

**SPRINGFIELD QUARRY EXTENSION
BEACONSFIELD
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION**

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Contents

List of Figures	3
Preface.....	4
Structure of this Report	4
Key Terms.....	5
Non-Technical Summary	6
1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Project Background	7
1.2 Site Location and Description	7
1.3 Archaeological Background	7
1.4 Non-intrusive Evaluation	8
1.5 Professional Standards	8
2. AIMS & METHOD STATEMENT	9
3. RESULTS.....	10
3.1 Introduction.....	10
3.2 Overburden and geological deposits.....	10
3.3 Field 2.....	10
3.4 Field 3.....	11
3.5 Field 4.....	13
3.6 Environmental potential.....	13
4. SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS	14
4.1 Discussion	14
4.2 Significance of results	14
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	16
6. APPENDICES	17
6.1 Appendix 1 – Trench Summaries	17
6.2 Appendix 2 – Artefact Summary	58



Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature	58
Table 2: Pottery type series	58
6.3 Appendix 3 – Ecofact Summary	60



List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location with trench locations and geophysical data

Figure 2: All archaeological features

Figure 3: Field 4: Trenches 1-6

Figure 4: Field 3: Trenches 7-14 and 24

Figure 5: Field 3: Trenches 11, 14-16, 22-23 and 25-27

Figure 6: Field 3: Trenches 25-30

Figure 7: Field 3: Trenches 17-21 and 31

Figure 8: Field 2: Trenches 37-40

Figure 9: Field 2: Trenches 32-36

All figures are bound at the back of this report.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location, archaeological background and the aims of the project. Section 2 summarises the aims and methodology of the trial trenching. The results are discussed in Section 3. Section 4 provides a synthesis of the results, and states their significance within the surrounding landscape. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Appendix 1 contains all trench summary information. Appendix 2 contains a summary of the artefactual material. Appendix 3 contains an ecofact summary.

All figures are bound at the back of this report.



Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
Archaeological consultant	Isabel Lisboa of Archaeologica Ltd
BCAS	Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service
BCC's AO	Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Officer
Client	Springfield Farm Ltd
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
PD	Project Design
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2 nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology
SMR	Buckinghamshire's Sites and Monuments Record
Study Area	That part of the application site designated for trial trenching by BCC's AO



Non-Technical Summary

Springfield Farm Ltd is proposing to extend Springfield Quarry to the south. In support of the proposals, a programme of non-intrusive archaeological evaluation was undertaken. This comprised desk-top assessment, aerial photograph assessment and geophysical survey.

The information gained during the non-intrusive evaluation works led to the production of a brief, issued by Buckinghamshire County Council's, Archaeological Officer (BCC's AO) for a programme of trial trenching, the purpose of which was to establish the character and extent of any significant archaeological deposits. The brief identified a c.17ha area of the application site that was to be subjected to trial trenching.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by David Jarvis Associates Ltd, on behalf of Springfield Farm Ltd, to undertake the trial trenching and report on the results.

The study area is located towards the southern edge of Beaconsfield parish. The c.17ha study area, is situated between Dipple Wood to the east and Over's Farm and Lillyfee Farm to the west, centred on NGR SU 9290 8860 at a height of c.100m OD.

The evaluation has revealed that the central part of the development area (Field 3) contains significant archaeological remains. Trial trenching has demonstrated that a series of linear anomalies that were previously identified through geophysical survey are ditches, some of which contain pottery of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date.

The remains are likely to represent part of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age system of field boundaries or settlement enclosures. No conclusive evidence for settlement was found within the study area. However, pottery from the site along with other possible occupation debris suggests such activity within the vicinity. Some ditches in the central part of the study area, based on position and orientation, have been interpreted as part of field boundaries that were still extant in the 18th century. However, in the absence of more conclusive dating evidence it is possible that these features are also late Bronze Age or Iron Age.

No significant archaeological remains were found in the southern (Field 4) or eastern (Field 2) parts of the study area.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Springfield Farm Limited is proposing to extend Springfield Quarry to the south of the present quarry. In support of the proposals, a programme of non-intrusive archaeological evaluation was undertaken. This comprised desk-top assessment (Lisboa 2004), aerial photograph assessment (Deegan 2004) and geophysical survey (Bartlett 2005 and Lisboa 2006).

The results of the non-intrusive evaluation suggested that archaeological deposits of medieval or earlier date might be present within the quarry extension. Accordingly, a brief was issued by Buckinghamshire County Council's, Archaeological Officer (BCC's AO, BCAS 2006) for a programme of trial trenching, the purpose of which was to establish the character and extent of any significant archaeological deposits. The brief identified a c.17ha area of the application site that was to be subjected to trial trenching (hereafter referred to as the study area, Figure 1).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by David Jarvis Associates Ltd, on behalf of Springfield Farm Ltd, to undertake the trial trenching and prepare a report (this document) on the results. The trial trenching was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2006) that detailed a programme of work designed to fulfil the requirements of the brief.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The study area is located towards the southern edge of Beaconsfield parish, to the south of the current quarry. It lies on higher ground (at c.100m OD) to the east of the River Wye and between Dipple Wood (also to the east) and Over's Farm and Lillyfee Farm to the west. The study area comprises parts of three separate, arable fields, one of which lies to the south of Green Common Lane. It is centred on grid reference SU 9290 8860.

At the time of the evaluation, the fields contained a mature crop of spring barley that was harvested during the course of the evaluation.

The soils of the area are derived from glacial gravels (up to 6m thick) which in turn overly chalk bedrock. Vertical columns of stoneless sandy clay, the result of periglacial solifluction, are present within the gravel (Lisboa 2006).

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological and historical background to the study area and its wider surrounds is detailed in the desk-top assessment (Lisboa 2004). Where relevant to the trial trenching study area, it is summarised here.

Neither the desk-top assessment nor the aerial photographic assessment identified significant, pre-medieval archaeological remains within the study area. However, documentary and historic map evidence suggest that *Lillyfee* was a medieval



manor with more than one settlement focus, almost certainly beyond the present-day extent of Lillyfee Farm.

In this part of south Buckinghamshire, the late Saxon / medieval settlement pattern of dispersed farms and hamlets survived into the post-medieval period. However, by the end of the 18th century, the process of enclosure had created a rectilinear pattern of field boundaries. This forms the basis for the present-day field boundaries, although amalgamation, in the 20th century in particular, means that there are significantly fewer individual fields now than there were 200 years ago.

1.4 Non-intrusive Evaluation

As part of the non-intrusive stage of the evaluation, a geophysical survey was undertaken in November and December 2005 (Bartlett 2005). The results of the survey (Figure 1) have been interpreted in relation to other archaeological data including aerial photographs, historic map data and known archaeological sites (Lisboa 2006).

The survey showed anomalies of probable archaeological and geological origin. The most numerous anomalies were interpreted as being geological in origin. These consisted of discrete magnetic anomalies forming small to large irregular or sub-circular features. Large numbers of these features occurred across the site in a random distribution forming dense clusters in places. Two parallel lines of NNW to SSE anomalies were recorded in Field 5, to the southeast of Lillyfee Farm. These were thought to represent possible silted channels or erosion gullies.

Two strong magnetic disturbances, in Fields 3 and Field 5 corresponded to hollows visible in aerial photographs. These were interpreted as probable hand-dug quarries of modern date.

A series of linear magnetic anomalies of probable archaeological origin were identified in Field 3. These are orientated NNW to SSE and WNW to ESE, forming traces of a possible rectilinear pattern of land boundaries.

1.5 Professional Standards

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd ed, 2001).
- IFA's *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*;
- IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* (2000)
- English Heritage's *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991)
- Buckinghamshire County Museum (2003) *Procedures for deposit of Archaeological Archives*



2. AIMS & METHOD STATEMENT

A regular array of forty 50m trenches, adjusted to take into account the results of the geophysical survey, were excavated (Figure 1). The trial trenching took place between 17th July and 11th August 2006.

The objectives of the intrusive evaluation were to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial for archaeological remains within the study area.

The trial trenching was designed to test the results of the geophysical survey (both identified magnetic anomalies and “blank” areas) and seek evidence for potential late prehistoric, Roman and medieval deposits.

Specifically, it was designed to:

- i. Establish the date, nature and extent of past activity or occupation in the study area;
- ii. Establish the relationship of any remains found to surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- iii. Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- iv. Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;

The location of all trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation using differential GPS (dGPS) survey equipment. Topsoil and modern overburden were mechanically removed by a tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

The deposits and any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn, and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc.

The trenches were inspected on two occasions by the BCC's AO prior to being backfilled.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Forty trenches were excavated across the study area (Figure 2). The results of the evaluation will be discussed by field and are summarised below in chronological order and by feature type. The numbering of the fields in the present report follows those used in the geophysical survey report (Bartlett 2005) for ease of comparison.

Further detailed descriptions of the contexts recorded in each trial trench can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and geological deposits

In Fields 2, 3 and 4 the topsoil consisted of dark grey silt or clay silt with moderate small to medium sized stones. It was between 0.20m and 0.46m deep, with an average depth of 0.30m. Artefacts recovered from the topsoil in Field 2 consisted of a single piece of worked flint. This was a utilised flake, which was recovered from the topsoil within Trench 37.

Subsoil layers were recorded in five trenches in Field 3. This consisted of layers of mid orange-grey silt or mid orange-grey silty gravel that varied in depth between 0.08m and 0.18m. In two of the trenches (12 and 28), it appeared to cover archaeological features whilst in Trench 27 it appeared to be cut by archaeological features. It is likely this material represents an interface between the topsoil and underlying geological deposits.

The undisturbed geological strata in Fields 2, 3 and 4 generally consisted of light orange sandy gravel. It contained occasional large patches of light orange clay, which were free of stones. These are interpreted as periglacial features, clay intrusions in the glacial gravel. Many smaller patches of light orange or yellowish brown silty clay occurred across the study area being particularly common in Field 2. This appears to be a natural phenomenon, probably resulting from periglacial soil formation processes.

Other features of natural origin found in the gravel consist of large circular patches of grey silty material with sorted deposits, being relatively free of stones in the outer part with the stones concentrated towards the central part. These are interpreted as possible sinkholes, where the movement of soil downward has resulted in sorting of the stones.

3.3 Field 2

Nine trenches (32 - 40) were opened in Field 2 (Figures 2, 8 and 9). Trenches 37 and 38 were sited within a group of parallel geophysical anomalies, interpreted as possible traces of cultivation. No features were identified which corresponded to these anomalies.



3.3.1 Undated Ditches

Two undated linear features were identified in this field. Trench 37 contained a ditch [3702], aligned north to south. Trench 38 contained a ditch, [3804], that was aligned NW to SE.

3.4 Field 3

Twenty-five trenches were opened in Field 3 (Trenches 7 to 31, Figures 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7). Ten of these trenches were targeted on linear geophysical anomalies interpreted as possible archaeological features. The majority of these anomalies corresponded to ditches recorded in the trial trenches.

3.4.1 Late Bronze Age

Four ditches can be assigned to this period based on artefactual material recovered from within them. These ditches were situated in the western half of Field 2. Two were aligned NW to SE and two NE to SW, suggesting that they belong to a rectilinear boundary system or group of enclosures.

Two ditches recorded in Trenches 12 and 13 (Figure 4) [1203] and [1303] are interpreted as being part of the same linear feature. This feature corresponds to a linear geophysical anomaly, aligned NW to SE, which crosses the eastern end of both trenches and continues towards Trench 11. The ditch was steep sided with a concave base that measured 4.1m wide and 0.66m deep. It ended in Trench 13 in a terminal segment 0.19m deep. The deposit investigated within segment [1203] contained a significant amount of pottery dated to the late Bronze Age (16:332g, Appendix 2).

Another NW to SE aligned ditch was recorded in Trenches 15 and 16 (Figure 5), excavated segments [1502] and [1607]. The ditch had sides sloping at $c.45^\circ$ to a narrow concave base and measured 3.2m wide and 1.16m deep. This feature corresponds to a geophysical anomaly that extends between Trenches 15 and 16. It is possible that the ditch continued to Trench 22 where a large feature [2202] may represent its northern terminal. The deposit within segment [1502] contained late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery (13:60g), fired clay and burnt flint (Appendix 2).

A ditch aligned NE to SW was found in Trenches 14, 22 and 23 (Figure 5), excavated segments [1407], [2204] and [2306]. It was concave in profile, up to 1.55m wide and between 0.26m and 0.52m deep. The ditch observed in Trenches 22 and 23 corresponds to a geophysical anomaly at this location. A small amount of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery (3:30g) was recovered from segment [2204] (Appendix 2).

Trench 25 contained ditch [2503] aligned NE to SW. This was 0.9m wide and 0.37m deep. The deposit within the ditch contained a small amount of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery (2:7g, Appendix 2). This ditch may extend eastwards to Trench 28, where it may correspond to one of a number of undated features that share a similar orientation (Figure 5).



3.4.2 Possible Late Medieval/Post-medieval boundary ditches

Three ditches have been provisionally assigned to this period because they appear to correspond to a field boundary that is shown on map a mid-18th century map. The map entitled “A Survey of the Estates in the Parishes of Beaconsfield, Chalfont St. Peter, Burnham, Dorney, Hitcham, Taplow and Wobourn in the Hundred of Burnham, County of Bucks” is dated 1763 (Buckinghamshire SMR ref. MA R 59r)

One ditch, observed in Trenches 21 [2103] and 27 [2703] [2705], corresponds to a linear geophysical anomaly at this location. This ditch measured up to 3.9m wide and 0.8m deep. The section of the ditch investigated in Trench 27 had been re-cut on one occasion. It should be noted that ditches [2103] and [2703] produced small quantities of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and early Iron Age pottery.

Another ditch [1802] on a similar orientation, identified to the south in Trench 18, may be a continuation of the ditch seen in Trenches 21 and 30. Although slightly offset from the ditch to the north it had a slight curve and may have formed part of the same boundary.

3.4.3 Undated

Five ditches contained no dateable material and could not be associated with other dated features. In Trench 17 (Figure 7), feature [1703] was interpreted as the eastern terminus of a possible ditch measuring 1.03m wide and 0.29m deep. In Trench 28 (Figures 6 and 7), four ditches [2806] [2805] [2815] and [2816] were undated. These ditches were all aligned approximately NE to SW and were from 0.31m to 1.58m wide and between 0.07m and 0.42m deep. Two of the features are interpreted as the terminal segments of a ditch [2806] and its subsequent recut [2816].

Large pit [1007] was found towards the southern end of Trench 10 (Figure 4). This was 2.8m wide and 1.15m deep with a concave profile. It contained three fills.

Pit [1504] was found in the eastern end of Trench 15 (Figure 5). It measured 0.75m by 0.55m by 0.28m deep.

Two possible postholes [3002] and [3006] were identified in Trench 30 (Figure 6). A single sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil (3000) directly above [3002] during machine excavation of the trench. The dark grey silty deposit within these features was similar in appearance to that of the topsoil and was noticeably darker than the deposits within features for which a late Bronze Age date is suggested. It is suggested, based on the appearance of the deposits, that these postholes are likely to be relatively recent in origin.

3.4.4 Overburden and geological deposits

See general description of the overburden and geological deposits in Section 3.2. Artefacts recovered from the topsoil in this field comprise three sherds of flat roof tile of the late medieval or post-medieval period (72g), one sherd of pottery (8g) of



the same period and a fragment of a cast iron bowl that dates from the 16th century or later (Appendix 2).

3.5 Field 4

Six trenches were opened in Field 4, (Trenches 1 to 6, Figures 2 and 3). No archaeological features were identified.

3.5.1 Overburden and geological deposits

See general description of the overburden and geological deposits in Section 3.2. One sherd of late Iron pottery (16g) was recovered from Trench 6 (Appendix 2). It came from a shallow, north-south aligned feature [602] with irregular sides. This was 0.8m wide and 0.08m deep and is interpreted as being natural in origin, probably formed by a tree throw.

3.6 Environmental potential

Thirty-five litres of environmental samples were processed. These were taken from four features in order to assess the potential for preservation of macro-botanical remains (charred/waterlogged/mineralised seeds). The results of this work were not particularly encouraging (Appendix 3, Section 6.2.5). The only material consistently present was fragments of wood charcoal. The presence of the wood charcoal does suggest the possibility of recovering charred seeds from soil samples, since such material can be mixed with the fuel material.



4. SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

4.1 Discussion

The evaluation has revealed a clearly defined area of archaeological remains within Field 3 in the central part of the study area. These were first identified during the geophysical survey. Trial excavation confirmed that many of the identified linear anomalies were of archaeological origin.

A limited number of undated, linear features were identified in the eastern part of the study area in Field 2. No archaeological features were identified in the southernmost part of the study area, in Field 4.

Across the whole study area, trial trenching confirmed that the random pattern of discrete anomalies detected by the geophysical survey were geological in origin.

The remains revealed in Field 3 consisted of a series of ditches aligned NE to SW and NW to SE. The combination of the results from geophysical survey and trial excavation suggests that the ditches represent a group of rectilinear enclosures that share a common orientation. Artefacts recovered from a number of the ditches date them to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. The results of the trial excavation suggest that the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosures extend across the western two-thirds of Field 3.

Further ditches, aligned broadly NW to SE, in the eastern part of Field 3 have been interpreted as the remains of a field boundary that is shown on an 18th century estate map. However, in the absence of more detailed dating evidence, it is possible that it forms part of the earlier system of boundaries.

The ditches appear to form a rectilinear pattern of boundaries. It is possible that such a pattern could represent the remains of a field system or settlement enclosures. No direct evidence of settlement was recovered, although the presence of pottery and other occupation debris within the ditches suggests, at the very least, such activity in the vicinity. The NW to SE aligned ditches are deeper and wider than the NE to SW aligned ditches, which may suggest a system constructed with cross ditches that extended between the more substantial boundaries.

4.2 Significance of results

The late Bronze Age/early Iron Age remains should be considered of regional significance. They provide evidence for agricultural intensification from the later Bronze Age onwards, with the creation of new land divisions and the emergence of new forms of settlement. Similar, more widespread evidence for this process has been discovered in the Thames Valley and Estuary (Yates 2001, 65-82).

Field systems of this date are relatively rare in the eastern region, although examples are known from South Hornchurch, Essex (Guttmann 2000, 326). Further afield, a landscape study within Dartmoor has revealed large areas of comparable field systems (Hunter and Ralston 1999, 102).



No significant evidence for sub-surface archaeological remains was found in the western and eastern parts of the study area. This tends to corroborate the results of the geophysical survey which generally did not detect linear anomalies in these areas. The principal exception to this pattern was the linear anomaly in the south-west corner of Field 3 which was not identified in Trenches 7 and 10.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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6. APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Trench Summaries



6.2 Appendix 2 – Artefact Summary

6.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery, the majority deriving from features in Field 3 (Figure 2). Small quantities of ceramic roof tile, fired clay, worked and burnt flint were also recovered (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No artefacts were recovered from Trenches 1-5, 7-11, 13, 16-20, 23, 26, 28, 29, 32-36 or 38-40.

Field	Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Pottery	Other finds
02	37	3700	Ploughsoil	3700	-	1:16	Worked flint (10g)
03	12	1203	Ditch	1204	Late Bronze Age	16:332	
	14	1400	Ploughsoil	1400	Post-medieval		
	15	1500	Ploughsoil	1500	Post-medieval	13:60	Roof tile (16g) Cast iron bowl fragment (238g) Fired clay (10g); burnt flint (149g)
	15	1502	Ditch	1503	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age		
	21	2100	Ploughsoil	2100	Post-medieval		
	21	2103	Ditch	2104	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	3:12	Roof tile (43g)
	22	2204	Ditch	2205	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	3:30	
	24	2400	Ploughsoil	2400	Post-medieval	1:8	Roof tile (13g)
	25	2503	Ditch	2502	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	2:7	Roof tile (59g)
	27	2703	Ditch	2704	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	1:3	
	27	2711	Ditch	2712	Post-medieval		
30	3000	Ploughsoil	3000	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	1:4	Roof tile (19g)	
31	3100	Ploughsoil	3100	Post-medieval			
04	6	602	Tree-throw	603	Late Iron Age/early Roman	1:16	
Total						41:472	

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context
(sherd count : weight in grammes)

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature

6.2.2 Pottery

Forty-one pottery sherds, weighing 472g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small (average weight 12g) and moderately abraded. Six fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age</i>			
Type F01A	Coarse flint	11	(1204):1, (1503):6, (2205):3, (2704):1
Type F01B	Fine flint	10	(1503):7, (2502):2, (3003):1
Type F01C	Flint and quartz	17	(1204):15, (2104):2
<i>Early Iron Age</i>			
Type F32	Quartz and flint	1	(2104):1
<i>Late Iron Age/early Roman</i>			
Type F06C	Coarse grog	1	(603):1
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	1	(2400):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

The majority of the assemblage comprises coarse and fine flint tempered fabric types characteristic of the late Bronze Age/earliest Iron age period. The material is paralleled by pottery recovered from excavations along the A41 Aston Clinton



Bypass (Slowikowski forthcoming). Sherds are generally well-made and hard-fired, although no diagnostic forms occur, and are either entirely oxidised, or have an oxidised exterior and reduced interior surface. Sherd thicknesses are variable, ranging between 4-13mm. Fifteen thick-walled flint tempered sherds deriving from a single vessel with a sooted interior, and a large flat base sherd (thickness 17mm) were recovered from ditch [1203]. Their general appearance suggests they may be of late Bronze Age date, rather than of transitional late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age origin.

The deposit within tree-throw [602] yielded an abraded grog tempered body sherd datable to the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

An unstratified post-medieval glazed earthenware sherd was recovered from ploughsoil (2400).

6.2.3 Other finds

Five pieces of post-medieval sand tempered flat roof tile, weighing 157g, were recovered. With the exception of a fragment from ditch [2711], all are unstratified (Trenches 14, 21, 24 and 31). The deposit within ditch [1502] yielded an amorphous, sand tempered fired clay fragment (10g) and seven pieces (149g) of unmodified burnt flint. A utilised flint flake derived from ploughsoil (3700). Metal finds are represented by an unstratified cast iron bowl fragment recovered from ploughsoil (1500). The object has a diameter of between 240-260mm and is datable to the early 16th century or later.



6.3 Appendix 3 – Ecofact Summary

6.3.1 Introduction

Four environmental samples were collected to assess the environmental potential of the deposits. The samples were wet sieved in water with hydrogen peroxide to disaggregate the soil. The fraction that floated was washed over a 300µm sieve and dried. The residues were dried and sieved through a nest of sieves using 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm mesh sizes. The 5.6mm fraction was sorted for artefacts and ecofacts before being discarded. The 2mm and 1mm residues were retained.

The samples were assessed visually during processing and sorting. The results were recorded on the environmental sample record sheet. Following this, the flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification.

6.3.2 Results

Sample	Volume	Context	Feature	Period	Results
1	5 Ltrs	3003	3002	?	Moderate charcoal
2	10 Ltrs	1204	1203	LBA	Moderate charcoal
3	10 Ltrs	1010	1007	undated	Moderate charcoal
4	10 Ltrs	2203	2202	LBA-EIA	Sparse charcoal

The sample flots generally contained a moderate amount of wood charcoal. This is likely to be fuel residue from fires or hearth debris. No charred grain or charred seeds were visible in the samples.

The only molluscan remains noted in the sample were of *Cecilioides acicula*, a common species of burrowing snail, and these specimens are therefore likely to be modern. The potential for the survival of molluscan remains in archaeological deposits in the study area appears to be low.