand topsoil. No archaeological features were identified within these fields.
- 4.2.5 Some sherds of 19th century pottery and glass were observed in the topsoil within **Field 3** but were not collected. A scatter of general modern construction rubble including frequent brick, glass and metal debris was located beneath the topsoil at the centre of **Field 4**.

Field 9

- 4.2.6 Excavation of the pipe trench revealed grey clay with gravel **9024** from 1.2 to 1.4m bgl. Overlying this were successive layers of possible alluvium (**9004**, **9023** and **9003**). The topsoil and subsoil in this field consisted of silty clay.
- 4.2.7 Two definitive cremation burials (9009 and 9017, Plates 4-5) and seven cremation related deposits (9005, 9007, 9011, 9013, 9015 and 9021, Plates 3, 6-7) were identified, located towards the north-eastern end of the field, cut into alluvium 9003 (Figure 3). These were excavated under Burial License 11-0123. The features were located within a discrete 4 x 2.5m area, 100m to the southwest of Sawley Road (Figure 3, Plates 1-2). They ranged from circular to sub-circular in plan, from 0.1 to 0.35m in diameter, and were between 0.05 and 0.19m deep. All features were filled with a silty clay deposit with varying quantities of cremated bone and charcoal in each. A full assessment of the burials and deposits can be found in Section 7.

Field 10-12

4.2.8 The pipe trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m bgl in these fields revealing successive layers of alluvial clay and gravels. Brown gravel was identified from 1.7-2m bgl in **Fields 10** and **12** and may represent early river flood deposits. The gravel was not identified in **Field 11** as the trench was only excavated to 1.5m bgl. Alluvium deposits overlying the gravel consisted of mid greyish brown and yellowish brown clay, both with frequent

iron panning and further mottled clay deposits. Overlying these clay and gravel deposits was silty clay subsoil and topsoil.

4.2.9 Shallow signs of ridge and furrow were seen within **Field 12**. No further archaeological features of finds were identified in these fields during either the topsoil strip or the pipe trench excavation.

Field 13-14

- 4.2.10 Excavation of the pipe trench was not monitored in these fields. Greyish orange clay alluvium, from 0.3-0.6m bgl, underlay silty clay subsoil and topsoil
- 4.2.11 Finds recovered from the topsoil include pottery, CBM, glass and iron details of which can be found in Section 5. These finds were not recovered in association with any archaeological features.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered, consisting largely of pottery sherds, and for the most part dating to the post-medieval/modern period, although finds of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval date were also identified.
- 5.1.2 Finds were recovered entirely from topsoil contexts in seven areas (Areas 1, 2 and 3 and Fields 9, 10, 13 and 14). Quantities by context are given in Appendix 3.
- **5.2 Pottery** (Lorraine Mepham)
- 5.2.1 The pottery assemblage (342 sherds) is largely post-medieval/modern, but also includes sherds of Romano-British and medieval date.

Romano-British

5.2.2 Romano-British pottery was identified in one location, directly west of Station Road (Figure 2a Area 3), comprising 32 sherds. All are coarsewares, and these include Derbyshire wares (13 sherds), both reduced and oxidised, with their distinctive 'pimply' surface (Tomber and Dore 1998, 125), occurring in 'bell-mouthed' jar forms. There is one sherd of white fumed ware, one of another whiteware, and one of oxidised ware, all these occurring as single everted jar rims. The remaining 16 sherds are greywares. Diagnostic forms include a large part of a carinated bowl, a dog dish, and two everted rim jars, one narrow-mouthed example appearing slightly warped (perhaps a 'second' rather than a 'waster' from kiln production). These greywares almost certainly represent the products of more than one source, of which one possibility is the Derby Racecourse industry of the later 1st and early 2nd century AD. This provides a parallel for the carinated bowl, although in this instance cordoned (Brassington 1980, fig. 19, nos. 526, 530). The bell-mouthed Derbyshire ware jars, however, are likely to have a later date; the industry has its origins in the mid-2nd

century, but the deeply dished rim profile, as seen here, did not develop until the mid-3rd century AD (Gillam 1939, form 152).

5.2.3 The relatively fresh condition of most of the Romano-British sherds can be remarked upon; these sherds do not appear to have been much affected by post-depositional movement.

Medieval

5.2.4 Thirteen sherds were identified as medieval; all are small and relatively abraded. They occurred in four locations (**Fields 9, 10**, and **Areas 2** and **3**, **Figures 2a** and **2b**). All but two of the sherds are in sandy fabrics with some range in coarseness of the quartz inclusions; seven are pale-firing (buff to pale orange), and four sherds are glazed. The most likely source for some if not all of these sandy wares are the kilns at Burley Hill and King Street, Duffield, which were producing a range of such wares during a period possibly spanning the late 12th to 15th centuries (Cumberpatch 2002/3). The remaining two sherds (joining, from **Field 10**) are in a coarse fabric with abundant irregular voids.

Post-Medieval/Modern

- 5.2.5 The remaining pottery, comprising the bulk of the assemblage (297 sherds) dates to the post-medieval/modern period, and of these the majority consist of factory-produced finewares of the 19th/20th century whitewares (including transfer-printed examples), developed creamwares, pearlwares, yellow-wares, English porcelain and bone china. These occur predominantly as table- and tea wares (plates, cups, saucers, etc.), with some utilitarian wares provided by the yellow wares (bowls, some with mocha or other slipped decoration), and also by later stonewares (cylindrical jars and bottles). There is a decorated door handle in pearlware, and part of a moulded figurine in porcelain a second figurine, part of a male figure in early 19th century dress, appears to have been made in pipeclay coloured red.
- 5.2.6 Coarsewares, however, provide evidence for some earlier post-medieval activity; these include Midlands Purple and Midlands Yellow wares and black-glazed redwares, all in utilitarian forms (bowls and jars), and Staffordshire-type slipwares and manganese mottled wares in tableware forms (plates/dishes and cups/small bowls). These coarsewares potentially cover the earlier post-medieval period (16th/17th century), with the Staffordshire-type wares dating to the 17th or 18th centuries. Midlands stonewares (Staffordshire, Nottingham/Derby), of which there are a few sherds, also have a start date in the early 18th century.
- 5.2.7 The range of post-medieval/modern wares appears similar across the area investigated.
- **5.3 Glass** (Lorraine Mepham)
- 5.3.1 This category consists entirely of vessel glass, and includes green bottle glass from the late 18th or 19th century (**Field 10**), and fragments of modern bottles, a wineglass and a decorative vessel (**Field 13** and **Areas 1** and **3**).

5.4 Worked Flint (Matt Leivers)

- 5.4.1 A single prehistoric object was found; this is a small, well-made planoconvex knife of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, recovered from the topsoil in **Field 9**.
- **5.5 Iron** (Lorraine Mepham)
- 5.5.1 The iron objects include three probable nails, much corroded (Fields 13 and 14); a length of circular-sectioned rod, of unknown function (Area 3); and a scale tang knife (Area 3). All are likely to be of post-medieval date.

5.6 Other Finds (Lorraine Mepham)

5.6.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of clay tobacco pipe (stem fragments, 18th century or later); animal bone; and ironworking slag recovered from the topsoil and not associated with any archaeological features.

6 HUMAN REMAINS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Cremated human bone was recovered from nine features which all lay within a discrete c. 4 x 2.5m area (**Figure 3**). The distance between the cuts varied between c. 0.50m and 1.50m, and they are likely to represent a broadly contemporaneous group. In the absence of any artefactual dating evidence, bone samples from two of the cuts (Table 1) were submitted for radiocarbon dating and returned a Middle Bronze Age date (see Table 2). The nature of the cremation-related deposits made within the cuts is unclear but includes a minimum of two unurned burials, one with redeposited pyre debris.

6.2 Methods

- 6.2.1 Osteological analysis followed the writer's standard procedure for the examination of cremated bone (McKinley 1994a, 5-21; 2000a). Age was assessed from the stage of skeletal and tooth development (Scheuer and Black 2000), and the general degree of age-related changes to the bone (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Sex was ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (*ibid*.; Gejvall 1981). The unsorted <5mm sieve residues were subject to a rapid scan by the writer for the recovery of identifiable skeletal elements.
- 6.2.2 A summary of the results is presented here, full details are held in the archive.

6.3 **Results and Discussion** (Jackie McKinley)

Disturbance and condition

6.3.1 The surviving depths of the features containing cremated bone varied from 0.05m (cuts **9007**, **9011** and **9013**) to 0.25m (grave **9009**), with over half being less than 0.10m. The features were encountered at *c*. 0.20-0.60m below ground level and were cut through the alluvium (**9003**) which had



been machined off to a *c*. 0.10m depth. In all except one case (grave **9017**) cremated bone was clearly visible at the level of the machine strip (as was fuel ash in three cases), demonstrating the upper horizon of the deposits had been truncated to some degree, and it is probable that a variable quantity of bone will have been lost from at least some of these deposits as a result of truncation. It should be noted, however, that the undisturbed remains of unurned cremation burials have been observed to survive in graves of as little as 0.05m in depth (e.g. figures 36-38 Dinwiddy and Schuster 2009; McKinley forthcoming a). At Draycott, although the two largest quantities of bone were recovered from two of the deepest surviving features (**9009** and **9017**); only a tiny amount was found in another feature of commensurate depth (**9019**).

6.3.2 The bone from most of the features is slightly worn in appearance and most of the collections are devoid of trabecular bone. Both observations are characteristic of cremated bone recovered from an acidic burial environment such as that encountered at Draycott (heavy clay; McKinley 1997a, 245; Nielsen-Marsh *et al.* 2000).

context	cut	deposit type	bone	age/sex
			weight	
9006	9005	cremation-related deposit	6.1g	subadult/adult >15 yr.
9008	9007	cremation-related deposit	0.3g	>infant (>10 yr.)
9010*	9009	?unurned burial	241.9g	adult >20 yr.
9012	9011	?rpd/?unurned burial + rpd	37.9g	subadult/adult >15 yr.
9014	9013	cremation-related deposit	1.5g	subadult/adult >13 yr.
9016	9015	cremation-related deposit	4.3g	subadult/adult >15yr.
9018	9017	?unurned burial + rpd	209.8g	adult >25 yr.
9020	9019	cremation-related deposit	1.4g	>infant (>5 yr.)
9022*	9021	??unurned burial + rpd	39.2g	adult >18 yr.

Table 1: Summary of results from analysis of cremated bone

Key: * - radiocarbon dated; rpd - redeposited pyre debris

Deposit formation processes and demographic data

- 6.3.3 Deduction of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) within the assemblage has been rendered difficult due to the uncertain nature of most of the deposits. This has undoubtedly been exacerbated by the probable loss of some of the material from several of the features. A variety of deposit types and features may be associated with the cremation rite, each of which may contain variable quantities of the same archaeological components; consequently, the product of one cremation may be distributed between several features and fills of similar appearance. The distribution of the various archaeological components is generally key to interpretation of the deposit type, and in this instance that information is unobtainable.
- 6.3.4 Exceptionally small quantities of bone (<10g) were recovered from the majority of the deposits on this site, with less than 40g from all except two features (the latter amount represents a only *c*. 2.5% or less of the expected weight of recoverable bone from an adult cremation (McKinley 1993)). Irrespective of the undoubted truncation of the features and possible limited taphonomic destruction of trabecular bone, these very small quantities clearly did not lie on the base of the cuts and were, apparently, often mixed with what probably represents redeposited pyre debris. None of the

identifiable skeletal elements within the overall assemblage is indicative of the presence of more than one individual, and all could have derived from individual/individuals of the same/similar age.

- 6.3.5 Consequently, on the basis of the limited context and osteological data, a MNI of two, possibly four individuals has been deduced for the assemblage. These derived from the two largest deposits, one of which was inclusive of redeposited pyre debris (grave 9017) and the other not (grave 9009), and from cuts 9011 and 9021. The material from the other small cuts could have derived from one or more of the same cremations and have been accidentally incorporated into unassociated features or represent the remnants of deliberate deposits of pyre debris (see McKinley 1997b). Singletons or small groups of mortuary features such as these are characteristic of the period and were probably associated with small individual settlements situated in close proximity.
- 6.3.6 No pathological lesions were observed.

Pyre technology and cremation ritual

- 6.3.7 The majority of the bone is white in colour, indicative of full oxidation (Holden *et al.* 1995a and b), but a few fragments from the two graves and one cremation-related deposit (**9016**) show slightly blue or grey colouration indicative of incomplete oxidation. Only one or two fragments of any one skeletal element is affected and never the entire bone. In the case of **9016** only one element (femur) was affected, whereas several elements of the upper and lower limb were involved in burial **9010** and the skull vault and hand bones in burial **9018**. A variety of intrinsic and extrinsic factors may have an impact on the efficiency of oxidation (McKinley 1994a, 76-78; 2004, 293-295; 2008). The slight variations seen here are likely to reflect only an incidental shortfall in fuel influencing time/temperature towards the end of the cremation process, and/or the peripheral position of the skull/hands on the pyre.
- 6.3.8 The weights of bone recovered from each context have been discussed above with respect to interpretation of deposit type. Of the two deposits most confidently interpreted as burial remains, the weights of bone recovered are similarly relatively low (average 241.9g). Given that no bone was evident at surface level in grave 9017, the 209.8g recovered from the cut is likely to reflect the closest representation of the weight of bone originally included at burial. Even the maximum weight recovered represents only c. 15% of the average weight of bone expected from an adult cremation (McKinley 1993) and falls towards the bottom end of the lower range of weights recovered from cremation burials of this date (McKinley 1997b). Undoubtedly, the bone weight will have been adversely affected by the taphonomic loss of trabecular bone (see above), but it is unlikely to have made a substantial difference and still suggests that the majority of the cremated bone was not making it into the graves. The frequent absence of all the cremated bone which would have survived the pyre from the burial and/or the associated pyre debris suggests that much was removed and either 'curated' or disposed of in a currently archaeologically unrecognised fashion (e.g. scattered).

- 6.3.9 The maximum fragment size recovered from the deposits was between 7mm (cremation-related deposit from cut **9019**) and 42mm (adult burial; 9018), the majority of the bone (*c*. 50-64%) in most cases deriving from the 5mm sieve fraction. The bone from the two burials is slightly less fragmentary than that from the other deposit types with an average maximum fragment size of 38mm compared with 14mm. Many of the factors affecting the size of cremated bone fragments are exclusive of any deliberate human action other than that of cremation itself (McKinley 1994b). Here, the general size of the bone fragments was relatively small, most probably in response to taphonomic factors.
- 6.3.10 A relatively low proportion of the bone from the two burials (36-38% by weight) was identifiable to skeletal element, and two of the smallest cremation-related deposits contained no identifiable elements; the low percentage undoubtedly being influenced by the relatively small size of many of the bone fragments. Elements from all four skeletal areas are represented within each of the two confidently identified burials, with the commonly observed under-representation of axial skeletal elements and over representation of skull elements (taphonomy and ease of identification; McKinley 1994a, 5-6).
- 6.3.11 Tooth roots and the small bones of the hands and feet are commonly recovered from the remains of cremation burials of all periods and it has been suggested that their frequency of occurrence may provide some indication of the mode of recovery of bone from the pyre site for burial (McKinley 2000a; 2004, 299-301). Such elements were absent or extremely sparse (three or less) from all deposits except burial **9018** from which 10 elements were recovered. The writer has observed that Middle Bronze Age burials elsewhere generally include in the region of five to 20 such elements, placing those reported here in the lower range for the period. Their paucity may suggest hand collection of individual bone fragments for burial resulting in a bias towards the larger skeletal elements.
- 6.3.12 The deliberate inclusion of pyre debris in the fill of Bronze Age cremation graves is frequently observed. Generally such deposits were made after the burial, around or above it (McKinley 1997b). Although there is some suggestion from some of the Draycott deposits that (wood) fuel ash may have been placed in the cut before the bone, the absence of any detail pertaining to the formation process render interpretation difficult and inconclusive.
- 6.3.13 Small fragments of unburnt coal were recovered from amongst the pyre debris from four of the features. As this material occurs naturally on the site and was observed in several soil matrices its presence is undoubtedly intrusive, representing a coarse inclusion rather than an archaeological one. There are rare claims made for the use of coal as a fuel in Middle Bronze Age cremations in Wales (Fox 1937). At Simondston Cairn, Bridgend, Glamorgan (c. 1.5 miles of the South Wales coalfield), a few small fragments of coal were recovered amongst the large quantity of fuel ash (charcoal) recovered from one of the 'secondary' cremation graves. Here it was believed there was no likelihood of contamination and that the coal had been used as fuel. However, it was specified that the coal was unburnt, which is unlikely to have been the case had it functioned as fuel for the pyre

as had the rest of the pyre debris with which it was recovered (oak and ash charcoal was recorded but no spent coal ash).

7 RADIOCARBON DATING

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Two samples of cremated bone from **9009** and **9021** were submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre, East Kilbride (SUERC) for radiocarbon dating.

7.2 **Results** (Chris Stevens)

- 7.2.1 The radiocarbon determinations were calibrated using OxCal 4.1.7 (Bronk Ramsey 2001; 2009) and the IntCal09 calibration curve (Reimer et al. 2009) and are quoted in the form recommended by Mook (1986) with the end points rounded outward to 10 years. (Table 1).
- 7.2.2 The calibrated dates show both of the cremation burials to be broadly Middle Bronze Age in date. That from cremation burial (9009) was potentially slightly older returning a date of 1520-1380 cal. BC (3165±35 BP, SUERC-38041). While that from cremation burial (9021) returned a slightly date of 1440-1260 cal. BC (3095±35 BP, SUERC-38042). It might be noted that statistically the two cremations potentially could be contemporary $\chi^2 Test$: df=1 T=2.0 (5% 3.8).

Context	Identification	Laboratory Code	δ ¹³ C	Date BP	calibration BC (2 sig. 95.4%)
cremation burial 9009	cremated bone 2.2g	SUERC-38041	-21.7‰	3165±35	1520-1380 cal. BC
cremation burial 9021	cremated bone 1.7g	SUERC-38042	-20‰	3095±35	1440-1260 cal. BC

χ2 –Test : df=1 T=2.0 (5% 3.8)

Table 2: Radiocarbon determination for SUERC-38041

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Bronze Age Remains

- 8.1.1 The cremation burials and cremation related deposits uncovered at Draycott are likely to represent a flat cemetery, a site type which was becoming more common during the Middle Bronze Age. Sites of this kind are rarely identified in the archaeological record, particularly within fertile areas such as the Derwent Valley, which have been subject to centuries of agricultural practices.
- 8.1.2 Bronze Age funerary remains within Derbyshire are represented mainly by material from the Peak District (Barnatt 1986; 1994; 1999; 2000; Barnatt and Robinson 1998). The high incidence of remains within the Peaks can be largely attributed to the lack of modern disturbance caused by farming,



which can be seen in other areas of Derbyshire, particularly within the Derwent Valley. Throughout the Bronze Age the disposal of human remains is characterised by a number of monument types, including barrows, cairns and flat cemeteries. While these are the known methods of disposal of the dead, how the bulk of the population were buried is not clear (Barnatt and Robinson 1998, 31). During the Early Bronze Age ritual monuments, including barrows, ring cairns, standing stones and stone circles, were an important part of the archaeological record, many were the prime focus for the playing out of social relationships and claims to authority at that time (Chapman 1999, 108). It is widely accepted that during the Bronze and Iron Ages societies became more 'sedentary' with sustained family farms becoming the norm (Barnatt 2000, 1). With the more sedentary lifestyle the emphasis in monument building was transferred to a more local perspective, resulting in many family groups having its own farms and monuments (ibid. 1-2) and the incidences of flat cemeteries increases.

- 8.1.3 Flat cemeteries are the rarest funerary site type, with only a small number of other examples within Derbyshire. A flat cemetery at Eaglestone Flat, Curbar, in the Peak District (Barnatt 1994), was excavated in the 1980s. The site is surrounded by extensive prehistoric field systems and agricultural cairnfields, as well as a number of ceremonial monuments. The burials varied from those within pots, which were placed in pits which had no evidence of burning and burials without pots in pits with burnt sides. This suggests that some cremations were carried out elsewhere, with the remains then transported to the site in pots, while others were cremated on or near the site and the remains deposited within the pits while still hot, thus burning the sides of the pits. The fabrics of the pots suggest that they were all made on or near the eastern gritstone moors of the Peak District. The excavation of this cemetery suggests that each individual community is likely to have had its own cremation cemetery (Barnatt 1994).
- 8.1.4 Other flat cemeteries in Derbyshire include one at Littleover, Derby, excavated in 2004 (Bacon-Martin and Woodward 2008). Only one cremation pit was excavated, measuring 0.5m wide and 0.22m deep and contained a cordoned urn, eight other cremation burials were recorded in plan but were not excavated (ibid. 23). A further cremation burial within a collared urn was found at Beeley, on a river terrace on the east side of the River Derwent (Barnatt 1998), with others at New Park Quarry on Stanton Moor and in the Derwent Valley at Stancliffe Park, Darley.
- 8.1.5 In south Derbyshire, along the Derwent and Trent valleys, the distribution of Bronze Age funerary sites is largely confined to the gravel terraces, including those at Swarkeston, Aston, Etwall, Hilton and Hoon. The gravel terraces provided easily worked soil for prehistoric agricultural activity (Posnansky 1956, 12).
- 8.1.6 The cremation burials found at Draycott differ from other excavated examples in that they were all contained within pits; none of them were associated with pottery. The burials were also located in the floodplain of the River Derwent, rather than on the gravel terraces.
- 8.1.7 Osteological analysis has determined that there was a minimum of two, and possibly four, individuals interred at Draycott, deriving from grave **9007** and

9017 and from cuts **9011** and **9021**. Due to the very small amount of cremated bone in the other features, it is thought that they may represent accidental depositions in un-associated features, or were the remnants of deliberate deposits of pyre debris.

- 8.1.8 Analysis has also shown that there was an absence of the majority of cremated bone which would have survived the pyre suggesting that much was removed and either curated or disposed of in a currently archaeologically unrecognised fashion (e.g. scattered). No evidence of pyres was observed on site nor was there any evidence of burning or scorching within the cuts (as seen at Eaglestone Flats, Barnatt 1994), suggesting that the cremated material was not hot when deposited. It can be suggested that the pyres may not have been located in the immediate vicinity.
- 8.1.9 No features were found in association with the cremation burials and cremation related deposits. At other flat cemeteries, such as Eaglestone Flats, grave goods, stone slabs, urns and in some cases small cairns were found with the burials. A Bronze Age flint tool was found within the topsoil in Field 9; however, it was not recovered in association with the cremation burials.
- 8.1.10 A search for Bronze Age remains within the Lower Derwent and Trent Valleys at the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (DHER) has revealed a series of cropmark enclosures 1.5km to the southeast of the cremation burials, with further enclosures, metalworking sites, barrows and a cursus monument 4km south-southwest of the cremation burials, at Shardlow Quarry. A barrow cemetery at Swarkeston Lowes (Posnansky 1955; 1956) is located 8km to the southwest. Although there is widespread evidence of activity during this period within these areas, little research has been undertaken in comparison to evidence from the Peak District, due to the nature of the landuse in the area since prehistoric times.

8.2 Romano-British

8.2.1 Romano-British pottery was identified in one location, directly west of Station Road comprising 32 sherds. All are coarsewares, including Derbyshire wares. These finds were recovered from the topsoil and no associated features were identified within this area. The sherds do not appear to have been much affected by post-depositional movement suggesting that they derive from Roman activity in the immediate vicinity. Activity in the area during this period is evidenced from a Roman Road running parallel to the River Derwent, linking a fort at Little Chester in Derby to Sawley on the River Trent (Burnham and Wacher 1990), which is located 800m north of the findspot.

8.3 Medieval – post-medieval

8.3.1 Medieval and post-medieval finds were also recovered from the topsoil. These sherds were not found in association with any other archaeological features and were probably introduced into agricultural soils through the practice of nightsoiling.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Location and deposition

9.1.1 The project archive from the fieldwork has been compiled into a stable, fully cross referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Sheffield, under project code **75332**, and the contents are detailed in **Appendix 2**. The archive will be deposited in due course with Derby Museums and Art Gallery.

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11 APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE INDEX

File No.	Details	Format	No. Sheets	
	Client Report	A4	40	
1	WSI	A4	8	
1	Graphics Register	A4	1	
1	Sample Register	A4	1	
1	Trench Records	A4	14	
1	Sample Sheets	A4	9	
1	Drawing sheets	A4	3	
1	Context Index	A4	2	
1	Context Sheets	A4	18	
1	Burial License	A4	1	
1	Photographic Register	A4	8	
FINDS	No. of Boxes 3			



12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

12.1 Area of Low-Moderate Potential

Area 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Turf layer – dark brown thin layer of silt	0-0.12m
1002	Topsoil – Mid brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal inclusions	0.12-0.34m
1003	Subsoil – Pale yellowish brown sandy clay, very compact with charcoal inclusions.	0.34-

Area 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2001	Topsoil – mid grey brown silty sand with dense roots and occasional small-medium angular stones	0-0.15m
2002	Subsoil- compact mid-orange brown sandy silt with infrequent small sub-rounded stones	0.15-0.21m
2003	Deposit – Compact orange brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.21-0.36m

Area 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
15001	Topsoil - mid grey brown silty sand with dense roots and occasional small-medium angular stones	0-0.50m
15002	Subsoil - compact mid-orange brown sandy silt with infrequent small sub-rounded stones	0.50+

12.2 High Potential Area

Field 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
7000	Topsoil – Friable mid-grey brown silty sand with occasional medium sized sub-rounded stones	
7001	Subsoil – Firm yellowish brown silty clay with frequent medium sized sub-rounded stones and occasional flecks of charcoal	

Field 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
6000	Topsoil - Friable greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones. Occasional pottery and glass sherds	
6001	Subsoil - compact mid-orange brown sandy silt with infrequent small sub-rounded stones	

Field 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
3001	Topsoil – Mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional medium sized sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles	
3002	Subsoil- Mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and coal.	

3003	Deposit - Back fill of former pipe trench, firm dark reddish brown silty sand with dense small – medium rounded and	
	sub-rounded pebbles	

Field 4		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
4000	Topsoil – Mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional sub- rounded stones	
4001	Deposit – Dark reddish brown mottled clay with frequent small sub-angular stones. Sherds of pottery found. Backfill of former pipe trench	
4002	Subsoil – Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles	

Field 5		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
5000	Topsoil – Friable mid-grey brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded stones	
5001	Deposit- Friable dark brownish grey silty sand with dense sub-angular stones. Frequent brick, glass, metal and plastic. Rubble scatter	
5002	Subsoil – Firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional rounded stones, small pebbles, some brick and charcoal flecking.	

Field 6		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
6000	Topsoil - Friable greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones. Occasional pottery and glass sherds	
6001	Subsoil - compact mid-orange brown sandy silt with infrequent small sub-rounded stones	

Field 9		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
9001	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay with medium-frequent sub-rounded pebbles at the western end	0-0.3m
9002	Subsoil: firm yellowish brown silty clay with some medieval pottery	0.2-0.6m
9003	Alluvium: patchy deposits of alluvium, mid grey brown with frequent iron panning	0.6-1.2m
9004	Natural: Sandy orange clay	1.1-1.5m
9005	Cremation grave cut: Circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.27m) with concave sides and base, quite shallow (0.07m), probably truncated by ploughing. Filled by 9006	0.6-0.67
9006	Cremation burial: Mid brownish grey graduating to greyish brown near base, firm silty clay with frequent burnt bone and charcoal.	0.6-0.67
9007	Cremation grave cut: Sub-circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.11m) with concave sides and base, quite shallow (0.05m), probably truncated by ploughing. Filled by 9008	0.6-0.65
9008	Cremation burial: Mid brownish grey graduating to greyish brown near base firm silty clay with frequent burnt bone and charcoal	0.6-0.65

9009	Cremation grave cut: Circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.30m) with straight sides and concave base, quite shallow (0.25m). Filled by 9010	0.6-0.85
9010	Cremation burial: Mid-dark brown graduating to light orange brown silty clay. Frequent iron panning in lower part of the fill. Frequent burnt bone and charcoal near the top of the fill.	0.6-0.85
9011	Cremation grave cut: Circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.35m) with straight sides and flat base, quite shallow (0.05m). Filled by 9012	0.6-0.65
9012	Cremation burial: Dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent burnt bone and charcoal	0.6-0.65
9013	Cremation grave cut: Circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.17m) with concave sides and flat base, quite shallow (0.05m). Filled by 9014	0.6-0.65
9014	Cremation burial: Mid brownish grey very firm silty clay with frequent burnt bone and charcoal.	0.6-0.65
9015	Cremation grave cut: Sub-circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.10m) with concave sides and base, quite shallow (0.06m). Filled by 9016	0.6-0.66
9016	Cremation burial: Mid-light greyish brown graduating to orange near base silty clay with occasional iron panning. Frequent burnt bone and charcoal.	0.6-0.66
9017	Cremation grave cut: Circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.30m) with concave sides and base, quite shallow (0.17m). Filled by 9018	0.6-0.77
9018	Cremation burial: Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional iron panning and frequent burnt bone and charcoal. Occasional burnt clay fragments.	0.6-0.77
9019	Cremation grave cut: Circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.30m) with concave sides and base, quite shallow (0.19m). Filled by 9020	0.6-0.79
9020	Cremation burial: Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional iron panning. Frequent burnt bone and charcoal	0.6-0.79
9021	Cremation grave cut: Sub-circular cut of cremation burial (diameter 0.19m) with concave sides and base, quite shallow (0.09m). Filled by 9022	0.6-0.69
9022	Cremation burial: Mid brownish grey very firm silty clay with frequent burnt bone and charcoal.	0.6-0.69
9023	Alluvium: Yellowish brown alluvium	0.6-1.2m
9024	Natural: Grey clay with gravel	

Field 10		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
10001	Topsoil – mid grey brown silty clay, friable with frequent roots.	0-0.20m
10002	Subsoil - mid-orange brown friable silty clay.	0.20-0.40m
10003	Alluvium: Mid grey brown with frequent iron panning	0.40-0.60m
10004	Alluvium: Yellowish brown with frequent iron panning	0.40-1.40m
10005	Deposit: Orange clay with bluish grey mottling	1.40-1.70m
10006	Deposit: Grey gravelly clay, approx. 80-90% small-medium rounded pebbles and occasional roots	1.70-2.0m
10007	Deposit: Brown gravel, 95% small-medium rounded pebbles	2.0+

Field 11		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
11001	Topsoil – mid brown silty clay	0-0.0.20m



11002	Subsoil- orange brown silty clay with infrequent small sub- rounded stones	0.2-0.40m
11003	Alluvium – Mid greyish brown firm clay	0.40-1.0m
11004	Natural – Orange with blue/grey mottling clay	1.0-1.50m

Field 12		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
12001	Topsoil – dark grey brown silty clay with frequent roots	0-0.20m
12002	Subsoil- mid-orange brown friable silty clay	0.20-0.40m
12003	Alluvium – Firm dark brown clay	0.40-1.40m
12004	Deposit – Firm natural orange clay with bluish grey patches	1.40-1.70m
12005	Deposit – Natural dark orange brown very wet gravel, 90%	1.7020m
	small-medium rounded pebbles	

Field 13		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
13001	Topsoil – dark brown friable silty clay	0-0.10m
13002	Subsoil- mid-yellowish brown silty clay	0.10-0.30m
13003	Alluvium – Greyish orange clay	0.30-0.40m

Field 14		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
14001	Topsoil – Dark brown, soft, friable, silty clay with frequent roots	0-0.10m
14002	Subsoil- mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.10-0.30m
14003	Alluvium – Yellowish brown firm clay with frequent iron panning	0.30-0.60m

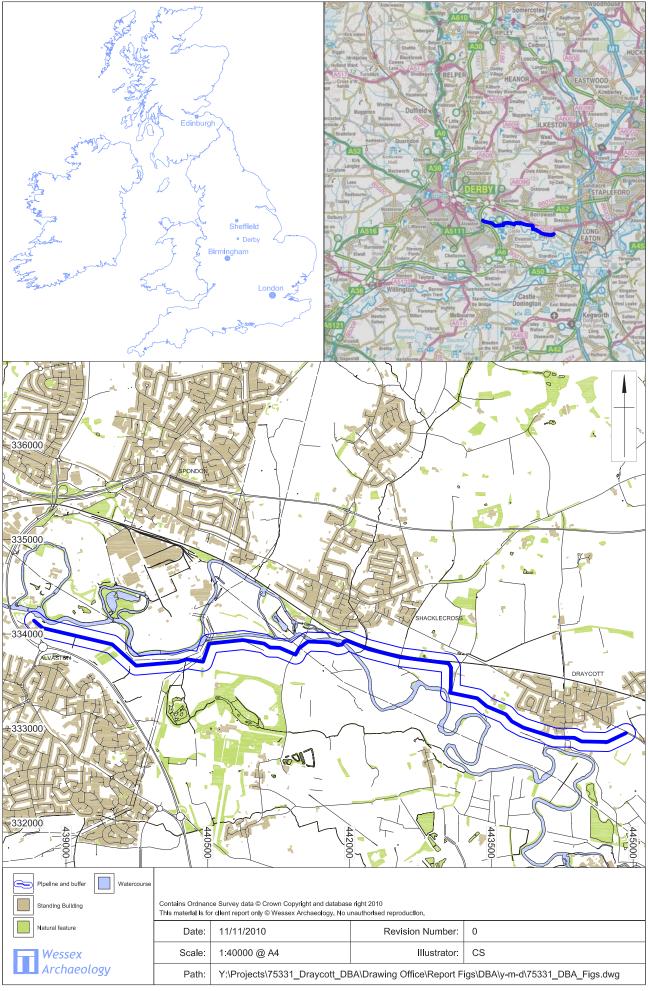


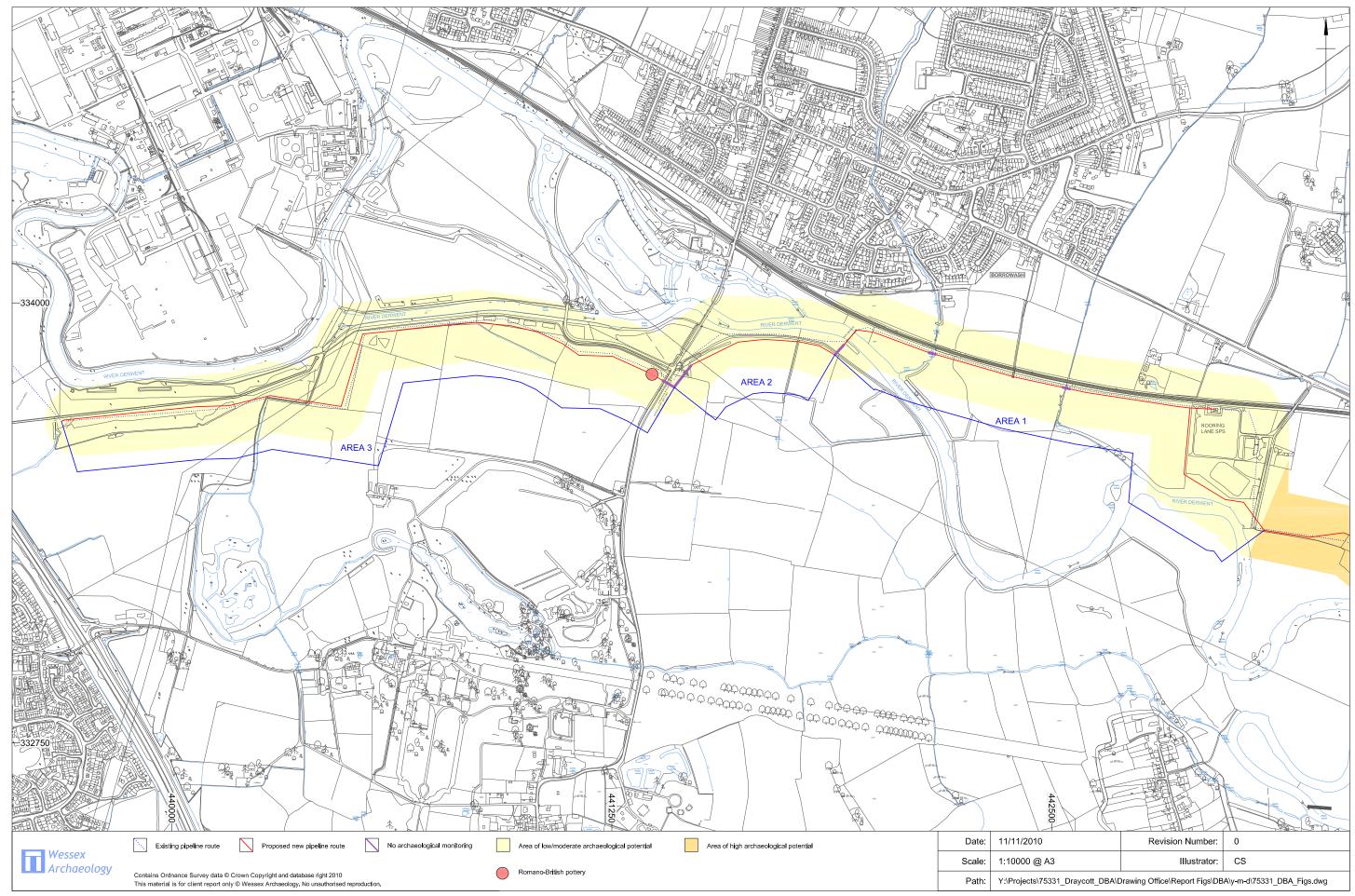
13 APPENDIX 3: FINDS CATALOGUE

Context	Material	No	Wt (g)	COMMENT
13001	ANIMAL BONE	1	6	
10001	ANIMAL BONE	1	50	large mammal rib
	Total	2		
13001	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	3	238	2 (joining) ?floor tile (worn, unglazed); 1 ?roof tile
13001	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	2	246	post-med roof tile
	Total	5		
13001	CLAY PIPE	1	4	stem frag adjacent to bowl; spur missing, traces of bowl seam dec
13001	CLAY PIPE	2	4	Stem fragments.
14001	CLAY PIPE	3	6	Stem fragments.
	Total	6		
9001	FLINT	1	6	plano-convex knife
13001	GLASS	1	260	Aqua green bottle base
10001	GLASS	3	288	green wine bottle, incl. base (late C18+)
15001	GLASS	1	1	strong blue, ridged bottle glass (modern 'poison' bottle)
1002	GLASS	5	130	2 blue (1 waste); 3 clear (1 wineglass footring; 1 thick tumbler base; 1 dec)
	Total	10		
13001	IRON	1	86	Heavily corroded lump, pin?
14001	IRON	2	184	Heavily corroded pins/nails.
15001	IRON	1	42	Rod.

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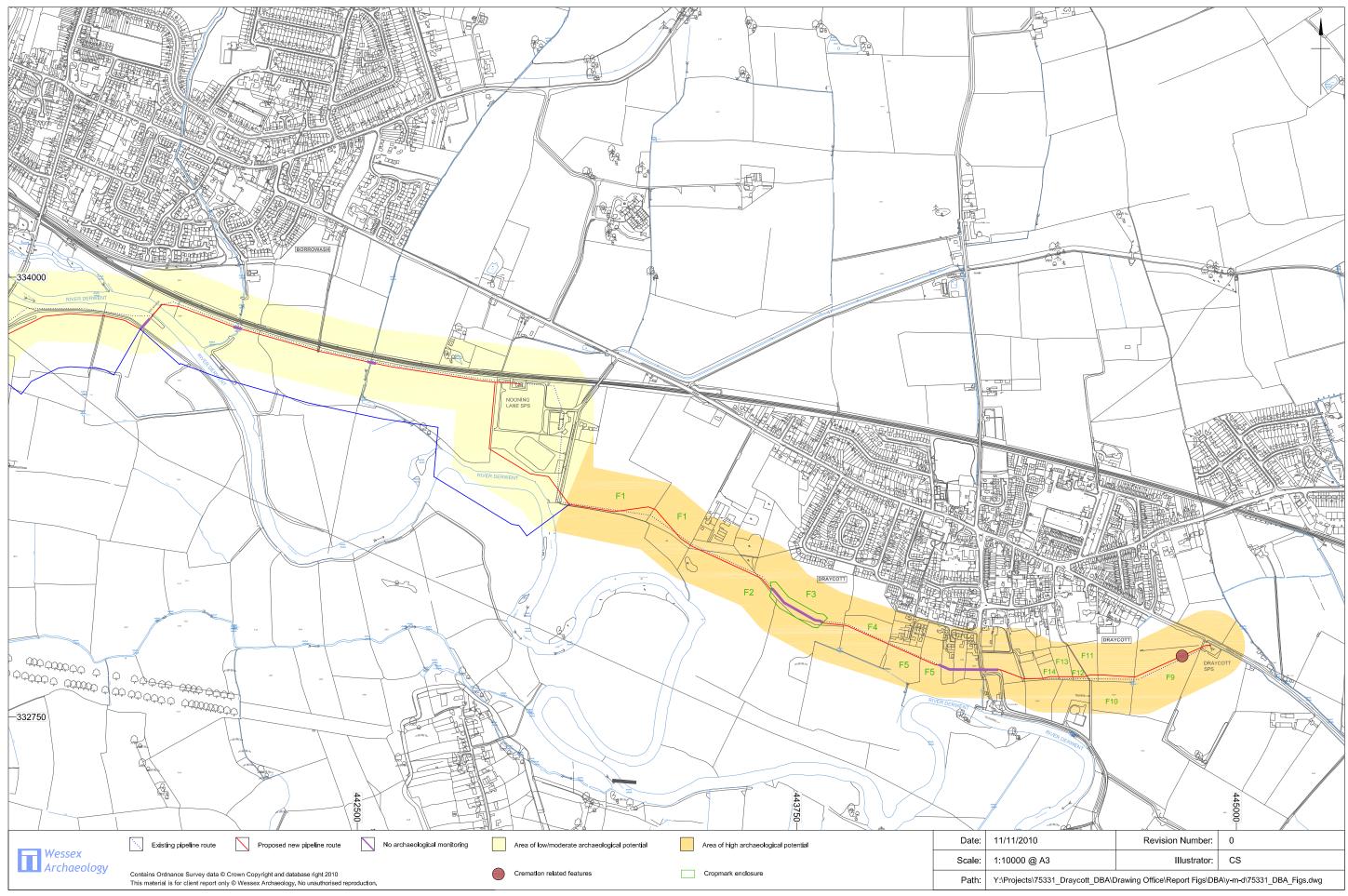
15001	IRON	1	24	Knife blade.
	Total	5		
1002	POTTERY	79	797	
2001	POTTERY	58	441	including ceramic egg
9001	POTTERY	22	541	
10001	POTTERY	19	234	
13001	POTTERY	60	874	including door handle
14001	POTTERY	17	406	including moulded figurine
15001	POTTERY	42	1031	includes RB wares
	Total	297		
15001	SLAG	5	50	





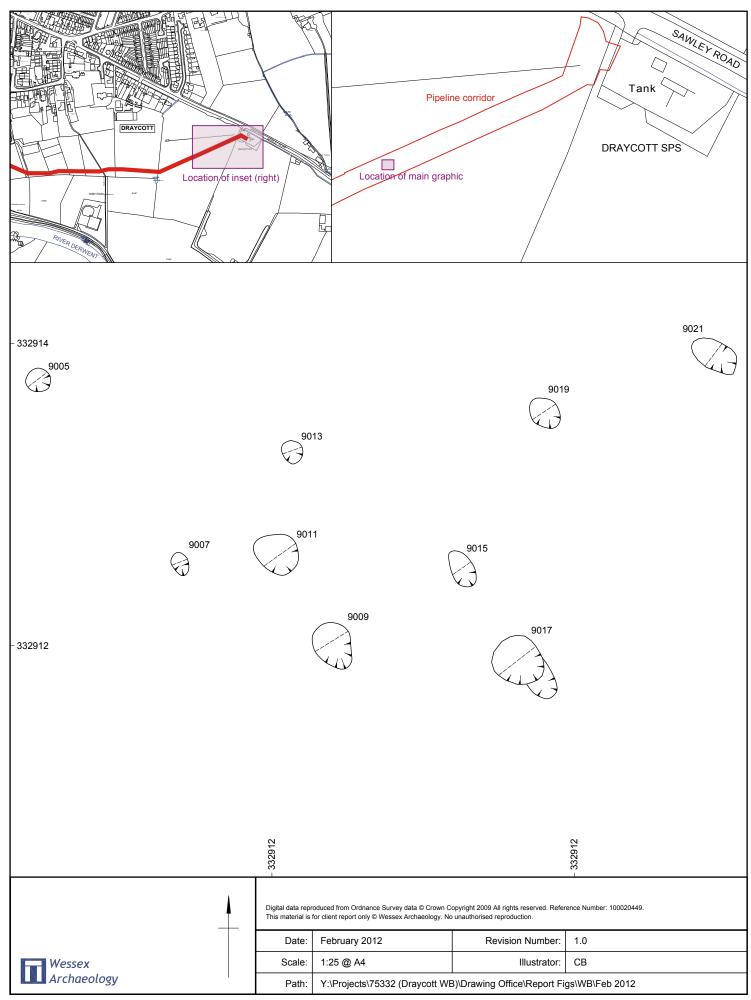
The Scheme

Figure 2a

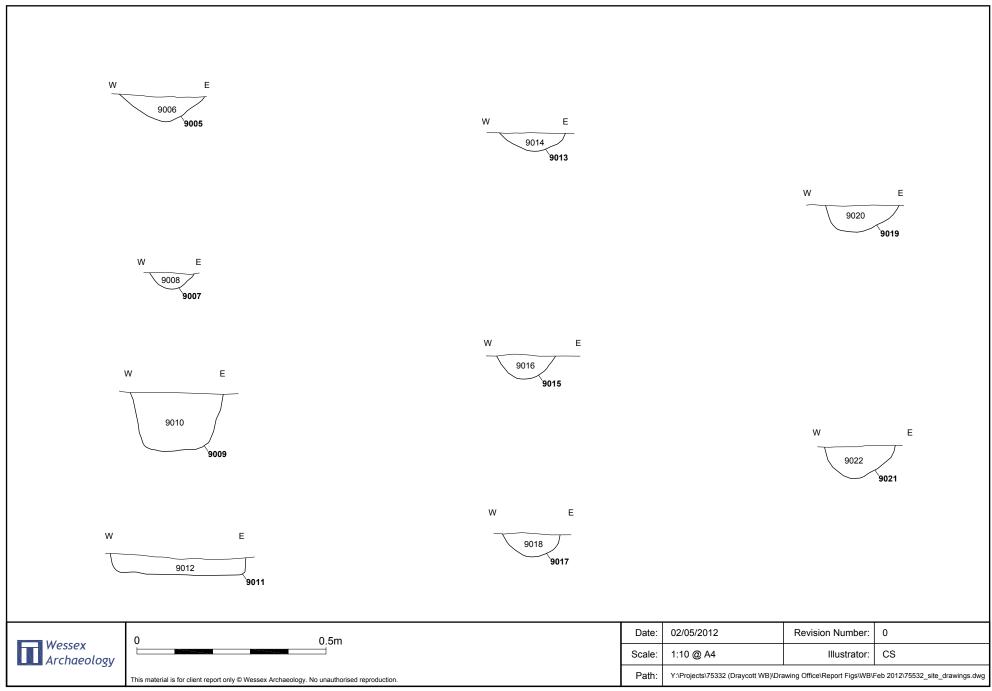


The Scheme

Figure 2b



Cremation burials and cremation related deposits



Sections of cremations and cremation related deposits



Plate 1: Pre-excavation shot of cremation burials and deposits.



Plate 2: Post-excavation shot of cremation burials and deposits.

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Plate 3: Cremation related deposit 9005.

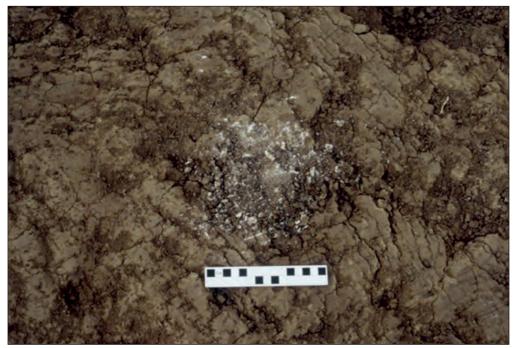


Plate 4: Cremation burial 9009.

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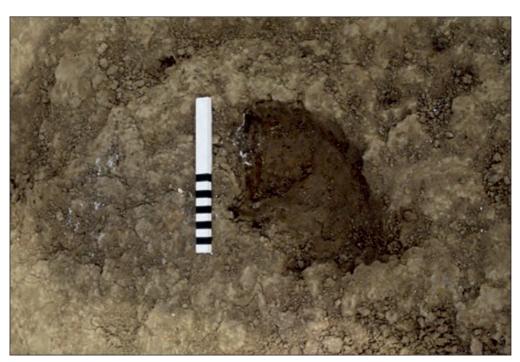


Plate 5: Cremation burial 9017.



Plate 6: Cremation related deposit 9019.

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Plate 7: Cremation related deposit 9021.

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