Northamptonshire Archaeology

Roman and Saxon activity on land at Glebe Road Market Harborough, Leicestershire May to June 2012

Northamptonshire Archaeology
2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk

Northamptonshire County Council

Jason Clarke

Report 12/176

October 2012

X.A41.2012

STAFF

Project Manager:	Ian Meadows BA
Text:	Jason Clarke BSc MA AIfA
Fieldwork:	Jason Clarke Adrian Adams Chris Chinnock BA MSc Sam Egan BA Ian Fisher BA Peter Haynes Adam Meadows BSc Robyn Pelling BA Rob Smith Ed Taylor BA Peter Townend BA
Worked flint and stone	Andy Chapman BSc MIfA FSA
Roman Pottery	Rob Perrin BA MIfA FSA
Saxon pottery	Paul Blinkhorn BTech
Ceramic building material	Pat Chapman BA CMS AIfA
Other finds	Ian Meadows
Geology	Steve Critchley MSc
Human Bone	Sarah Inskip BSc MA
Animal bone	Philip Armitage PhD
Charred plant material	Val Fryer BA MIfA
Illustrations	Amir Bassir BSc PIfA

QUALITY CONTOL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman	*PC*	
Verified by	Ian Meadows	*MH*	
Approved by	Andy Chapman	*AC*	

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**Oasis No:135831**	
Project title	Roman and Saxon activity on land at Glebe Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. May-June 2012	
Short description	In May and June 2012, an archaeological excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting acting for Redrow Homes (South Midlands), on land at Glebe Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The works identified Roman enclosures and a droveway beginning in the late 1st century AD and continuing until the 4th century. The site was the western margin to a probable substantial field system located to east of the excavation area. Two inhumation burials were recorded, including a decapitation burial. They were probably interred in the 4th century. During the 6th or 7th centuries activity resumed on the site with the excavation of three isolated pits, indicating Saxon settlement within the vicinity. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.	
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, trial trench evaluation	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Roman and Saxon	
Significant finds	Pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Glebe Road, Market Harborough	
Easting Northing	SP 744 867	
Area (sq m/ha)	0.57 ha	
Height aOD	100.00mAOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting	
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke (NA)	
Project Manager	Myk Flitcroft (CgMs) and Ian Meadows (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Redrow Homes (South Midlands)	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	08/05//2012	
End date	15/06/2012	
ARCHIVES	**Location (Accession no.)**	**Contents**
Physical	XA41.2012	Flint, pottery, animal bone
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Roman and Saxon activity on land at Glebe Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire May to June 2012	
Serial title & volume	12/176	
Author(s)	Jason Clarke	
Page numbers	45 text, 14 figs	
Date	October 2012	

Contents

Tables

Figures

ROMAN AND SAXON ACTIVITY ON LAND AT GLEBE ROAD, MARKET HARBOROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE MAY AND JUNE 2012

Abstract

In May and June 2012, an archaeological excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting acting for Redrow Homes (South Midlands), on land at Glebe Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The works identified Roman enclosures and a droveway beginning in the late 1st century AD and continuing until the 4th century. The site was the western margin to a probable substantial field system located to east of the excavation area. Two inhumation burials were recorded, including a decapitation burial. They were probably interred in the 4th century. During the 6th or 7th centuries activities resumed on the site with the excavation of three isolated pits, indicating Saxon settlement within the vicinity. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

1 INTRODUCTION

In May and June 2012, an archaeological excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at Glebe Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 744 867; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Redrow Homes (South Midlands), and was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning permision (ref: 09/00589/OUT, Condition 17) for the proposed residential development of the land.

The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting (Flitcroft 2012) and was approved by Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the local planning authority. The objectives of the excavation were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the eastern area of the development site and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

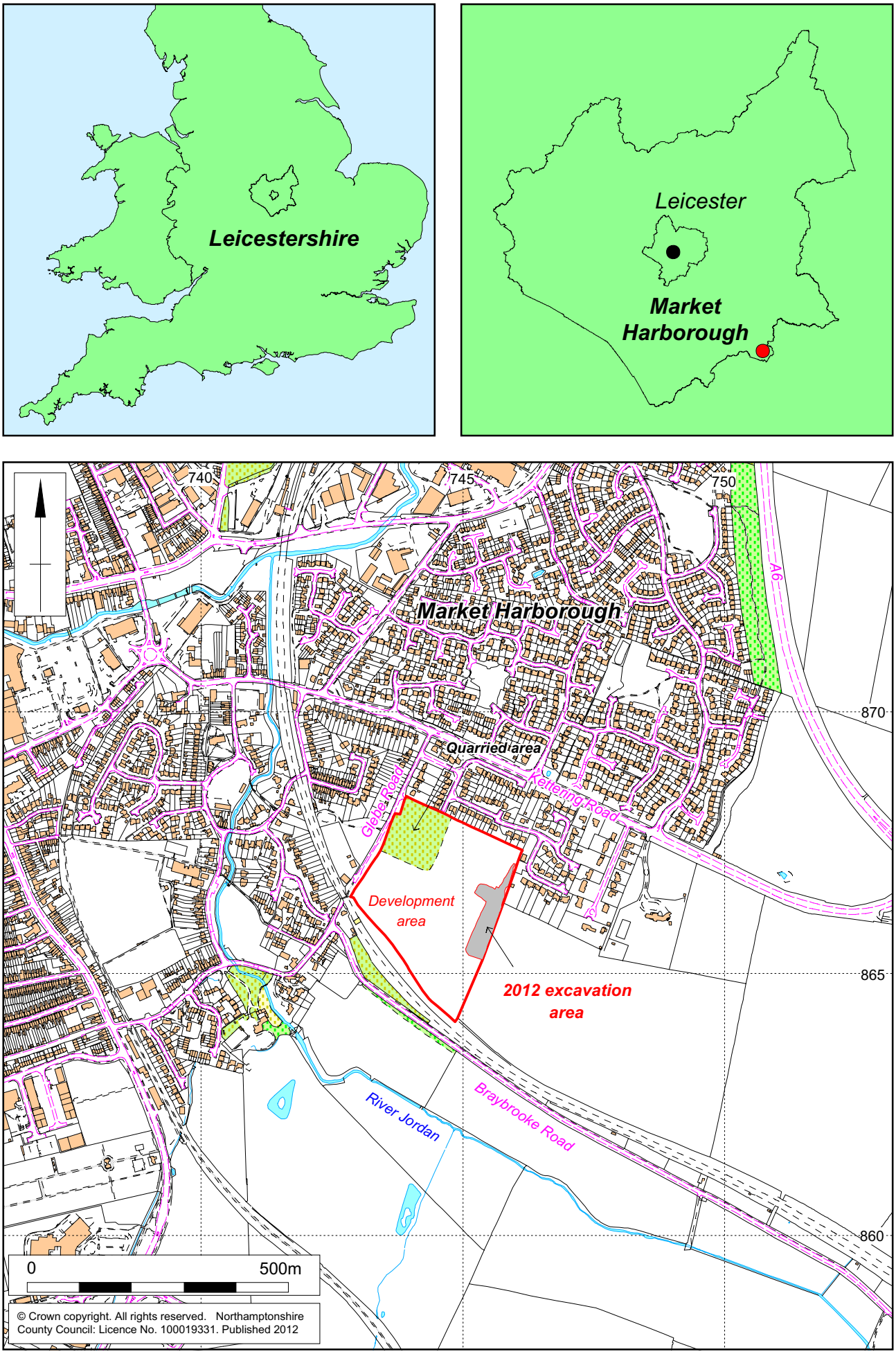
Location

The site comprises a mixture of former industrial land and arable fields, *c* 7ha in extent, centred at NGR SP 744 867 (Fig 1). It lies on the south-east side of Market Harborough and is bounded by Glebe Road to the west and by existing housing along Dunslade Road and Dunslade Grove to the north. The cutting of the Midland railway line lies to the south of site and agricultural land to the east.

Geology by Steve Critchley

The excavation area is underlain by rocks belonging to the Lower Jurassic Lias Group. These were seen to consist of bluish-grey to brownish grey mudstones and thin ferruginous calcareous sandstones of the Whitby Mudstone Formation outcropping on the hilltop unconformably underlain by ferruginous limey mudstones and sandy mudstones of the Dryham Formation downslope.

Groundwater was locally present within the more pervious weathered layers of the Whitby Mudstones as a perched water table allowing rapid water seepage into excavated sections.



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was considered by an archaeological desk-based assessment and partial geophysical survey (Soden and Butler 2009).

Historic maps and documents show that the land was enclosed as pasture in its current layout in 1780, previous to which it had comprised agricultural land traceable in field names as early as 1633. It formerly contained medieval furlongs in the East Field of Little Bowden, and the ridge and furrow plough cultivation regime was preserved by enclosure. It was still surviving in an aerial photograph of 1945. During the 19th century a large clay pit was dug in the north-west quadrant of the site, serving adjacent brickworks. This was infilled in the 1970s.

Geophysical survey confirmed the former ridge and furrow and suggested a possible ditch and pit on the east side of the site.

Nine sherds of Roman pottery were picked up along the field edge to the rear of Number 32 The Heights, immediately adjacent to the north-east of the development area. Subsequent test pitting in the garden by a local amateur group (Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology Group) recovered a further 11 sherds of pottery, although no archaeological features were identified. The same excavation recovered seven pieces of worked flint.

An archaeological trial trench evaluation (Clarke 2012) revealed a concentration of Roman features comprising ditches and pits dating to 1st and 2nd centuries AD and possible Saxon activity on the eastern side of the development area.

3 METHODOLOGY

The area was excavated in accordance with a specification for a programme of archaeological excavation works prepared by CgMs Consulting and approved by Theresa Hawtin (Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council) (Fig 2).

The excavation area was located along the eastern margin of the development site. Its location and extent were defined from the results of the earlier trial trench evaluation results (Clarke 2012). The total area excavated was 0.57ha. The excavation area was positioned using a Leica system 1200 GPS.

A 360^{o} tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:100 and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology of mudstones and clay was encountered between 0.2-0.5m below the modern ground surface. This occurred as light-mid orange or brownish-yellow sandy clay with occasional angular to sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was light grey-brown sandy clay and the topsoil was mid greyish-brown sandy clay, both soils contained occasional ironstone and flint pebbles.

Archaeological features cut into the natural geology

4.2 Roman settlement (late 1st to 4th centuries AD)

The Roman settlement was situated on a plateau of high ground at *c* 100m aOD. To the west and south the ground drops sharply downwards to the flood plain of the River Jordan, a tributary of the River Welland.

Activity in the Roman period spanned a broad date range from late 1st century AD to the 4th century AD. A substantial ditch was excavated in the late 1st century AD, aligned north-east to south-west, it appears to have been the western boundary to both a droveway and enclosures and may have been in continuous use until the 3rd or 4th centuries AD.

Western boundary ditch (late 1st to 4th centuies AD)
In the late 1st century a substantial ditch was excavated defining the western boundary to an extensive enclosure complex and droveway and was recorded over a length of 170m (Figs 2 and 3). The ditch seems to have formed the limits to the settlement area as a number of east to west aligned ditches and gullies terminated at the western boundary and did not continue beyond. These ditches appeared to have formed internal enclosures. To the south it defined the western side of a droveway. The ditch 715/ 811/1465/1506/1516/1472/1477/1458/1489, aligned north-east to south-west, had an average width of 1m and 1m deep and its fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay contained late 1st century AD pottery and animal bone (Figs 5 and 6). The ditch was subsequently re-cut during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD and probably continued as a feature within the landscape into the 4th century.

Droveway (late 1st to 2nd centuries AD)

During the late 1st century, at the south of the development area, a droveway was constructed. It was defined by parallel ditches aligned north-east to south-west and typically set 9m apart, narrowing to 8m apart at the north-east. It was recorded over a length of 70m, although it may have continued to the south-west as the ditches shallowed out as the base rose into the soil column. At the north-west the droveway turned to a north-west to south-east alignment set 10m apart, narrowing to 7m apart at the east, where it was recorded over a length of 20m to the eastern limit of the excavation, where it probably continued to the east.

The eastern side of the droveway was defined by a single ditch 1413/1455, averaging 1.10m wide by 0.45m deep, with a U-shaped profile (Figs 2 and 3). Further to the north-east at the inter-section in the change of alignment the ditch deepens to 0.90m. The

sandy clay fills of both the primary (1412/1454) and upper fills (1411/1453) were derived from both inwashing and deliberate episodes of deposition of domestic waste, including late 1st to 2nd centuries AD pottery, animal bone and fuel ash slag (Fig 4).

The eastern side of the droveway turned to a east to west alignment, forming the droveway's southern boundary, where it was defined by a substantial ditch, 1429, 2.90m wide and 0.90m deep (Fig 4). The silty clay fills of both the primary and secondary deposits (1428)/(1427) contained domestic waste, including 1st-century pottery and animal bone possibly derived from inwashing with episodes of dumping of waste. The infilling of the ditch seems to have occurred over a relatively short amount of time as in the early 2nd century it was re-cut by 1426, reducing the size of the ditch to 1.60m wide and 0.56m deep. The dark grey sandy clay fill (1425) contained 1st to 2nd century pottery, animal bone and largest concentration of fuel ash slag recovered from the excavation area. The re-cut ditch terminated to the south-west, 2m before the primary ditch turned south-west. The re-modelling of the southern droveway boundary ditch suggests the eastern ditch went out of use sometime in the early 2nd-century with change of emphasis to the north-west area of the droveway.

To the east of the droveway were three shallow gullies, 1495, 1497, 1491/1493. Two of the gullies, 1495 and 1497, were aligned north-west to south-east, 3m apart, situated between the eastern droveway ditch and a 2nd-century ditch, 1432, to the east. The gullies were on average 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep and filled with mid grey-brown sandy clay (1494) and (1496) containing no finds. A third gully of a similar form, 1491/1493, was aligned north-east to south-west and intersected with gullies 1495 and 1497 to the south. Due to the shallow profile of the gullies their relationships were uncertain but were probably contemporary. Gully, 1491, was recorded over a length of 14 metres and was truncated by a furrow to its north. It was 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep and filled with mid grey-brown sandy clay (1490)/(1492). An abraded fragment of possible 4th-century pottery was recovered from the fill of gully 1497 although this is probably intrusive from subsequent farming practises and the gullies were possibly used for drainage of the eastern droveway ditch.

The western side of the droveway was defined by a ditch which was also the western boundary to the Roman settlement. It was recorded over a length of 170m with 75m of its southern end defining the western side of the droveway (Fig 2 and 3). At the south the western ditch, 1465, had similar characteristics to the eastern side, the ditch being 1.11m wide and 0.36m deep. The silty clay fill (1464) contained late 1st to 2nd-century pottery and animal bone. Towards the north the ditch 1506 widened to 1.68m wide and 0.83m deep. The primary fill (1504) of silty clay produced a loomweight and animal bone and the secondary fill (1505) of silty clay contained 2nd-century pottery and animal bone. The ditch was re-cut on its eastern side 1508, the fill (1507) of silty clay produced 2nd-century pottery and animal bone. It was at this section of the boundary that the western ditch continued north-east and the eastern re-cut continued north-west for 6m before turning south-east continuing on to the limit of excavation, forming the northern boundary to the droveway. The ditch 1408, aligned north-west to south-east, was 2.60m wide and 0.90m deep, the silty clay fills (1406) and (1407) both contained 2nd-century pottery, a fragment of *tegula* and animal bone.

The enclosure and ditch systems

Drainage ditches and gullies

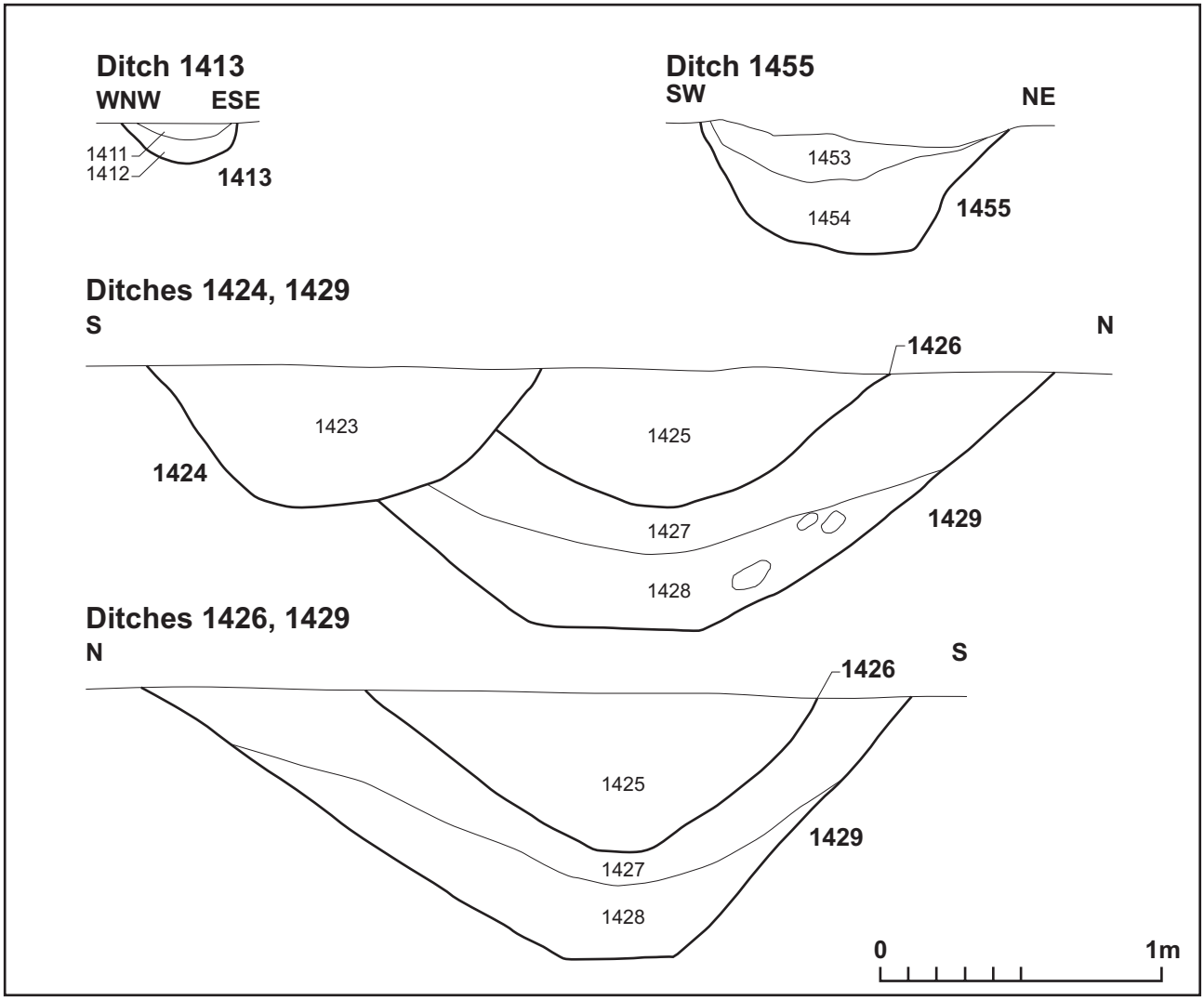
In the middle of the site, 5m to the east of the western enclosure ditch, was a ditch 1531/1643/1635, it was aligned north-east to south-west and was recorded over a length of 30m, with its north-eastern end truncated by a subsequent farming practises (Figs 2 and 3). The ditch had an average width of 1.20m and depth of 0.40m, its fills (1530)/(1642)/(1634) of mid grey-orange sandy clay contained 2nd century AD pottery

Scale 1:500 (A3)

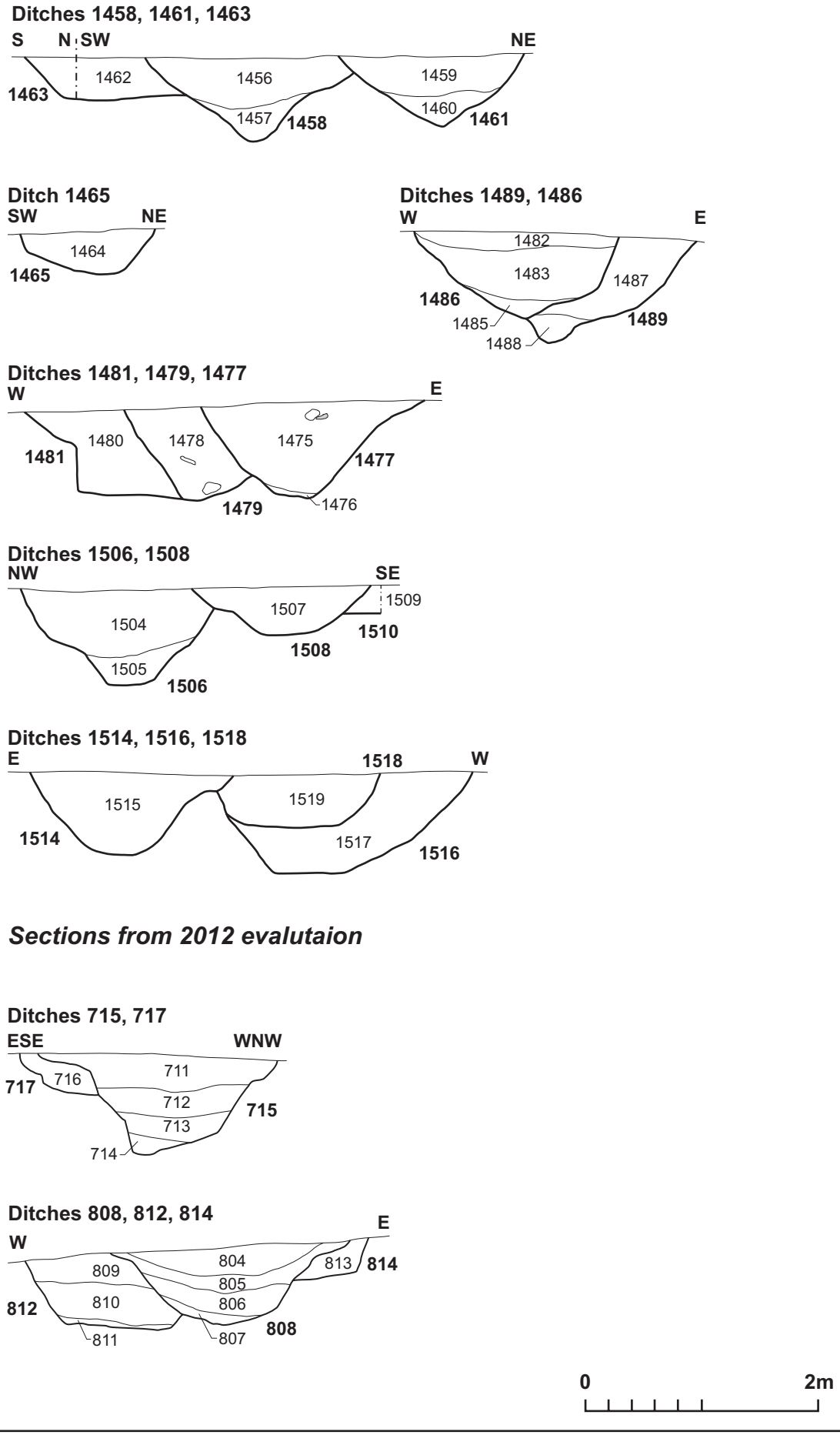
General site plan Fig 2

Scale 1:500 (A3)

Phase plan of the Roman and Saxon features Fig 3



Scale 1:25 (A4) Sections of the eastern droveway ditch Fig 4



Scale 1:50 (A4)

Sections of western boundary ditches Fig 5

Ditches 1458, 1461, 1463

Ditch 1465

Ditches 1486, 1489

Ditches 1477, 1479, 1481

Ditches 1506, 1508

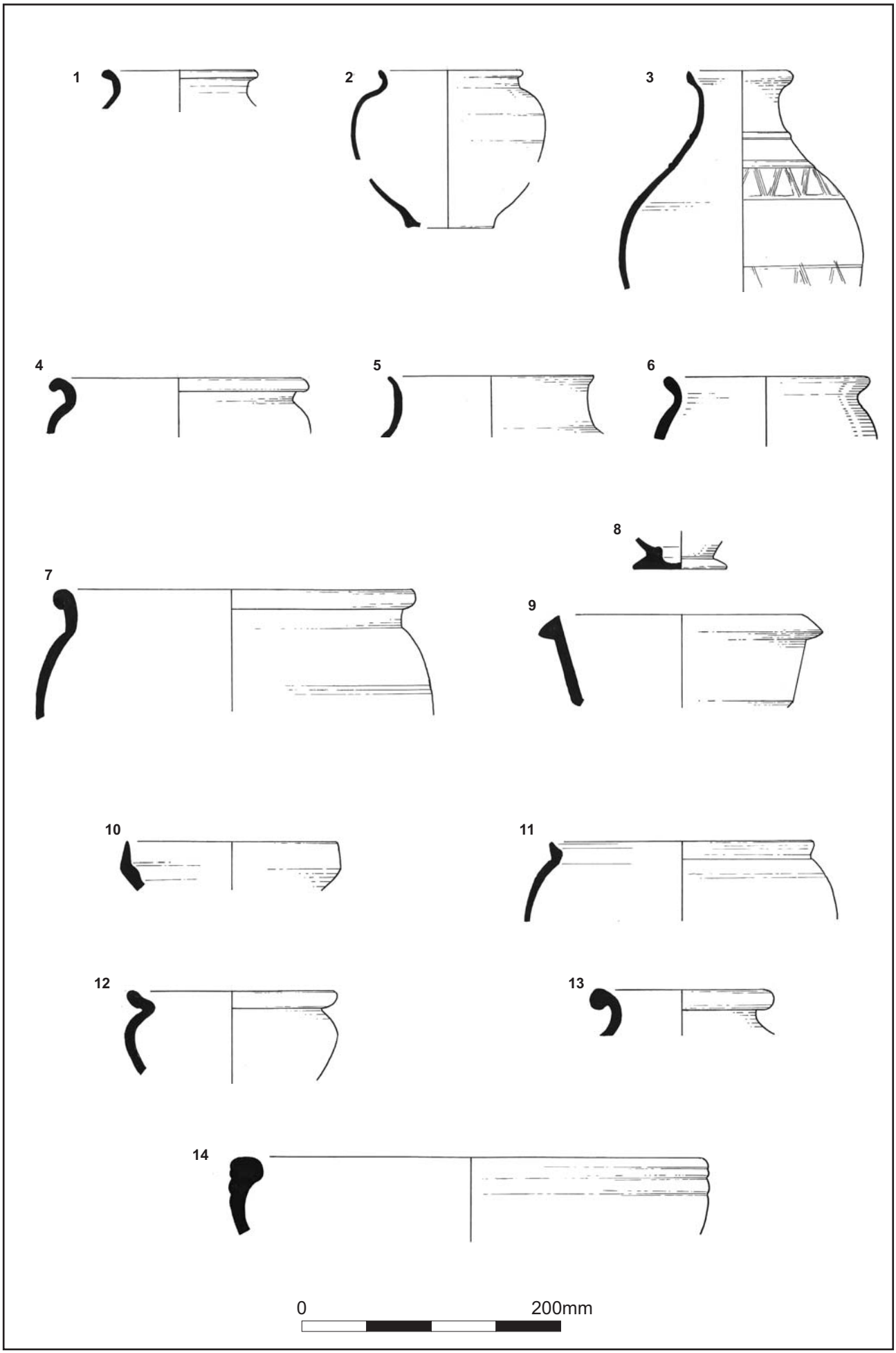
Ditches 1514, 1516

Sections from 2012 evalutaion

Ditches 715, 717

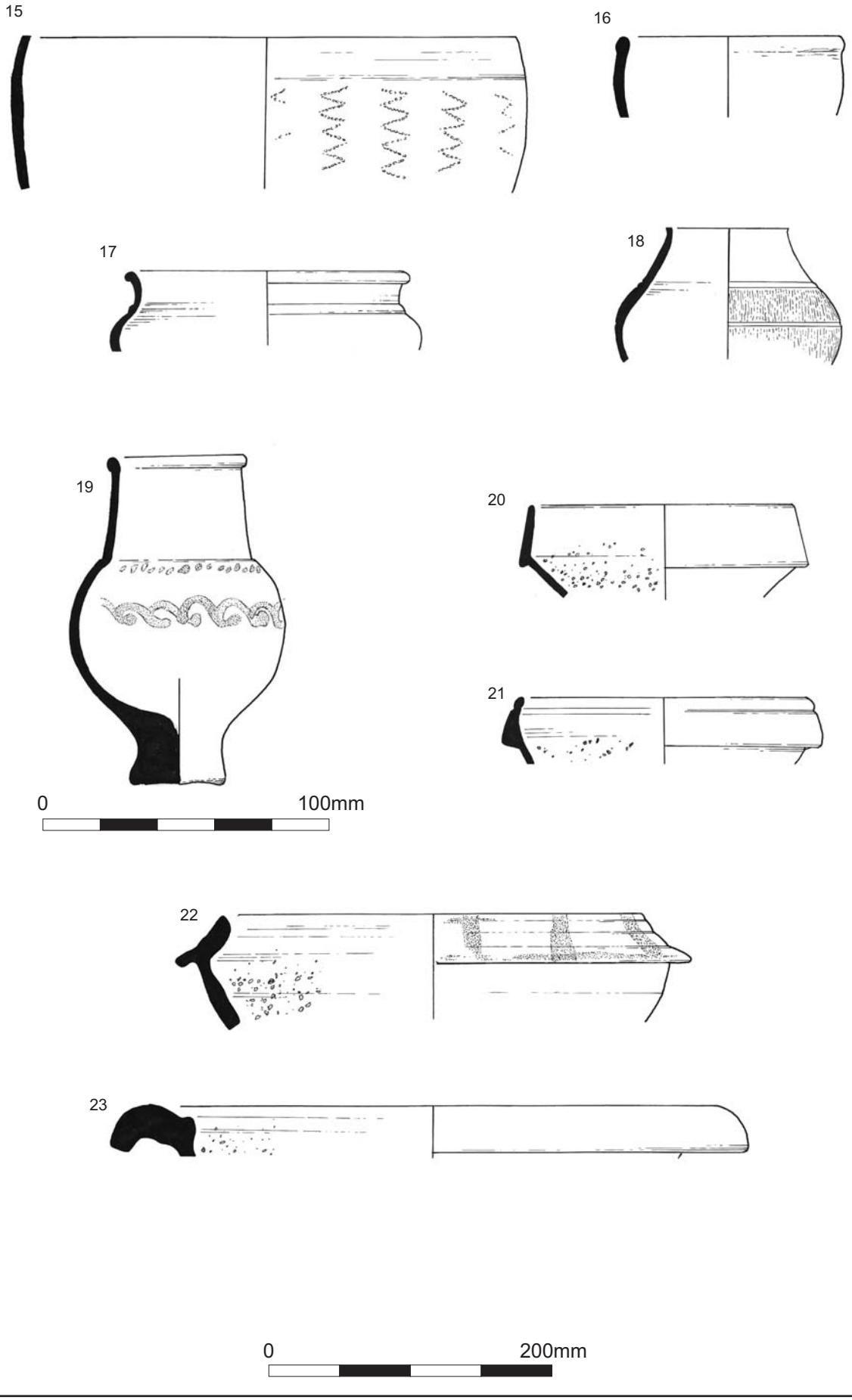
Ditches 808, 812, 814

Photographed sections of western boundary Fig 6



Scale 1:4 (A4)

The Roman pottery Fig 7a



Scales 1:4 & 1:2 (A4)

The Roman pottery Fig 7b

and animal bone, derived from inwashing. The ditch was re-cut on its south-eastern side, 1527/1640/1630 in the late 2nd century AD before going out of use before the 3rd century AD. The ditch appears to have used for drainage and is present alongside other smaller gullies of the same date, 1569, 1531, 1571, 1624 and 1601 which are also roughly on the same north-east to south-west alignment. Environmental evidence taken from ditch 1640 indicates it was situated within an area of rough, damp, scrubby grassland, therefore the excavation of a number of gullies within the area may have been an attempt to improve the land for subsequent agricultural activity such as the construction of enclosures.

Enclosure 1 (2nd century AD)
During the 2nd century AD, towards the north-east of the site there was a sub-square enclosure. The northern ditch 1610 was aligned north-west to south-east, 1.0m wide and 0.40m deep, its fill of mid grey silty clay contained no finds. Only 5m of the boundary was present within the excavation area. The western boundary of the enclosure re-used the existing western boundary ditch established in the late 1st century, 1458, re-cutting its eastern side 1461. The ditch was 1.68m deep and 0.63m wide and its fill (1460) of mid grey-brown sandy clay contained animal bone, overlain by mid grey-brown sandy clay (1459) contained 2nd-century pottery and animal bone. The ditch continued for 20m before turning north-east to south-west to form the southern boundary. The southern boundary was defined by a ditch 1551, 1.17m wide and 0.48m deep, its homogeneous fill (1550) of mid-grey brown sandy clay produced 2nd-century pottery and animal bone. The ditch continued on the same alignment, for 10m to the eastern limit of the excavation, cutting drainage ditch 1531/1643/1635.

Located within the enclosure and at the eastern limit to the excavation area were three partially exposed inter-cutting pits or terminating ditches 1587, 1589 and 1600. Pit or ditch 1589 was aligned north-west to south-east, with 2m of its length present in the excavation area. It was 0.85m wide and 0.30m deep with a fill of mid black-grey sandy clay (1586), containing 2nd-century pottery. It was cut on it southern edge by pit or ditch 1587, aligned north-west to south-east with 2 metres of its length exposed. It was 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep with a fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay (1586), containing 2nd-century pottery. On its southern side it also cut pit or ditch 1600, which was also aligned north-west to south-east with 1.50 metres of its length exposed. It was 1.30m wide and 0.45m deep and filled with mid grey-brown sandy clay (1598) containing 2nd century pottery, overlain by light grey-brown sandy clay containing 2nd to 3rd century pottery.

Also within the enclosure and located 2m to the north of the pit or ditch group described above was a gully aligned north-west to south east 1626, 0.85m wide and 0.20m deep and filled with mid grey-brown sandy clay (1625) containing 2nd-century pottery. It terminated 5m from the eastern limit of excavation cutting an earlier drainage gully 1630 and was cut to its east by gully 1585. Gully 1585 was aligned north to south, 0.60m wide and 0.16m deep, with a fill of dark black-grey silty clay (1644) contained 2nd-century pottery.

The features situated within the enclosure are contemporary, although their functions are uncertain, they may have been internal divisions or drainage within the part of the enclosure to west, beyond the excavation area. They appear to have been maintained within a relatively short period (2nd century) before going out of use and may have been used to drain the enclosures internal space before it also went out of use in before the 3rd-century.

Other features (2nd century AD)
Located 5m south of the southern boundary to enclosure 1 was a ditch, 1604, aligned north-east to south-west, 1.28m wide and 0.55m deep (Figs 2 and 3). Its fill of mid brown-grey silty clay produced 2nd-century pottery and animal bone. The ditch was recorded over 11m from the eastern limits of the excavation to the western boundary ditch where any potential relationship was destroyed by a furrow. The use of the ditch is inconclusive but it may form the northern boundary to a second enclosure with the western boundary ditch and northern droveway ditches forming the western southern boundaries. A shallow gully 1606, probably used for drainage, on its northern side appears to have been contemporary and its fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay (1606) also producing 2nd-century pottery.

At the south of the site was another ditch dated to the 2nd-century, 1593/1452, aligned north-west to south-east, 1.50m wide and 0.50m deep, it was recorded over 13m from the eastern limit of excavation to merge with the eastern droveway ditch and may have been used as drainage for the droveway. At the eastern side the ditch formed the northern boundary to a small sub-square enclosure with gullies 1444 and 1536. The width of the enclosure was 3.50m and 2m of its length was present within the excavation area. The enclosure may have been used as small stock pen although as most of the feature remains outside the excavation area it is difficult to be certain of its use.

A few metres to the north of ditch 1593/1452 was a sub-circular pit, 1422, 1.50m diameter and 0.67m deep. It was backfilled with domestic waste, including late 1st and 2nd century pottery, animal bone and ash, probably derived from hearth waste (1421).

To the north of ditch 1408 was a large pit, 1558, 2.40m in diameter and 0.50m deep and its fills (1556) and (1557) of mid brown-grey sandy clay contained 2nd and 3rd-century AD pottery and animal bone. The rapid rate of accumulated ground water within the pit and its large size may suggest it may have been used as a watering hole for livestock.

Between ditches 1604 and 1551 there was a sub-circular pit 1595, 1.0m wide and 0.24m deep. Its fill of mid grey sandy clay (1594) produced 2nd-century pottery and worked stone comprising a squared block of hard quartzite with a central drilled hole (described below) that was probably a pivot for a wooden door. The pit was truncated on its northern side by a shallow gully, 1597,1546.

Other features (undated)
To the south-east of pit 1558 was a gully aligned north-west to south-east, 0.40m wide and 0.22m deep, its fill of mid brown-grey sandy clay (1545) contained ferrous slag of a smithing hearth bottom. The gully was undated but probably dated to the main phase of Roman activity on the site in the 2nd century and was probably used for drainage before the deposition of industrial waste.

A curved ditch at the south of the site, 1424/1499, was aligned north-west to south-east turning north to south, terminating at and cutting the southern droveway boundary. Its fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay (1423)/(1498) contained no finds. Although no diagnostic material was recovered from the gully it probably dated to the 2nd or 3rd centuries as it is cut by a 4th century ditch 1418/1470 and cuts the 2nd-century droveway boundary. It may have functioned as a drain, taking water away from the southern droveway boundary.

The 3rd and 4th centuries AD
Although the main focus of activity on the site was in the 2nd century it continued to the 4th century. The western boundary ditch was still a feature within the landscape and at the northern end it was re-modelled, 1486, in the 3rd century AD. It was re-cut on the

eastern side, 1.67m wide and 0.91m deep (Fig 5). The primary fill (1484) of mid grey-brown silty clay, contained animal bone, the secondary fill (1484) of dark grey-brown clay contained frequent charcoal flecks, burnt stone and animal bone, suggesting a dump of domestic waste possibly from a hearth. It was overlain by mid grey-brown sandy clay (1483) which contained 3rd and 4th-century pottery and animal bone. The upper deposit (1482) of mid grey-brown sandy clay appeared to have been a sealing deposit overlying both the primary, 1489, and secondary, 1486, ditches, suggesting the primary ditch was still visible within the landscape in the 4th century when the boundary was eventually deliberately backfilled.

Other 3rd and 4th-century features were a gully 1560/1562, aligned north-west to south-east, located at the northern end of the excavation area it was 1.20m wide and 0.44m deep, its fill of dark grey-brown sandy clay (1559) (1561) produced 3rd and 4th-century AD pottery. The gully cut through the western boundary ditch but terminated on its western edge, suggesting the western boundary was still relevant at this time.

A gully, 1503/1463, aligned north-west to south-east gully was the only feature west of the western boundary ditch, extending for 8m to the west. The gully was 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep, its fill (1502) of mid grey-brown clay contained 4th century pottery. The gully may have turned north to form a sub-square enclosure but had been heavily truncated by subsequent farming practises.

South of the southern droveway ditch was a ditch 1418/1470, aligned north-west to south east, 0.81m wide and 0.33m deep, its fill (1417) (1419) of mid grey-brown silty clay produced 3rd and 4th century pottery. The ditch was 20m long and terminated at the east, cutting the eastern droveway boundary and terminating or merging with the western boundary, suggesting it was still a relevant boundary in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Even though evidence suggests that the southern part of the boundary was not maintained after the 2nd century this ditch may have been a re-positioning of the southern boundary in the 4th century.

The northern boundary of the droveway was re-cut in the 4th-century, 1575, it was 1.0m wide and 0.77m deep and filled with mid brown-grey clay, containing 4th century pottery and animal bone. The ditch cut through the western boundary ditch and terminated 1m to its west.

Inhumation burials

Two isolated inhumation burials were located towards the south of the site and situated 5m apart (Figs 2 and 8).

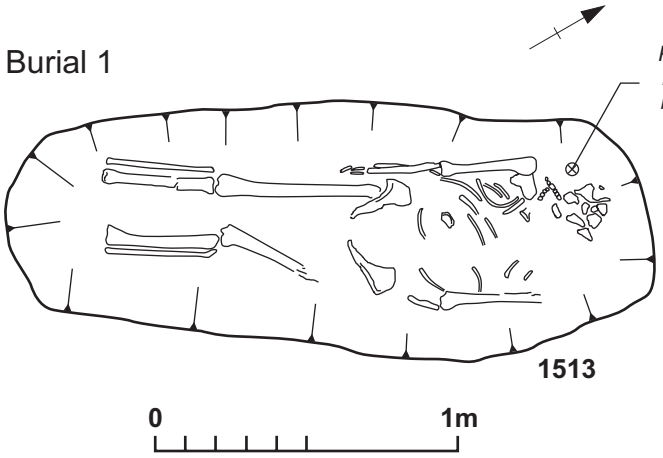
Burial 1 (1511)

To the east of the western boundary ditch was a shallow sub-circular grave 1513, containing the skeletal remains of a middle aged male. The individual was placed in the supine position. The head was positioned to the north of the grave pit and placed next to the skull was a decorated beaker dating from the 4th century (Fig 7b No. 9). The individual's pathology indicated that he had carried out high impact/intensity activities, possibly agricultural work (see section 5.13). Three postholes 1495, 1535, 1537 were located within a metre of the burial, 1537 cutting the burial, removing the left hand. The burial overlaid a gully 1533, aligned east to west, its fill of mid grey-brown silty clay (1532) contained a cow skull, located directly below the pelvis area of the burial.

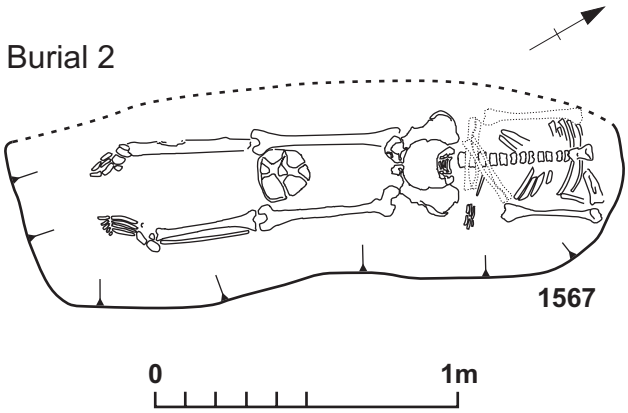
Burial 2 (1565)

A second burial was located 5m to the north of burial 1. The shallow sub-circular grave 1567 was cut into the intersection of the western and northern droveway boundary ditches. The grave contained the skeletal remains of a young adult male placed in the

Burial 1



Burial 2



Scale 1:25 (A4) The inhumation burials Fig 8

prone position. The individuals head had been removed and placed between their legs, facing the pelvis. The arms were to the front and crossed at the wrist suggesting they were bound. The pathology of the individual (see section 5.13) indicated he carried out high impact/intensity activities such as agricultural work, similar to the individual in burial 1.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon activity (6th to 9th centuries AD)

Activity on the site appears to have resumed in the mid 6th to early 7th centuries with the excavation of three isolated pits 907, 1468/1549 and 1416 (Figs 2 and 3).

Pit 1468/1549 lying to the east of the western enclosure boundary, was sub-circular shaped, 2.90m long, 2.70m wide and 0.70m deep (Fig 8). The primary fill of dark brown-grey silty clay (1548)/(1467) contained animal bone, it was overlain by dark brown-grey sandy clay (1547)/(1466), which contained mid 6th to early 7th century pottery and animal bone.

Pit 1416 lying to the west of the western enclosure boundary, was sub-circular shaped 2.10m wide and 0.40m deep and was probably used for the deposal of domestic waste (Fig 8). The primary fill of dark grey sandy clay (1415) contained a sherd of 4th-century pottery as well as three sherds of 6th or 7th century AD pottery and animal bone. Environmental analysis shows the fill included mixed refuse including possible cereal processing waste (chaff, grains and small segetal weed seeds) and hearth debris (a high density of charcoal along with thorns, tubers and bone fragments). However, as processing waste was often used as kindling or fuel within both domestic and light industrial contexts, it is possible that this assemblage constitutes a small deposit of hearth waste which was deliberately placed within the pit fill. The upper fill of mid orange-brown sandy clay (1414) contained no finds.

Pit 907 was identified in the trial trench evaluation (Fig 8). Lying 40m to the west of pit 1468/1549 it was sub-circular shaped 0.85m long, 0.73m wide and 0.25m deep and filled with mid grey-brown sandy clay (906) containing two sherds of late 1st to 2nd-centuries pottery and a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery, dating broadly between the 5th – 9th centuries.

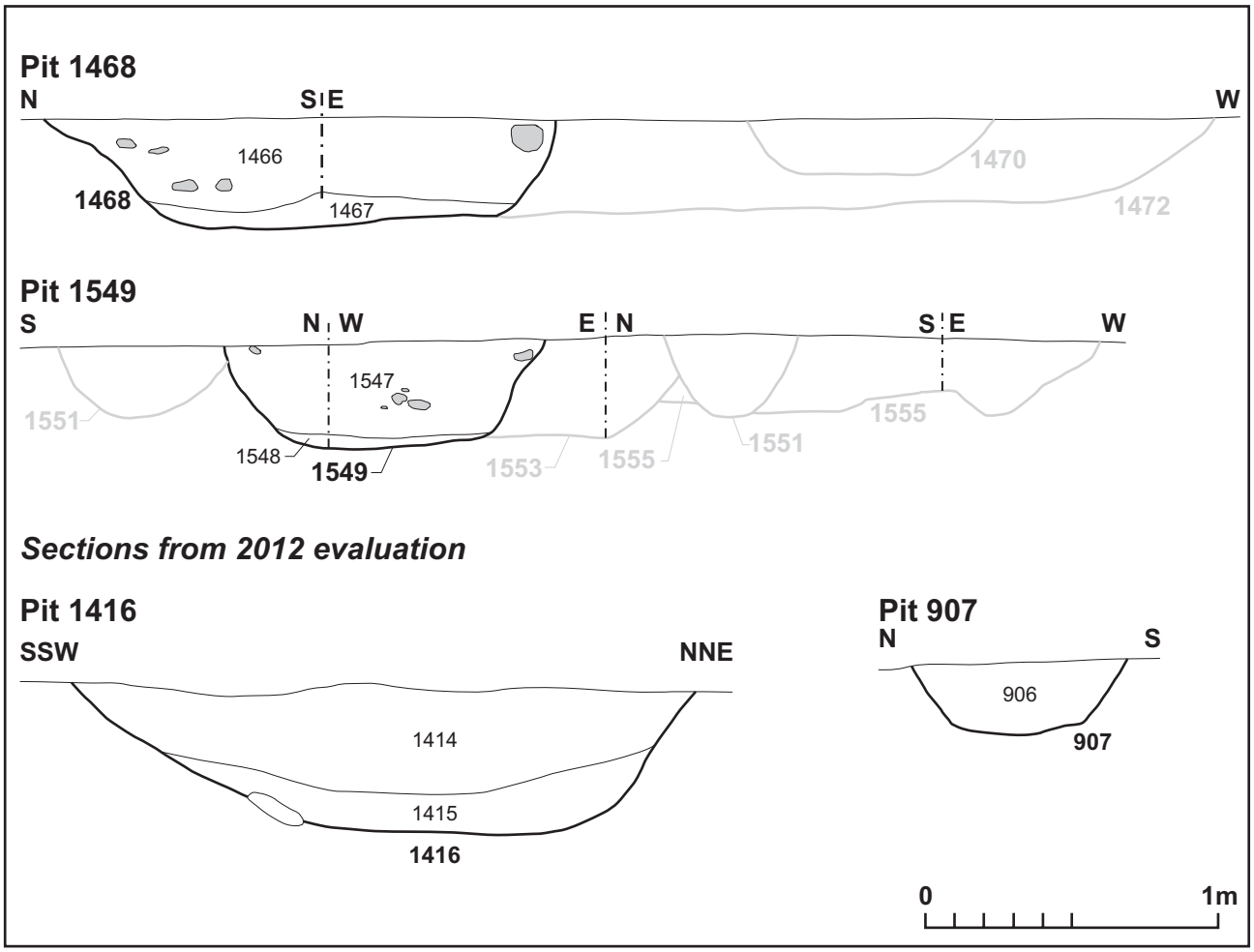
4.4 Later features

The remains of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, with the remnants of their furrows were present throughout the site (Fig 2). At the south of the excavation area they were aligned north to south and probably were part of the St Mary's Hill field. At the north of the site the remnant furrows were aligned east to west and were probably part of the 'Comyn Clay Pytt' field (Soden and Butler 2009). A possible ploughing headland, aligned east to west, was in the middle of the site. The furrows from the 'Comyn Clay Pytt' field were wider and deeper than those from the St Mary's Hill field to the south, impacting more on the Roman archaeology. A pond, backfilled in the second half of the 20th century was present in the west of the site.

5 THE FINDS

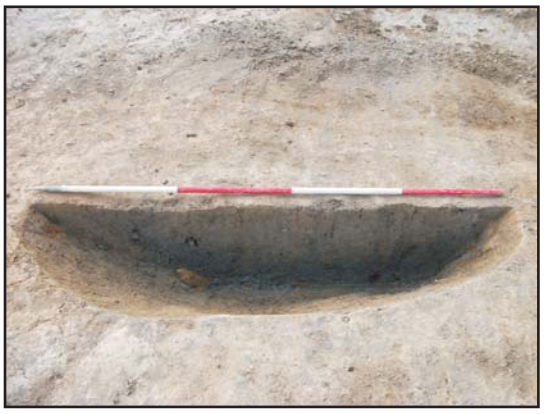
5.1 Worked flint by Andy Chapman

A total of 28 struck flints were recovered from the topsoil and other recent deposits, 11 flints, or residual finds in ditches, 17 flints. The material is typically in grey-brown to dark grey vitreous flint, with the cortex either cream or light grey.



Pit 1468

Pit 1549

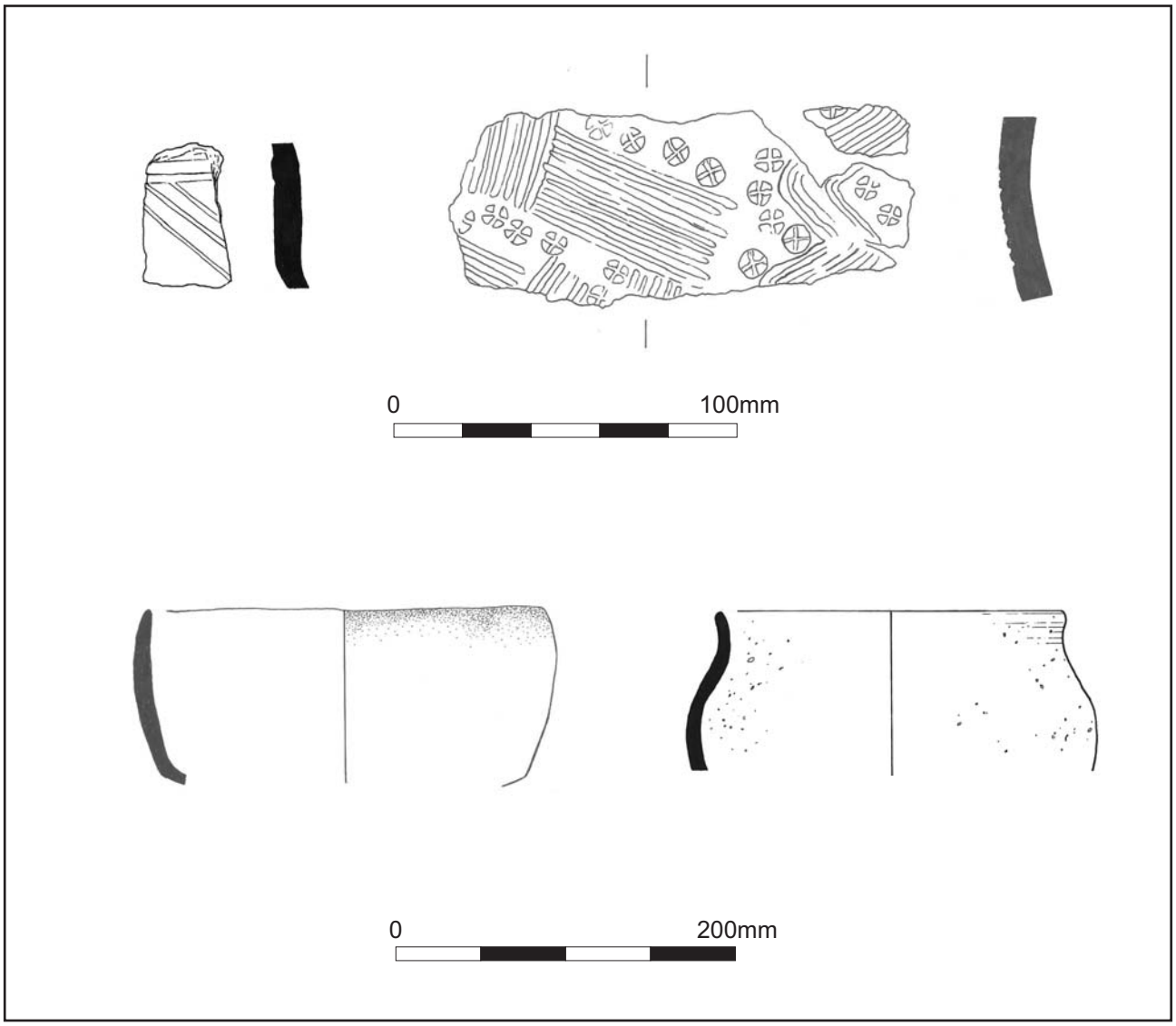


Pit 1416

Pit 907

Scale 1:25 (A4)

Sections of Saxon features Fig 9



Scales 1:2 & 1:4 (A4)

The Saxon pottery Fig 10

There are four small blades, from 19-31mm long and 9-15mm wide, and a fifth example, 24mm long by 10mm wide, has a retouched edge. In addition, there are two cores or core rejuvenation flakes, 33mm and 53mm long, which both have single platforms from which small blades have been struck. The blades and blade cores are most likely to derive from a late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic industry. However, the assemblage is dominated by flakes, 18, many of which retain some cortex, and these are typically short, squat and/or irregular, suggesting a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. A further two flakes have retouched edges. The single implement is a small end scraper, 22mm wide by 25mm long.

5.2 Roman pottery by Rob Perrin

The discovery of features containing pottery in an archaeological evaluation at Glebe Road, Market Harborough suggested the presence of Roman and later activity (Clarke 2012). The subsequent excavation of a larger area of the site showed that the occupation comprised an enclosure, defined by a number of ditches, with additional internal ditches, gullys and pits; two inhumation burials were also uncovered.

A larger pottery assemblage was recovered from the excavation, amounting to 559 sherds with a combined weight of just over 9.5kg and a vessel equivalent, based on rims, of almost 7.25. Ninety-five sherds of pottery weighing just over 1.8kg had been recovered from the evaluation, giving a total assemblage from the site of 654 sherds weighing just under 11.4kg and with a vessel equivalent of almost 9.

Fabrics

The pottery assemblage from the excavation by principal fabric type is shown in Table 1. Grey wares and grogged wares together account for three-quarters of the assemblage.

Table 1: The principal Roman fabric types

Fabric	Sherds	% site	Weight (g)	% site	Rim %	% site
Greys	281	50.3	3706	38.8	423	58.5
Grogs	149	26.6	3640	38.2	94	13
Shells	20	3.6	308	3.2	42	5.8
Oxidised	38	6.8	411	4.3	37	5.1
Saxon and Saxon?	12	2.1	452	4.7	7	1
Misc	59	10.5	1022	10.7	120	16.6
Total	**559**		**9539**		**723**	

The grey wares occur in varying colours, mainly grey and dark grey, and with differing core colours. Many of the sherds have a noticeably micaceous fabric and a few sherds have significantly coarser fabrics; a few appear to have burnished surfaces. A number of grogged wares occur (Table 2). There are three main types, a hard cream ware, a reddish-yellow ware with a grey core and a pink ware. The dark brown grogged ware tends to be less hard and the other fabrics may be variants of the main varieties.

Table 2: Quantification of Roman grogged wares

Grogged wares	Sherds	% grogs	Wgt (g)	% grogs	Rim %	% grogs
Hard cream	35	23.49	1096	30.11	18	19.15
Reddish-yellow, grey core	43	28.86	886	24.34	20	21.28
Pink	22	14.77	610	16.76	34	36.17
Dark brown	24	16.11	226	6.21	22	23.4
Other	25	16.78	822	22.58	0	0
Total	**149**		**3640**		**94**	

Four wares comprise the oxidised category (Table 3). Some of the reddish-yellow and buff sherds are in a micaceous fabric, while others have a grey core; a few of the reddish-yellow sherds have a cream slip. The cream wares include a fine ware and a coarser ware.

Table 3: Quantification of Roman oxidised wares

Oxidised wares	Sherds	Weight (g)	Rim %
Reddish-yellow	18	127	0
Buffs	15	256	37
Cream	4	18	0
Dark reddish-brown	1	10	
Total	**38**	**411**	**37**

The most common shell-gritted ware is a fine, relatively thin, hard fabric which can be buff, reddish-yellow or dark brown in colour. Other shell-gritted sherds comprise a buff ware and a ware with small shell inclusions. The sherds of Saxon pottery occur in three fabrics, a hard, reddish-brown fabric with black surfaces and large inclusions, a hard mainly black fabric, sometimes with a brown surface, and a hard dark brown fabric with burnished surfaces. All of the fabrics are micaceous and one sherd in the hard, mainly black, fabric has incised lines.

Table 4: Quantification of miscellaneous Roman wares

Misc	Sherds	Weight (g)	Rim %
SGS	9	43	22
CGS	2	6	
BB1	6	59	2
LNVCC	29	474	29
OXCC	10	164	36
MH	2	54	12
Ver	1	222	19
Total	**59**	**1022**	**120**

The miscellaneous wares (Table 4) comprise South and Central Gaulish samian ware (SGS; CGS), Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware (LNVCC), definite and possible black burnished ware category 1 (BB1), Mancetter Hartshill cream ware (MH), Oxfordshire colour coated ware (OXCC) and possible Verulamium ware (Ver).

Sources

It is probable that much of the grey wares and grogged wares were locally produced. A recent summary of the Roman pottery industry of West-Central Leicestershire (Pollard 2005) records a number of kiln sites in and near Leicester, within a 20 kilometre radius of Market Harborough. Pollard also notes, however, that the industry in Leicester and its hinterland is poorly understood (*ibid* 153). There are other known kiln sites within a 20 kilometre radius of the site in modern day Northamptonshire, such as Corby and in and around Kettering (Swan 1984, 144-5 and Map 14) and it is just possible that some of the grey ware belongs to the East Midlands grey ware production. The shell-gritted ware is also likely to be of local origin. The fine, relatively thin, hard variety appears similar to that produced at Greetham (Bolton 1968).

The assemblage contains pottery from the larger industries, which produced regionally-traded wares, at Oxford, the Lower Nene Valley, Mancetter-Hartshill, Poole Harbour (BB1) and, possibly, Verulamium. The samian ware was manufactured in La Graufesenque (SGS) and Lezoux (CGS). The most likely source for the Saxon pottery is the Charnwood Forest, some 30 kilometres to the north-west of the site.

Forms

The assemblage contains some 74 vessels based on separate rims or other diagnostic features (Table 5). Jars and vessels which may be jars or bowls account for over half the total with bowls and bowls or dishes comprising nearly another quarter.

Table 5: Rims and other diagnostic features

	J	J/B	B	D	B/D	BKR	C	F	M	L	Other	Total
Greys	21	2		3	3						1	30
Grogs	7		1									8
Shells	1	1										2
Oxidised	3	1		2		1		2			1	10
Saxon		2										2
SGS				5			1					6
BB1			1									1
LNVCC		1			1	5		1		1		9
OXCC					1				2			3
MH									2			2
Ver									1			1
Total	**32**	**7**	**2**	**10**	**5**	**6**	**1**	**3**	**5**	**1**	**2**	**74**

The widest range of jar and jar or bowl forms occurs in the grey wares. Four vessels have curved rims, one of which has a short neck and girth grooves, while two have bead rims and two everted rims. One vessel of each of the latter types has a short neck and the other has a long neck. There are three narrow-mouthed jars, all with neck cordons, two which may be narrow-mouthed jars or flagons and one with a long neck which could be either a narrow-mouthed jar or a vessel of beaker form. Another vessel with a long neck may also be from a beaker rather than a jar. There is also a wide-mouthed jar, a wide-mouthed jar or bowl and a jar or bowl with a bead rim. One vessel has a row of incised notches. Of the seven jars in grogged wares, three are large storage vessels, one with a row of impressed notches, three lid-seated, one of which is globular in form with no neck and a shoulder grove, and one has an undercut rim. The shell-gritted ware jar is in a buff fabric and has a squared rim, while the bowl or jar is in the fabric with small shell inclusions and is a neckless type with a bead rim. The three oxidised ware jars are all in a buff ware. Two are lid-seated and the other is globular with a short neck, a bead rim and neck and girth cordons. The oxidised jar or bowl is in

the reddish-yellow ware with a grey core and is a small, wide-mouthed vessel. The LNVCC vessel is a wide mouthed form while the Saxon vessels are both globular and one has a simple curved rim.

The grogged ware bowl is in the hard cream ware and is a wide-mouthed type with external grooves just below the rim (cf Thorplands, Hunter 1977, fig. 12, 129-30). The BB1 vessel has a flat-topped rim and burnished intersecting arc decoration. The dishes in grey ware comprise two with plain rims, one of which has traces of an internal chamfer, and one with a triangular rim and external chamfer. Both of the oxidised ware dishes have plain rims, but one vessel has an internal chamfer. The five South Gaulish samian ware dishes comprise forms Dr 15/17, Dr 18, Dr 18 or 18/31, Dr 18/31 and a possible Ritterling 12. Two of the grey ware dishes or bowls occur with rims, one has a triangular rim and the other a flat-topped rim. The LNVCC dish or bowl does not have a rim, while the OXCC vessel is an imitation of either a samian ware Dr 31 or 37.

The five LNVCC beakers comprise part of an indented beaker, a vessel with a curved rim and two with funnel necks and bead rims. One of the latter is also from an indented type while the other is from a grave and is nearly complete and has cream-coloured overslip barbotine decoration comprising a row of dots above a row of horizontal intersecting 'S' shapes. The oxidised ware beaker is in a buff-pink ware with a grey core and has a long neck with rows of close rouletting. The two oxidised ware flagons are in a reddish-yellow ware with a cream slip and may be from the same vessel. The LNVCC flagon comprises sherds with a different coloured internal slip and may be from an alternative closed form, such as a narrow-mouthed jar or a flask/bottle. Both the Mancetter-Hartshill sherds are from mortaria, one a wall-sided type with an external rim groove and small black grits and the other represented by a sherd with red-brown grits. The possible Verulamium vessel is a baed and flange mortarium with the bead below the level of the flange. The OXCC mortaria are both imitations of samian ware form Dr 45. The other vessels in the assemblage comprise a South Gaulish samian ware Dr 27 cup, a probable LNVCC lid and two colanders with basal holes pierced pre-firing, one in grey ware and one in reddish-yellow ware.

Dating

The South Gaulish samian ware, the bowl or jar in the shell-gritted fabric with small shell inclusions and the grey and oxidised ware dishes with an internal chamfer, perhaps echoing Gallo-Belgic forms, indicate activity in the second half of the 1st century. The other grogged wares, particularly the dark brown ware, are also likely to be 1st century in date, but the reddish-yellow and hard cream grogged wares will have continued in use into the 2nd century. Some of the grey wares will have originated in the later 1st century, but there are many vessels which attest activity throughout the 2nd century and possibly into the 3rd century. The possible Verulamium mortarium is a form dating to the first half of the 2nd century while the BB1 bowl with a flat-topped rim and intersecting arc decoration is a type dating to the later 2nd or, more likely, first part of the 3rd century. The LNVCC beakers are types common in the 3rd and 4th centuries, with the vessel from the grave likely to be of 4th century date. The OXCC and MH wall-sided mortaria date to the later 3rd to 4th centuries. The grey ware sherds of possible East Midlands origin would be of 4th century date.

Assemblage characteristics

Grogged and grey wares account for around three-quarters of the assemblage but there is a wide range of additional wares, including imports from both regional and continental sources. Similarly, while basic pottery types such as jars and bowls or dishes also make up around three-quarters of the vessels, there are a number of other forms present. The features encountered in the excavation appear essentially

agricultural and much of the pottery assemblage would support the view that the activities on the site were predominantly simple domestic or utilitarian. The amount of imported regional and continental pottery, however, together with the presence of forms such as beakers, flagons and cups, does suggest that there may have been occupation of a higher status in the vicinity.

Overall, the larger assemblage from the excavation has confirmed some of the conclusions drawn from the evaluation assemblage, but it has widened the date range for activity on the site, showing both 1st century and an increased 4th century component, and has indicated the possibility of slightly higher status occupation in the vicinity.

Pottery groups

Pit 1416 contained an assemblage of Saxon pottery, together with a sherd of LNVCC but only the fills of ditch 1455 (1453 and 1454) produced an assemblage of over 100 sherds and *c*1kg in weight (Table 6)

Table 6 shows the pottery assemblage from the ditch by principal fabric and form type.

Table 6: Quantification of the pottery from ditch 1455

Fabric	Sherds	% ditch	Weight (g)	% ditch	Rim %	J	D	O
Greys	81	80	1052	70	247	6	1	1
Grogs	12	12	384	25.6				
Reddish-yellow, grey core	5	5	24	1.6				
Buff	1	1	4	0.27				
SGS	1	1	14	0.9			1	
LNVCC	1	1	24	1.6				
Total Ditch 1455	**101**		**1502**		**247**			

Grey wares predominate and include a wide range of different fabric and core colours. The jar forms present are narrow-mouthed and curved-rimmed. Two of the latter are rather globular in form. The dish has a plain rim and the other vessel is one of the colladers with basal holes pierced pre-firing. The SGS is a form Dr 18 or 18/31. The LNVCC comprises a thick sherd and the grogged ware, which also occurs in a range of colours, includes a sherd with horizontal rilling. The reddish-yellow fabric includes a globular vessel with a girth cordon and groove.The bulk of the pottery would fit a 2nd century date, though there is both 1st and probable 4th century pottery present. There was also one post-medieval sherd.

Sherds of intrinsic interest

A number of sherds are illustrated to provide an idea of the range of fabrics and forms present on the site. Pottery from the evaluation (EV) is included (Fig 7a/b).

1. Munsell 10YR3/1. Traces of burnishing on neck. (1453).
2. Munsell 10YR5/1-5/2, 5YR7/6, N5 sandwich core. (1454).
3 Munsell 10YR5/1-5/2 externally, N4 internally, thin 10YR7/2 core edge. (1454). Decoration similar to vessel from Quinton (Friendship-Taylor 1979, fig. 84, 82).

Grey ware

4. Munsell 5Y6/1 with traces of a 5YR7/6 core in places. (1556, Pit 1558).
5. Munsell 10YR5/2, N5 core. (EV 726, Ditch 727).
6. 10YR4/1, 5/2. (EV 604, Ditch 606).
7. Munsell N5 with a N4 core. Possibly East Midlands ware. (1431, Ditch 1432).
8. Munsell N4 with a 10YR7/2 core. (1425, Ditch 1426).
9. Munsell N5 with a 10YR7/2 core edge and 10YR6/2 ?slipped surfaces. (1425, Ditch 1426).
10. Munsell 10YR5/3, 6.3 with a N5 core where thickest. (1456, Ditch 1458).

Grogged ware

11. Munsell 5YR4/1, 10YR4/1. (1522, Gully 1523).
12. 7.5YR8/4, blackened external surface. (EV605, Ditch 606).
13. Munsell 7,5YR8/4, 10YR 8/1 core. (1574, Ditch 1575).
14. Munsell 7.5YR8/4, N4 core. Burnt. (1519, Ditch 1518).
15. Munsell 7.5YR 6/4 – 5YR 6/6 surfaces, N4 core. (1490, Gully 1491 and, possibly, EV 705, Ditch 710).

Shell-gritted ware

16. Munsell 10YR4/1 with 5YR6/6 patches. Small shell. (1427, Ditch 1429).

Oxidised ware

17. Munsell 10YR7/3-7/4. ?oxidised grey ware. (1530, Ditch 1531).
18. Munsell 10YR7/3-7/4, N6 core. (1419, Ditch 1420).

Miscellaneous wares

19. LNVCC. Munsell 10YR8/4 with a 10YR4/1-4/2 colour coat and 10YR3/1 overslip barbotine decoration. (1511, Burial 1, 1513).
20. OXCC. Munsell 5YR8/4, 7/6 with a 10YR8/1 core and traces of a 2.5YR6/8 colour-coat. Multicoloured translucent quartz trituration grits. (1478, Ditch 1479).
21. MH. Munsell 10YR8/3 with a 7.5YR8/4 core. Small black trituration grits. (1462, Gully 1463).
22. MH. White with Munsell 2.5YR5/6 painted decoration. Reddish-brown trituration grits. (EV810, Ditch 812).
23. Ver. Munsell 10YR8/4, N7 core where thickest. (1574, Ditch 1575).

5.3 Anglo-Saxon pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The early Anglo-Saxon pottery assemblage comprised 15 sherds with a total weight of 377g. The following fabric types were noted:

Fabric
The following fabrics types were noted:

F1: Fine Quartz. Sparse to moderate sub-angular quartz up to 0.5mm, most less than 0.2mm. Rare calcareous material. 5 sherds, 113g.

F2: Coarse Quartz. Moderate to dense angular quartz up to 1mm. 9 sherds, 160g.

F3: Ironstone. Moderate rounded ironstone up to 3mm, sparse sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, flecks of very fine silver mica. 1 sherd, 104g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 7. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The dating of Early Saxon hand-built pottery is almost entirely reliant on the presence of decorated sherds. It seems that the Anglo-Saxons generally stopped decorating hand-built pottery in the 7th century (Myres 1977, 1), but it cannot be said that an assemblage which has only plain sherds is of 7th century date. Usually, decorated hand-built pottery only comprises around 3 – 4% of domestic assemblages, as was the case at sites such as West Stow, Suffolk (West 1985) and Mucking, Essex (Hamerow 1993). Thus, a fairly small assemblage of plain pottery such as that from context (1547) cannot be said with certainty to be dated to the 7th century or later, and has to be given a broad period date of the 5th – 9th centuries.

The decorated sherd (Fig 9) from context (1466) is almost certainly of mid 6th – early 7th century date, the apex of the use of stamps and incised lines on Anglo-Saxon hand-built pottery (Myres 1977). The fabric of the sherd, which is rich in ironstone, is almost certainly of fairly local manufacture, and from a very large vessel. It is the only Anglo-Saxon vessel from the site in such a fabric. The overall design scheme of the decoration is unclear, although a number of other vessels with similar 'free-form' combinations of stamps and combed lines are known from elsewhere, including one from Kettering in Northamptonshire (*ibid*, fig 148, no 776). The group of material from context (1547) comprises fragments of three vessels: A full profile of a bowl (Fig 9) with a rim diameter of 260mm (10% complete) and a small rimsherd from a jar, both in fabric F1, and several non-joining fragments from the base of a vessel in fabric F2.

The Anglo-Saxon assemblage is entirely lacking in pottery which can be dated to the early/mid 5th century, such as carinated bowls or *buckelurnen* (ibid 1977), and so this assemblage appears to be evidence of re-occupation of the site rather than continuity.

Table 7: Quantification of Saxon pottery

	RB		**F1**		**F2**		**F3**		
Fill/cut	**No**	**Wt (g)**	**No**	**Wt (g)**	**No**	**Wt (g)**	**No**	**Wt (g)**	**Date**
U/S	--	--	--	--	1	7	--	--	U/S
1466/ 1468	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	104	6thC
1547/ 1549	2	21	5	113	8	153			E/MS
Total	**14**	**71**	**5**	**113**	**9**	**160**	**1**	**104**	

5.4 Ceramic building material by Pat Chapman

Roman tile

There are three roof tile sherds, two *tegula* and one *imbrex*, together weighing 518g, each made from a different fabric. The *tegula* sherd, from context (1406), is made in a very hard fine sandy light brown fabric with a dark pink core and some small flint and stone inclusions and very occasional small grog. The body is 25mm thick, the top of the flange is missing. Only the flange and a fragment of body survives of the *tegula,* made from a slightly soft fine silty pink fabric with occasional small grog, from context (1409). The flange is short and broad, only 28mm high, and 20-30mm wide, the body is 20mm thick. The *imbrex* sherd from context (1574) is made in an orange-brown shellyware fabric with sparse small shell.

Fired clay

Ten fragments of fired clay, weighing 165g, comprise one fragment each from six contexts and four fragments from one context. The four relatively large irregularly-shaped fragments from context (1453) are made from fine silty clay and been differentially heated to orange, white and black. The six remaining fragments are small hard orange and black fragments that have been subject to high temperatures. Those from contexts (1411), (1526) and (1541) had started to vitrify, unlike the fragments from contexts (1404), (1538) and (1520). This is such a small quantity that very little

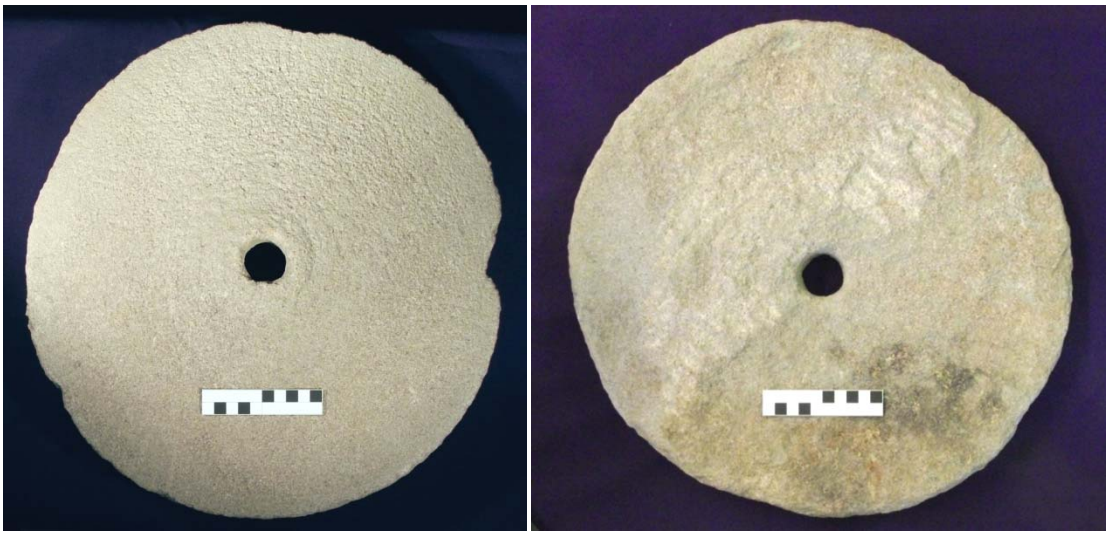
This sparse tile and fired clay remains are most likely the result of manuring scatters.

5.5 The worked stone by Andy Chapman

A complete lower stone from a rotary quern (SF 28) comes from the fill (1476) of ditch [1477]. The stone, a fine-grained Millstone Grit, is 420mm in diameter and varies from 35-45mm thick at the circumference to 50mm thick at the centre. There is a central aperture, 40mm diameter, which would have held an iron pivot (Fig 10).

On the underside of the stone (Fig 11, right), there is a small area that is worn smooth, while the remainder is uneven, with chisel scars cutting into the surviving worn area. This indicates that the underside was the original grinding surface and the stone had been turned over and reused. This explains why the central socket for the pivot pin has become a hole through the full width of the stone.

The upper surface (Fig 11, left), is slightly inclined and convex, with a slightly raised area, 85mm in diameter, at the centre, which will correspond with the size of the opening in the upper or runner stone. Together they would have formed a characteristic Roman flat rotary quern assembly.



Lower stone of rotary quern (SF 28) from the western boundary ditch [1477], showing the grinding surface (left) and on the underside (right) the remnant an original grinding surface, left

(Scale 100mm) Fig 11

There is another piece of worked stone (SF 52) from the fill (1594) of pit [1595]. This comprises a squared block of hard quartzite, 250mm by 250mm and up to 135mm thick, with uneven sides and bottom (Fig 12). The upper surface is near flat but slightly undulating, and is worn smooth through rubbing, but not by rotary action as in a quern. At the centre of the upper surface there is a socket 30mm in diameter and 35mm deep. The sides of the socket are smoothed and there is a double depression at the base of the socket. The most likely function for this stone would be as a pivot stone at the base of a wooden door, with a metal peg on the base of the door rotating in the pivot socket. This might explain the double depressions at the base of the socket, with one perhaps a product of the drilling of the hole and the other from the rotation of the pivot.

The possible pivot stone (SF 52) from pit [1595] (Scale 100mm) Fig 12

5.6 Slags by Andy Chapman

The slags fall into two distinct groups: ferrous slags probably related to iron smithing, and fuel ash slag derived from some high-temperature process, not necessarily metalworking (Table 8).

Table 8: Quantification of slags

Context	No	Weight (g)	Comments
Ferrous slag			
1406/1646 ditch	1	370	Fe misc slag
1471/1474 ditch	4	260	Fe slag, 1 piece fluid (tap slag like)
1528/1529 ditch	2	110	Fe slag
1545/1546 gully	3	310	Fe slag smithing hearth bottom
1547/1549 pit	8	440	Fe slag, fluid surfaces
Total	**18**	**1490**	
Fuel ash slag			
1425/1426 ditch	20	2650	FAS inc' lump 170mm across
1454/1455 ditch	15	230	FAS
1519/1518 ditch	1	15	FAS
1541/1542 ditch	30	4	FAS
Total	**66**	**2899**	

Ferrous slag

Five deposits produced a total of 1.49kg of ferrous slag. The majority of the material comprises small irregular fragments of slag, the largest fragment is 100mm long, which are not diagnostic of function. Much of the slag in pit [1549], the largest group, and a single piece in ditch [1474] have fluid surfaces, not dissimilar to tap slag. However, the small quantities recovered would not be consistent with iron smelting being practiced nearby, and it is suggested that no more than some small scale iron smithing was being carried out.

Fuel ash slag

A total of 2.9kg of fuel ash slag was recovered from four ditch fills, with a particular concentration in the fill (1425) of ditch [1426]. The fuel ash slag is light and vesicular, with surfaces that are sometimes fluid and with patches of glassy surfaces, light grey in colour with mottles of darker grey to purple. It occurs in irregular lumps ranging from 50mm across up to blocks in ditch [1426] that are up to 170mm across. Fuel ash slag derives from substantial fires that have been raised to a sufficiently high temperature to cause the constituents to melt, but not necessarily associated with iron working.

5.7 Other finds by Ian Meadows

Coins

A copper alloy coin 15mm diameter was recovered from a furrow. Only the start and end can be discerned of the obverse legend DN-PFAVG preventing the secure identification of the Emperor. The reverse bears the distinctive falling horseman and part f the legend –RATIO was legible indicating a mid 4th century issue.

A copper alloy coin 12mm diameter with eroded edges and only local traces of the surface was recovered from a furrow. The coin is a FEL TEMP REPARATIO 'falling horseman type' issue dating to the middle of the 4th century.

A copper alloy coin 12mm diameter and nearly 2mm thick was recovered from a furrow. The thickness of the flan suggests it is a cast copy, which is supported by the shallow definition of the reverse design. The obverse bears a characteristic 4th century bust and the first four letters of the legend DNAR indicating the original coin being copied was an issue of Arcadius (383-408), although clearly the date of the copy cannot be identified.

A corroded and eroded copper alloy coin flan 16mm diameter was recovered from the topsoil (1401). The obverse face is illegible but the reverse preserves elements of two standing soldiers with 2 standards indicating this is a GLORIA EXCERCITVS issue (330-335).

A 15mm fragment of a copper alloy coin, representing about a third of the flan was recovered from the topsoil. The reverse was not decipherable however the obverse bore part of the beaded diadem characteristic of fourth century issues.

Comment
All the coins were of the small late denominations that make up the majority of the coins recovered from rural sites. The poor condition of many reflects their recovery from the plough soils within furrows. The presence of forgeries is not uncommon in this period as they were produced a stopgap supply for the everyday change. The cast copy of a coin of Arcadius may suggest shortages in circulating coin either just before or just after the end of Roman rule.

Lead objects
A 'bun' shaped lead weight 17mm in diameter and 11mm thick with a small central perforation about 2mm diameter within a depression on both faces was recovered from a furrow. On one face there were two small steps on opposite sides of the central perforation as if designed to act as a seating for something. The surface of the piece had been painted dark red. It is unclear why the piece had been painted but it does suggest the weight was visible when in use. As an item it is not closely dateable.

Glass
A small square shard of pale green glass 13 x 11mm and 2mm thick with a slight curvature indicating it is derived from a vessel was recovered from the fill (1431) of ditch [1432]. One surface is slightly scratched, possibly the external face, and very isolated bubbles are present within the glass. Unfortunately the piece lacks any diagnostic features allowing the identification of the vessel form and it is unclear whether it is a piece of Roman or recent glass.

Iron
Part of an iron nail about 45mm long with a broken shank was recovered from a furrow. The piece was highly corroded and concreted preventing further description of its form although it would appear to have had a tapering square section to the shank and a heavily burred round flat head.

Copper alloy
A fragment of the rim of a large medieval or post medieval cast vessel 35 x 27mm and generally 5mm thick was recovered from a furrow. It preserved a 29mm length of the rim edge but as the piece had been possibly burnt it was unclear if the rim was in-turned or out-turned.

A Polden Hill type brooch comprising a plain head enclosing the axial bar, at either end of the head a single incised line was visible in the upper surface extending part the way around the head was recovered from a furrow. The tapering bow is slightly offset from

the centre of the head, with a denticulated central rib extending for about 20mm. The catch plate was plain and a single raised bead of metal defined the end of the bow. The brooch is 1st century AD in date.

A 48mm long 15mm wide medieval or post-medieval book or clog clasp, broken at one end. The hook was formed by simply rolling the metal over was recovered from a furrow. There was no sign of surface decoration apart from a single raised line running across the piece about 11mm from the hook, it is possible there had been more decoration lost to the corrosion. Two centrally located holes 15mm and 44mm from the hook would have held rivets to attach the piece.

A 28mm diameter plain ring with a D-shaped cross section about 1.5mm high and 1.5mm wide with a markedly worn area where the metal reduces to about 1mm across was recovered from a furrow. It is unlikely, on the grounds of size that this was a finger ring unless worn on a male thumb. Not closely dateable.

A 25 x 19mm fragment of a cast bell with an original diameter of about 80mm was recovered from a furrow. Post-medieval in date.

Part of a single strand wire bangle was recovered from the fill western boundary ditch (1478) 1479. This fragment comprised about 80mm of plain wire with an oval cross section 2 x 1.5mm. This piece is almost certainly Roman in date.

Part of a single strand wire bangle was recovered from the topsoil. This fragment comprised about 35mm of a D-shaped bangle 3mm wide and 1mm thick, the upper rounded surface bore a series (two were observed) of diagonal lines about 10mm apart. This piece is certainly Roman in date.

A fragment of very thin metal sheet 43mm long and up to 40mm wide was recovered from the fill of the southern droveway boundary ditch (1541) . Owing to the thinness of the metal a series of holes have eroded through which may conceal any deliberate holes for attachment, however, the lack of any regular pattern of holes might preclude this. Along one edge a series of grooves defining a curve are present as if the piece was crudely cut and another edge has a similar curved shape. It is possible this piece is the remains of a sheet of thin metal from which a series of thin decorative mounts has been cut.

Part of a possible circular decorative mount plain on one face but with a denticulate motif around the edge of the other face was recovered from a furrow. The curvature would suggest an internal diameter of about 30mm and an external of about 45mm. The piece is broken at both ends but no breakages were apparent on either surface so the original form must have been similar to a washer.

Comment
The majority of the finds appear to have been derived from the fill of furrows and many comprise small fragments. The two bangle fragments are Roman and probably date to the 3rd or 4th centuries, whilst the brooch is of a 1st century type. The majority of the pieces are not closely dateable.

Overall the assemblage is typical of a heavily ploughed small rural site with a collection of artefacts reflecting a background of activity during the Roman period, it is perhaps of note that most of the dateable Roman finds are from the 3rd or 4th century whilst the early indications from the pottery is that the occupation was concentrated in the 1st and 2nd centuries. This contrast may reflect a change in the character of activity with ditch digging only occurring in the early period so that by the later Roman period a static

landscape existed within which only 'settlement' hollows existed in which to 'catch' artefacts, it may however also indicate that the present site was peripheral to continuing Roman activity with the finds being derived through manuring of the fields.

6 FAUNAL AND ENVIROMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Animal bone by Philip Armitage

Six boxes of hand-collected animal bone and one box of sieved bone samples were submitted for analysis and reporting. Of the total 1004 hand collected bone elements/fragments examined, 481 (47.9%) were identified to species and anatomy (part of skeleton) with 523 (52.1%) remaining as unidentified fragments of which 174 are cattle sized (Tables 1 & 2). Of the 481 identified bones analysed the majority (95.6%/total NISP) came from Roman contexts with only a small sample (4.4%) from a Saxon pit. With the exception of a single domestic fowl humerus from a Roman ditch, all the hand collected bones examined came from domestic mammals and there were no bones of fish, amphibians or reptiles present in the submitted hand collected material. However, the sieved samples did produce evidence for the presence of at least one amphibian (common frog) in addition to small wild mammal species (house mouse and field vole). Summary counts of the identified specimens from the sieved samples are presented in the archive.

Methodology

Identification of species/taxon and anatomy were carried out using the author's modern comparative collections and with reference to standard published osteological and zooarchaeological works (including Schmid 1972, Lawrence & Brown 1973 and Getty 1975). Wherever possible, sheep and goat bones and teeth were differentiated following Boessneck *et al's* (1964) and Payne's (1985) criteria. Although no positive identifications of goat were made and all elements with diagnostic features proved to be sheep, it remained a possibility there may have been a few unrecognised goats among the broken elements. All ovicaprid material in this report is therefore referenced as sheep/goat except where mention is made to the ageing of the sheep jawbones. Measurements (in mm) were taken on selected elements using a Draper dial calliper (graduated 0.02 mm); following the system of von den Driesch (1976). Determinations of sex, age and stature estimates were made using standard zooarchaeological formulae (see below). In addition to the animal bones reported below there are seven bones identified as human. These bones are listed below but otherwise omitted from the analysis.

Hand-collected specimens:
Context 1453 fill of ditch 1455 – 1 left scapula, well preserved but recently broken plus 1 abraded piece of shaft of a humerus
Context 1488 fill of ditch 1489 – 1 humerus shaft

Specimens from sieved samples:
Context 1514 <11> ditch – 1 proximal phalanx (from a hand)
Context 1565 <17> inhumation (burial 2) – 1 proximal phalanx, 1 distal phalanx and 1 carpal bone (all from a hand & wrist)

Taphonomy and condition of the bone

The general state of preservation of the hand-collected bones is assessed as fair (moderate) to good with fewer than 10 bones classified as poor/very poorly preserved and showing evidence of leaching and/or sub-aerial weathering. Alternate episodes of

wetting and drying whilst the bones were buried however, appeared to have rendered many others brittle, resulting in susceptibility to fragmentation *in situ* in antiquity and/or breakage during excavation/post-excavation handling. Given the exceptionally high levels over the site of the recently/anciently fragmented specimens, quantification proved difficult. For the purposes of establishing NISP values, fragments of shafts and/or epiphyses recognized as deriving from the same bone element were counted as a single "unit". A similar procedure was adopted where loose teeth of the cattle and sheep could be matched with pieces of mandible or maxilla. Loose horse teeth however proved problematical as the majority were recovered entirely detached/separated from any associated jawbones or maxillae; as a consequence the data for horse NISP gives an erroneously inflated impression of the relative importance of this animal. It should be noted that of the 25 elements reported from the ditches, 14 are isolated teeth; comprising 11 upper cheek teeth (from ditch 1455) from a young horse and three lower pre-molar cheek teeth (from ditch 1506) from a slightly older animal. Two further cheek teeth, from a foal, were in the sieved sample <21> from pit 1595. Special mention should also be made of the over 100 pieces/fragments from gully 1533, which derived from a single cattle skull. For the purposes of NISP quantification these 100 pieces/fragments were recorded as representing a single element.

The incidence of dog-gnawed bones is confined to six cattle and a single horse metacarpus, the latter from ditch 1486. Apart from two chopped cattle bones, a femur (ditch 1514) and a lumbar vertebra (ditch 1516), the animal bones examined failed to provide any useful insight into butchering techniques owing to the overall high degree of fragmentation. Apart from a group of burnt/calcined sheep/goat bones (1 tibia and 3 ribs) from 1421 fill of pit 1422, the occurrence of burnt bone was apparently limited to a scattering of highly fragmented/scrappy calcined bone in ditches 1429 and 1453.

Body part distribution and Articulating/Associated Bone Groups (ABGs)
In general, all body parts are well represented by the disarticulated anatomical distributions of the main domesticates (see Tables 4 & 5) which is indicative of local on-site slaughtering, butchering and consumption of the cattle, sheep and pigs. There is no evidence for the importation or export of prepared joints of meat from or to outside settlements. Fill 1464 of ditch 1465 yielded articulating/associated elements of a right hind leg/foot of an adult ox, comprising the distal part of a tibia, astragalus, calcaneum, os centrotarsale, metatarsus, a first phalanx and a second phalanx. A pair (right & left) of cattle jawbones also came from this same context and together with the hind leg above may represent primary butchering waste, suggesting the possibility that the slaughtering of some of the cattle and initial cutting up/disjointing of their carcasses took place close by to this ditch.

Descriptions of the animals

Roman (1st to mid 2nd century AD)

Cattle – A young adult horned individual is represented by a skull recovered in an exceedingly fragmented condition from 1532 fill of gully 1533, below burial 1. Age at death in another individual, represented by a part maxilla with upper third molar *in situ* (1415 fill of pit 1416) is estimated at over 72 months (criteria of Davis and Payne 1993, 17 – 18). Based on the eruption/wear profile in the mandibular cheek teeth and epiphyseal fusion data (records in site archive) there is evidence for the slaughtering of young/sub-adult two-and-a-half to three-year old cattle as a source of prime meat. Other, older cattle, aged 5 to 8 years, (category A3) probably represent culled/worn out breeding/milking cows and plough/draught animals.

Estimates of withers heights (in cm) (method of Fock 1966) for the four females and one male identified from their intact metapodial bones (sexed using DBL and MBL indices - method of Howard 1963; see Table 7) revealed (data below) these animals were of similar stature to their counterparts from other early Romano-British sites:

Sex	N	range	mean
Cow	4	109.8 – 118.8	115.6
Bull	1	113.8	

Stature (WH = withers height) estimates were also made on other leg bones (method of Matolsci 1970): a femur from 1556 (WH = 125.6 cm) and tibia from 1517 (WH = 117.6 cm).

In addition to the presence of female metapodial bones, four cows are recognised among the pelvis bones and only a single innominate bone of a small bull is identified (criteria of Grigson 1982).

Sheep – Based on those elements positively identified as sheep (rather than sheep/goat) it appears that these were small, slender legged animals, similar to modern Soay sheep.

Pigs – All bones appear to be from domestic pigs and there is no evidence for the hunting/consumption of wild boar. A radius of a neonatal/sucking piglet from 1415 fill of pit 1416 could either represent a natural mortality during farrowing or food waste indicating consumption of a very young animal. At least one male is represented by a lower canine tooth from 1428 <sample 6> fill of ditch 1429.

Horses – The age at death in a horse represented by ten upper cheek teeth from ditch 1455 was estimated at 6 to 7 years (based on crown heights, method of Levine 1982). An indication of local horse breeding is provided by the presence of foal teeth in the fill (1594) of pit 1595. A height at the withers of 1.44 m in one of the adult horses is calculated (method of Kiesewalter 1888) from the lateral length (271.0 mm) of its metatarsus III recovered from 1550 fill of ditch 1551. This horse would have been a large individual by Roman standards and as discussed by Luff (1982: 136) its stature would have been an advantage to its rider when employed in rounding up and controlling the movement of cattle and sheep.

Dogs – Two specimens only were recovered from ditches at the site: a piece of a jawbone from 1538 the fill of ditch 1539 and a proximal part of a radius (Bp = 19.5 mm) from 1601 the fill of ditch 1604.

Cat – Represented by a proximal fragment of a metapodial bone from 1415 fill of pit 1416.

Micro-fauna – Sieved sample <14> from context 1550 fill of ditch 1551 yielded a tibio-fibula of common frog plus four field vole bones: 1 mandible, 1 innominate, 1 femur and 1 tibia (representing the remains of one vole). A mandible of a house mouse was recovered in sample <8> from context 1453 fill of ditch 1455.

Bird Species

Domestic fowl – The only evidence the inhabitants kept chickens at the site is provided by a humerus from a bantam-sized bird (GL 74.6 Bp 20.3 SC 8.3 Bd 16.5 mm) from 1456 fill of ditch 1458.

Saxon (mid 6th to 7th century AD)

Only a very small assemblage of animal bones from the combined fills 1466 and 1467 of pit 1468 was available for study. The size of the Saxon cattle represented at the site is commensurate with small Iron Age cattle and the Market Harborough individuals would have been only very slightly larger than the modern dwarf Dexter steer documented by Noddle (1988). There is a single innominate bone from a domestic pig. Sheep is represented by a single right jawbone from a lamb aged less than a year at time of death. An adult horse is also represented by part of a right jawbone with the three molar teeth *in situ.* In this animal, the crown height in the third molar is noticeably higher than in the other molars, resulting in an uneven occlusial (biting) surface.

Conclusions and discussion

Romano-British

Based on the submitted animal bone material, exploitation of wildfowl, wild game species and aquatic (freshwater fish) resources apparently played no part at all in the local economy and instead there was a heavy dependence on livestock husbandry based principally on cattle with sheep of secondary importance. Although the higher frequency of cattle relative to sheep fits King's criteria for evidence of post-conquest "Romanisation" of the local livestock economy this process was usually accompanied by an increase in the proportion of pigs over sheep (King 1978 and 1984) which is not observed in the animal bone assemblage from the Market Harborough site. In stature and build the cattle resembled those from Iron Age settlements and there is no indication of the stock improvement documented elsewhere at later Romano-British settlements believed to be evidence for the importation of Roman beasts (see Albarella 2003: 198). However, there is evidence for the presence of at least one horse of a large stature even by Roman standards and such a tall animal would have been usefully employed in managing the movement of cattle and sheep between grazing areas and in transport. Other, smaller horses could have been used as pack animals. With the presence of domestic fowl limited to a single bone there is very little indication that poultry played any significant part in the local farming economy. Rough grassland in the vicinity is indicated by the presence of a field vole, while the presence of drainage ditches and gullies would have provided ideal habitats for frogs and farm buildings, especially any with stored grain, would have attracted house mice.

Saxon

Owing to the very small assemblage available for study it would be unwise to draw any firm conclusions regarding either the local farming economy or diet of the site inhabitants. However, it is of interest that unlike the Saxons living in East Anglia, Kent and Sussex who were apparently maintaining the general trend towards the improvement (i.e. increasing the stature and build) of cattle first started by the later Romano-British farmers (Armitage 1982: 51) the Market Harborough inhabitants were apparently still keeping some diminutive cattle of a size similar to unimproved Iron Age beasts.

6.2 Human bone by Sarah Inskip

Two burials were recovered and associated pottery suggests a date of 4th century AD. Burial 1 was supine in a pit with the skull to the north. A decorated beaker was with the individual who was buried over a gully which contained a cow skull. Three later postholes are located around the body with one cutting the left hand. The individual in Burial 2 was placed prone in the ground with the head placed between the legs with the face orientated towards the pelvis. The arms are crossed at the waist possibly suggesting that the hands were bound. Burial 2 was located north of Burial 1.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this report is to macroscopically assess the individuals in terms of preservation, completeness, age, sex, pathology, metric and non-metric traits. The overall objective is to place the individuals in the context of burial rites in the Romano-British period. The data will also be made available to other researchers and contribute to the discussion of burial in Romano-British England. As only two individuals were recovered it is not possible to make statistical comparisons with other populations and only general trends can be observed.

Methods

The inhumations were examined following the Institute of Field Archaeology's Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains (Brickley and McKinley 2004) and English Heritage's Human Bones from Archaeological sites: A Guideline for *Producing Assessment Documents and Reports* (Mays, Brickley and Dodwell 2004).

Completeness and preservation

Percentage completeness was estimated from quantity of the skeleton that remained. Macroscopic skeletal analysis relies on good cortical bone preservation so that demographic and pathological data can be obtained. It is therefore important that the degree of preservation is ascertained. For this an estimate of the percentage of cortical bone is made as well as the condition. It should be remembered that a skeleton can be well preserved but fragmented.

Sexing

The human skeleton is sexually dimorphic (Mays 2010:40). Male and female differences result from child bearing ability in women and greater production of testosterone in men. In humans, the two regions with greatest sexual dimorphism are the os coxae and skull. Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) outline five skull regions and four pelvic features which demonstrate significant sex variation. On the skull the mental eminence, supraorbital margin, mastoids, nuchal crest and glabella were examined and scored on a scale of 1-5 (1=female, 2=?female, 3=unknown 4=?male, 5=male). The ventral arch and ischiopubic ramus ridge were scored 1–3 (1=female, 2=unknown 3 = male) and sciatic notch was scored as per the skull. Attention was also paid to the overall size and robusticity of the remains.

Ageing

The pubic symphysis and auricular surfaces are non-mobile joints demonstrated to progressively deteriorate making them a useful age indicator (Mays 2010). The methods that have proven to have the best accuracy are the Suchey-Brookes (Brookes and Suchey 1990) pubic symphysis method and Lovejoy *et al*. (1985) auricular surface method. Both were employed for this report.

As teeth are used in mastication, enamel wears away at a steady rate. It is possible to estimate age based on the degree of dental wear. As diet is population specific, it is critical that a suitable ageing standard is used for the population understudy. As diet has changed little from the Neolithic to the later Middle Ages in Britain (Brothwell 1981), it is possible to use Brothwell's (1981) method derived from medieval Anglo-Saxons to age the Market Harborough individuals.

Pathology

Pathology was identified on an individual basis therefore the methods are presented within the relevant paragraphs of the results.

Metric analysis
Skull fragmentation prevented craniometric analysis. In addition, only Burial 2 had one intact long bone for stature estimation. Trotter and Gleser (1952, 1958) equations were used to estimate height as no uniquely British equations currently exist. It was possible to measurements of femoral head diameters for future comparative purposes. All measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1mm using sliding electronic digital callipers and are presented in the appendix. To allow comparison between samples, measurements were recorded following the standards of Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994).

Non-Metric analysis
Non-metric traits are discontinuous skeletal features that vary in their appearance in the skeleton. They are non-pathological and may inform as to genetic relationships and activity. As only two individuals existed, non-metrics were taken for future purposes if further remains should be excavated from the site, or if a significantly sized local cemetery should be found. Non-metric traits were recorded following Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994), Brothwell (1981) and Finnegan (1978) and are found in the appendix.

Results
Burial 1
Completeness: 50-75%
Preservation: good
Sex: Male
Age: Middle

Completeness and preservation
The skeleton was significantly fragmented. Most of the long bones were present with only the distal ulnae and radii being notably absent on both sides. The vertebrae were fragmented. Much of the hands and feet were missing. The preservation was good meaning that around 70% of cortical bone was available for observation.

Sex
The skull had a distinctly masculine appearance with score 5 (male) for the supraorbital margins and score 4 (?male) for the mental eminence and mastoid processes. The nuchal crest scored 3 (unknown). The only part of the os coxae that was observable for sex estimation was the sciatic notches which score 4 (probably male) on both sides. Taking all this into account, the skeleton in burial 1 has been sexed as male.

Age
The auricular surface was damaged but some features could be observed for age estimation. There were significant changes at the apex and the presence of macroporocity. No billowing or striae were present. Accordingly, a conservative estimate of phase 5 to 7 (40-59 years) was given in order to take into account the damage to the surface.

Lower molar dental wear was not significant producing an estimate of 25 – 35 years of age. Taking into consideration the older estimate of the auricular surface, the male individual in burial could be estimated to be middle aged (30 – 50 years).

Pathology
There was no evidence of appendicular osteoarthritis, infectious disease, metabolic or congenital conditions on the individual in Burial 1. Eburnation was identified on the left condyle of the mandible and is pathogonomic feature of osteoarthritis. This is where no synovial cartilage remains and the articulating bones are moving in direct contact. Early signs of osteoarthritis were observed in the spine with marginal grade 1 osteophytes (Brothwell 1981:150) in the lower thoracic and lumbar vertebrae. Schmorl's nodes

were identified in the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae. These are caused by vertebral disc herniation, specifically the nucleus pulposes which is not solid until adulthood. This herniates through the annulus resulting in depressions in the vertebral body. These depressions are characterised by remodelled edges (Waldron 2009). This suggests some degree of trauma to the spine as Schmorl's nodes are common in individuals that carry out high impact/intensity activities or those who have had a significant single traumatic event to the spine (Roberts and Manchester 2005).

Hypoplasia is a general stress indicator and is caused by the recommencement of enamel formation after a period of cessation resulting from prolonged significant psychological or physical illness. As teeth do not remodel during life, these bands represent insults to health during childhood when the teeth are being formed (Hillson 1996, Roberts and Manchester 2005). Hypoplasia was evident on the incisors, canines, premolars and even on the lower molars. Importantly, three distinct horizontal bands are observed on the lower incisors. It is likely that this individual went through multiple phases of ill health during childhood.

Calculus was observed on most of the teeth scoring grade 1 according to Brothwell (1981). This is not unusual for the Roman period (e.g. Duhig 2011, Inskip n.d., Roberts and Cox 2003, White 2000) and is common in populations without modern dental health care. The calculus was observed on the lingual surface of the lower teeth and on the buccal surface of the upper teeth. This is related to the position of the salivary glands as salvia is a key component in calculus (Hillson 1996). There were no caries, antemortem tooth loss or abscess (where bone was observable) in this individual.

Burial 2
Completeness: 95%
Preservation: Good
Sex: Male
Age: Young/Middle
Stature: 1.74m $^{+}/_{-}$ 0.04m

Completeness and preservation
Burial 2 contained a 95% complete skeleton. Notable missing elements included the left humerus and scapula caused by later damage to the burial. The small bones of the face were absent or highly fragmented. The preservation of the skeleton was generally good with over 70% of the cortical bone remaining.

Sex
The skeleton was sexed using the skull and pelvis which has extremely high accuracy (95%+ Mays 2010). The ventral arch and ischiopubic ramus ridge indicated a male individual (score 3). The sciatic notch was narrow and scored 4 (probable male). The skull was extremely robust with the mastoids and mental eminence scoring 5 (male) and the supraorbital margins and glabella scoring 4 (probable male).

Age
According to the lower molar wear, the individual is aged as 25–35 years, however there was significant wear on the anterior teeth. Billowing and straie were still present on the auricular surface with fine granularity. This suggests phase 2 (25-29 years). Distinct ridges were still visible on the pubic symphysis but with some breakdown. There was no oval outline suggesting phase 3 (21-46 years). All long bones were fused including the medial end of the clavicle which fuses in the early twenties (Scheuer and Black 2000) The hyoid bone appeared to be fused suggesting that the individual was probably closer to his forties (Scheuer and Black 2000). As such, it would appear that the individual is a young/middle adult between 25 and 40 years.

Pathology
A number of interesting pathological conditions were observed on the skeleton. Of particular importance is that the individual's skull was placed between the legs. Inspection for cuts or insults to the skull, vertebrae or any other bones was made significantly problematic due to the disturbance to the grave and later fragmentation of the skull. While it was difficult to be certain in the diagnosis of any perimortem trauma, there were no marks that stood out as being definitely made by a weapon. Lack of injury marks in relation to decapitation has been observed at a number of Roman sites (e.g Aston Clinton in Buckinghamshire (Inskip *n.d.*). Taylor (2010) suggests that some skulls maybe more 'surgically' removed after death by cutting the soft tissue and then pulling the head apart which could leave little to no trace.

The right medial condyle of the femur had a significant depression or chip removed from the bone (Fig 13). The edges demonstrated some healing (remodelled lamellar bone). The base of the defect was remodelled with eburnation indicating that the loose fragment was present in life allowing bone on bone contact. Osteochondritis dessicans occurs through localised necrosis of bone, usually on the concave articular surfaces (Mays 2007, Ortner 2003, and Waldron 2009) as identified here. A fragment of bone fractures and can become loose in the articular joint. This can lead to mobility and osteoarthritis related problems such as was seen here. Osteochondritis dessicans is thought to be caused by trauma (Mays 2007, Ortner 2003, Smith 1960, Waldron 2009) although other possible explanations are given (Hughston *et al*. 1984) and familial occurrence is known to exist (Smith 1960). Osteochondritis dessicans is a reasonably rare finding in archaeological skeletons but numerous cases have been identified in the archaeological record (see Aufderheide and Rodriguez-Martin 1998, Ortner 2003) with the medial condyle of the knee the most affected area (Waldron 2009) and identified in other Roman remains at Tollpuddle (McKinley 1999). Roberts and Cox's large comparative study (2003) identified that 0.2% of Roman knees had the condition. This is the same as reported modern occurrence of Hughston *et al*. (1984) where there were 15 – 21 cases per 100,000 knees (Hughston et al. 1984). Many of those affected in modern cases are involved in high impact activities, usually sports which suggest the occurrence in past populations, and indeed this individual, is likely to be related to high impact physical activity.

Osteochondritis dessicans on the femoral condyle of Burial 2 Fig 13

Burial 2 has partial spondylolysis affecting the second thoracic vertebrae right lamina (Fig 14a). A transverse break is visible across the right lamina. The left lamina is

unaffected. The break itself has a smooth appearance on the lateral side and a rough area on the medial portion (Fig 14b). The transverse orientation and position away from the midline rules out spina bifida as a cause (Merbs 2002). The neural arch also appears asymmetric and the whole spine has minor scoliosis with a curve to the right. L5 presents with significant osteophytes possibly as a result.

a) Spondylolysis on the 2nd thoracic vertebra of Burial 2. Note post mortem fracture on the left lamina, b) smooth surface indicating non-union Fig 14

Spondylolysis also has a strong link with activity (Larsen 1997, Roberts and Manchester 2005). In this condition, the vertebral body, bilaterally or unilaterally, partially or fully, separates from the neural arch. It is thought that stress from load bearing or from a fall can cause the fracture of the vertebrae (Waldron 2009). It is possible that there is a link between the fracture occurrence and the genetically predetermined shape of the vertebrae making some people predisposed to the condition. Modern clinical literature suggests that the condition is more common in men and is frequently observed in athletes and heavy labourers (Merbs 1989). Spondylolysis is often observed in the archaeological record (Ortner 2003, Waldron 2009) and has been reported in up to 27% of spines in an Eskimo population (Stewart 1931). It predominately affects the lower lumbar spine (Mann and Murphy 1990 and Waldron 2009) and occasionally affects the first sacral vertebra or upper lumbar.

Spondylolysis in the thoracic, especially upper thoracic region is exceptionally rare. Merbs (2002) identified a similar defect in a young male Eskimo from Canada but both sides were affected. Ortner (2003) presents a similar case from the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Chichester and suggested causation was a fall onto the back. Merbs (2002) in a collection of similar examples argues that congenital origins are more likely. Considering the other abnormalities in the spine, it seems likely that as the lamina was partially unfused as part of a congenital anomaly and a subsequent fracture has occurred on the remaining, structurally weak area of Thoracic 2. A physically active lifestyle or a single traumatic injury could have triggered the fracture.

Like the individual in Burial 1, the individual in Burial 2 had hypoplasia but only 1 band visible on the upper incisors. This suggests that the individual was significantly physically or mentally stressed during childhood. The individual in Burial 2 had a large cavity in the upper right maxillary molar resulting in removal of the lingual cusps. Other dental conditions included calculus on nearly all of the teeth like burial 1. No other notable dental pathology was present. It was worthy of note that the individual has congenital absence of lower left molar 3.

Stature was estimated at 1.74m $^{+}/_{-}$ 0.04m using the maximum length of the right ulna. This places him at least average, if not taller than the average Roman stature of 1.69m produced by Roberts and Cox (2003).

Discussion

It is not unusual to have isolated burials in the Roman period with many examples of single or multiple burials appearing in a range of locations including ditches near the edge of settlements, for example at Latton Lands (Geber *n.d.*).

The pathology experienced by both individuals suggests physically active lifestyles although it is not possible to state with confidence that they were of lower status from the burials or pathology. The dental pathology observed fits general trends for the Roman period which suggest carbohydrate consumption. This included calculus and a large cavity identified on the upper right 2nd molar of burial 2. It is difficult to comment on the standards of dental hygiene with just two individuals.

The burial of an individual in a prone position is relatively frequent occurrence with similar examples at Watling Street in London (White 2000), High Wycombe (Inskip n.d.) Latton Lands (Geber n.d.) and at Tolpuddle (McKinley 1999). The placement of the skull between the legs is also common (Taylor 2010, Philpot 1991). Philpots (1991:87) suggests that decapitated burials are more frequently found in rural settlement such as is the case here. Fewer burials are subject to both decapitation and prone positioning like Burial 2 here. One has to consider whether the two rites are accorded for the same reason, or whether they represent two different aspects of the individual.

Decapitation has been argued to be both negative and positive. As well as a possible method of execution, post-mortem decapitation has been viewed as an extra punishment after death (Taylor 2010). Conversely links to the Celtic head cult, where the head was seen as the seat of the soul, suggest that severing of the head was to enhance life force (Philpot 1991). What is interesting is the lack of definite cut marks (although it is possible that post-mortem damage may hide them). It has been suggested that heads were removed after death (Taylor 2010). If a person was still alive, we might expect more evidence of force like examples from Roman Towcaster (Anderson 2001) and Baldock (McKinley 1993). This may argue in favour of a more ritual explanation over execution.

While prone burial has been associated with criminals, Philpots (1991:87) suggests that prone burial is connected to unnatural deaths or the handicapped. It is interesting that burial 2 does have some anomalies of the spine of which the soft tissue repercussions are unobservable. However, fear of the dead walking or the spirit haunting the living is known in Roman literature (Taylor 2010) and burial prone may have been one method to prevent this. Final, it is of course possible that the individual was interred in this manner by accident/hasty burial or to mark out the individual's marginal position in society. Considering that the two rites were accorded simultaneously, and that the hands may have been bound, infers that some form of coercion was used. It therefore seems likely that this individual was either offered a significant punishment by being given two of the most severe penalties after death, or that an attempt to heal the individual was made though ritual decapitation, but a fear of haunting caused members of the community to bury the man prone. It is obviously impossible to know which of the scenarios is likely but the individual was special in some way that marked him out to be buried in an atypical manner.

Conclusions

Two well preserved but fragmented skeletons were analysed for evidence of age, sex and pathology. Both individuals were male, Burial 1 being a middle aged man and burial 2 being that of a young/middle aged individual. Both individuals had dental pathology that would imply a diet consisting of carbohydrates. The height of the individual in burial 2 fits well with the average for the Roman period and may suggest that he was a little taller than most people. There was no evidence for infection or anaemia related conditions in either of the individuals yet some evidence of childhood stress was observed as hypoplastic lines. Evidence for an active lifestyle, as indicated by spinal pathologies and an unusually large osteochondritis defect on the knee of Burial 2 was identified.

Burial 2 has been accorded a very rare and early example of the combined rite of decapitation and prone burial. This burial rite may have related to his deviant behaviour in life or the fact that he may have been impaired in some way. It is therefore not possible to know if this rite has negative or positive connotations as execution, ritual or healing may all possibly explain this unusual finding. Nevertheless, the individual appears to be significantly marked out as deserving such treatment, especially as burial 1 has been accorded a more standard burial treatment.

Table 9 Measurements taken from the Market Harborough skeletons

Measurement	**Burial 1/1513**		**Burial 2/1565**	
	Left	Right	Left	Right
Humeral epicondylar breadth	69.5mm	-	-	
Maximum ulna length	-	-	-	269mm
Femoral epicondylar breadth	-	-	-	83.7mm
Maximum femoral head diameter	-	53.1mm	53.3mm	54.8mm
Femoral head circumference	-	62mm	67mm	65mm

Non-metric traits

Table 10: Cranial non-metric traits

Trait	Burial 1/1513			Burial 2/1565		
	Left	Midline	Right	Left	Midline	Right
Metopic suture		9			0	
Supraorbital notch	9		9	0		0
Supraorbital foramen	9		9	1		1
Infraorbital suture	9		9	9		9
Multiple infraorbital foramina	9		9	9		9
Zygomatico-facial foramina	9		9	1		1
Parietal foramen	9		9	9		9
Sutural bones						
Epiteric	9		9	9		9
Coronal ossicle	9		9	9		9
Bregmatic bone		9			9	
Sagittal ossicle		9			9	
Apical bone		9			9	
Lamboidal ossicle	9		9	9		9
Asterionic bone	9		9	9		9
Ossicle in occipital mastoid suture	9		9	9		9
Parietal notch bone	9		9	9		9
Inca bone		9			0	
Condylar canal	9		9	9		9
Divided hypoglossal canal	0		9	0		0
Flexure of superior sagittal sulcus		2			9	
Foramen ovale incomplete	9		9	9		9
Foramen spinosum incomplete	9		9	9		9
Pterygo-spinous bridge	9		9	9		9
Ptergo-alar bridge	9		9	9		9
Tympanic dehiscence	9		9	9		9
Auditory exostotis	0		9	9		9
Mastoid foramen location	9		4	9		1
Mastoid foramen number	9		1	9		1
Mental foramen	0		0	1		1
Madibular torus	0		0	0		0
Mylohyoid bridge location	0		0	0		0
Mylohyoid bridge degree	0		0	0		0

Table 11: Post cranial non-metric traits

Trait	Burial 1/1513		Burial 2/1565	
	L	R	L	R
Atlas bridging lateral	a	u	a	a
Atlas bridging posterior	a	u	a	a
Atlas facet form (S or D)	s	u	s	s
Transverse foramen bipartite	u	u	u	u
Accessory foramen C7	u	u	u	u
Allens fossa	u	a	a	a
Poiriers facet	u	u	p	p
Plaque	u	a	a	a
Hypotrochanteric fossa	u	p	p	p
Exostotis in trochanteric fossa	u	a	p	p
third trochanter	u	a	u	a
Supracondylar process	a	a	u	a
Septal aperture	a	u	u	a
Acetabular crease	u	u	u	u
Pre-Auricular salcus	u	u	u	u
Accessory Sacral facets (sacral)	u	u	u	u
Accessory Sacral facets (iliac)	u	u	u	u
Acromial articular facet	u	a	u	a
Suprascapula foramen	u	p	u	u
Circumflex sulcus	u	p	u	p
Vastus notch	u	u	p	p
Vastus fossa	u	u	a	a
Emarginate patella	u	u	a	a
Os Tiganomium	u	u	a	a
Medial talar extension	u	u	a	a
Lateral talar extension	u	u	a	a
Inferior talar articular surface (S or D)	u	u	d	d
Anterior calcaneal facet absent	u	u	u	a
Anterior calcaneal facet double	u	u	u	d
Pernoeal tubercle	u	u	u	p
SF talus	u	u	p	p
SF tibia lateral	u	u	a	u
SF tibia medial	u	u	a	u

Key: a=absent, p=present, s=single, d=double, u=unobservable. SF=squatting facets

6.3 Charred plant materials by Val Fryer

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit and ditch fills of probable Roman. In addition, deposits associated with two inhumation burials, which were thought to be contemporary with the other excavated features, were also sampled. A total of twenty-three samples were submitted for assessment, three from the initial evaluation (samples 1 – 3), and the remainder from the subsequent excavation.

The samples were bulk floated by Northamptonshire Archaeology and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were sorted under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 12. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997) and identifications were made by comparison with modern reference specimens. With the exception of sample 23, from the fill of ditch [1640], which contained a small number of de-watered macrofossils, all plant remains were charred.

As none of the assemblages contained sufficient plant macrofossils for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), the density of material within each sample was recorded within the tables as follows: x = 1 – 10 specimens, xx = 11 – 50 specimens, xxx = 51 – 100 specimens and xxxx = 100+ specimens. Other abbreviations used in the tables are explained at the end of the text section. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were present throughout.

Sample composition

Although charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, other plant remains occurred less frequently. However, cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds and wetland plants were recorded along with occasional tree/shrub macrofossils. Preservation was generally quite poor, and there was evidence that some grains and seeds had been burnt at such high temperatures that they had been partly converted to black, tarry residues.

Cereal grains, including specimens of oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and cereals which were too poorly preserved for close identification, were present within twelve assemblages. Wheat occurred most frequently. Double-keeled spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases were noted within two assemblages and samples 3 (ditch [606]) and 23 (ditch [1640]) contained bread wheat (*T. aestivum*/*compactum*) type rachis nodes. Barley occurred less frequently, with possible asymmetrical lateral grains of six-row barley (*H. vulgare*) being noted within samples 4 (pit [1416]) and 9 (pit [1468]). In the absence of diagnostic floret bases, it was not possible to ascertain whether the oat grains were from a wild or cultivated variety.

Charred seeds of common segetal weeds and grassland herbs were noted within fourteen samples, although often as single specimens within an assemblage. Taxa noted included orache (*Atriplex* sp.), brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), grasses (Poaceae), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), meadow/creeping/bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*/*repens*/*bulbosus*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*). The de-watered assemblage from sample 23 (ditch [1640]) also contained seeds of common ruderal weeds including musk-thistle (*Carduus* sp.), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Wetland plant macrofossils, including sedge (*Carex* sp.), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) and saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) nutlets, rush (*Juncus* sp.) fruits and seeds of blinks (*Montia fontana*), were noted within five of the assemblages studied. Tree/shrub macrofossils were scarce, but did include a possible charred fragment of a dogwood

(*Cornus sanguinea*) fruit and de-watered bramble type (*Rubus* sp.) 'pips'. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Other plant macrofossils included fragments of charred root or stem and indeterminate culm nodes, inflorescence fragments, thorns and tubers.

The fragments of black porous and tarry material, which were present within a number of assemblages, were all possible residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains and seeds) at very high temperatures. Other remains were scarce, but did include small fragments of bone, small pellets of burnt or fired clay and globules of vitreous material. Minute pieces of coal (coal 'dust') were also recorded, but it was unclear whether these were contemporary with the contexts from which the samples were taken, or later contaminants.

Discussion

In general, the assemblages are small and sparse, with most probably being partly or wholly derived from scattered or wind-dispersed detritus. However, the following assemblages do merit individual discussion.

The fill of pit [1416] (sample 5) appears to include mixed refuse including possible cereal processing waste (chaff, grains and small segetal weed seeds) and hearth debris (a high density of charcoal along with thorns, tubers and bone fragments). However, as processing waste was often used as kindling or fuel within both domestic and light 'industrial' contexts, it is possible that this assemblage constitutes a small deposit of hearth waste which was deliberately placed within the pit fill.

Although small, the assemblage from ditch [606] (sample 3) contains the highest density of material of any of the samples studied. Cereals, chaff and weed seeds are especially common, and it would appear most likely that the remains are derived from a small deposit of charred cereal processing waste. As already noted, such material was often used within a secondary context as tinder or fuel, and in this instance, there certainly is evidence that the material was burnt at an extremely high temperature. That this temperature possibly exceeded that which may be expected in an ordinary domestic context is implied by the extremely poor condition of the macrofossils, many of which literally appear to have melted. It is, therefore, tentatively suggested that this assemblage may have an industrial rather than domestic origin.

The small assemblage from ditch [1516] (sample 20) contains a moderately high density of cereal grains (primarily wheat), along with segetal weed seeds and indeterminate inflorescence fragments, and it is thought most likely that this material is derived from refuse burnt after the annual clearance of a grain or fodder store.

Assuming that the de-watered macrofossils within sample 23 are contemporary with the feature from which the sample was taken, it would appear that ditch [1640] may have been situated within an area of rough, damp, scrubby grassland.

Conclusions

In summary, most of the assemblages from this site are small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition, and it is very likely that most of the recorded macrofossils, including those from the burial deposits, are derived from scattered or wind-dispersed refuse, which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. However, evidence from a small number of assemblages would appear to indicate that the processing of cereals, and most particularly wheat, was taking place within the near vicinity, with the dross from this process possibly being used as tinder or fuel for both domestic and industrial purposes.

Table 12: Charred plant macrofossils and other materials

Sample No.		**10**	**11**	**12**	**15**	**16**	**17**
Context No.		**1514**	**1514**	**1514**	**1565**	**1565**	**1565**
Burial No.							
Area		**Foot**	**Stom.**	**Skull**	**Skull**	**Foot**	**Stom.**
Cereals	**Common name**						
Triticum sp. (glume base)	wheat		x	-			
(spikelet base)			x				
Cereal indet. (grains)			x				
Herbs							
Bromus sp.	Brome		x				
Rumex sp. (tepal frag.)	Dock			x			
Other plant macrofossils							
Charcoal <2mm		x	x	x	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm		x		x			
Charred root/stem			x				
Other remains							
Black porous 'cokey' material			x				
Black tarry material				x			
Bone		x	x		x		
Burnt/fired clay			x				
Bone							
Small coal frags.		x	x	x		x	x
Sample volume (litres)							
Volume of flot (litres)		**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted		**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

7 DISCUSSION

Mesolithic to early Bronze Age
The presence of worked flint, residual in later features, indicates some Mesolithic to early Bronze Age activity in the vicinity, although no features belonging to this period were identified.

Romano-British
Late 1st to early 2nd centuries
Settlement activity at Glebe Road began in the late 1st century AD with the construction of the western boundary ditch. This appears to be the western boundary to a larger settlement that was probably focused to the east beyond the limits of excavation. The site is situated on plateau of land that spreads to the east, at the west and south the land drops down sharply to the River Jordon, a tributary of the River Welland and the western boundary ditch appears to mark this change in the topography of the land.

Shortly after the construction of the western boundary a droveway was excavated at the south of the site, it was defined by parallel ditches aligned north-east to south-west turning north-east to south-west. The western boundary ditch was utilised as the western droveway boundary, re-cutting its eastern side at the intersection. It seems if the southern part of the droveway either went out of use in the 2nd century or was not maintained with the emphasis shifting to the north. The northern droveway ditches were re-modelled in the 2nd century where they terminated a few metres short of the intersections, suggesting a shift activity to the north and possibly to the east.

The main focus of activity was in the 2nd century. At the middle and north of the site a series of sinuous shallow gullies and ditches were excavated in which their purpose appears to have been for drainage. Environmental evidence for this area shows it to have been rough, damp, scrubby grassland at this period. Geological information shows the excavation area to have had a perched water table. The environmental and geological evidence indicates the area would have been wet, with water quickly accumulating in excavated features. The excavation of drainage gullies and ditches in the early 2nd century was probably to improve the land by draining it prior to the construction of enclosures.

In the middle of the 2nd century an enclosure at the north of the site was constructed, it was only partially exposed within the excavation area with the majority of it probably situated to the east. As with the droveway, the enclosure utilised the main western boundary ditch for its western boundary, re-cutting its eastern side. The enclosure appears to have gone out of use in the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries with no evidence of the ditches being maintained and they are left to backfill by natural silting.

3rd to 4th centuries
During the 3rd and 4th centuries activity seems to decline within the excavation area. The main focus of activity is probably to the east, although the western boundary was still a significant feature within the landscape. It was re-modelled at the north of the site in the late 3rd century where it was in use into the 4th century before being deliberately backfilled.

The droveway may also have continued in use through the 3rd and 4th centuries with a slight re-modelling of the northern and southern boundaries to a north-east to south-west alignment.

Two inhumations burials were interred close to the western boundary ditch in the 4th century. Burial 1 was very typical of a rural inhumation, being buried on the margins of rural settlement in the supine position and with a single grave good of a ceramic cup/beaker. Burial 2 was treated very differently in death; the individual was a buried in the prone position, wrists bound and his head removed, placed between his legs facing the pelvis and buried into the side of the western boundary ditch. The reason in which this individual had been buried in this way is not fully understood but is not unusual in Roman contexts and is summarised in section 5.13. The burial was on the margins of rural settlement and indicates that the western boundary was a feature within the landscape at the time of burial.

The economy of the site appears to have been agricultural of lower to middle status. Mixed farming was probably practised, dominated by livestock husbandry of mostly cattle and sheep with evidence of the keeping of domestic pigs and chickens. The evidence of a large horse with its suggested use for moving animals between enclosures can be demonstrated with the presence of a droveway. The probable use of enclosure 1 was a paddock and may have been used on a seasonal basis in the summer months. Evidence for the growing of crops in the vicinity can be demonstrated by wheat and chaff recovered from environmental samples and the presence of a quern, used for food processing, deposited in the base of the western enclosure ditch. There is some evidence of minor industrial activity, possibly Iron smithing, in the vicinity. This may constitute the repair and small scale manufacture of farm tools and equipment rather than large scale industry.

The site is situated in a landscape that would have been densely settled in the Roman period. The site is located close to the Gartree Roman road, which links *Durovigutum* (Godmanchester) to *Ratae Corieltuavorum* (Leicester) the *civitas* capital of the *Corieltauvi*, 25 kiometres to the north of from Glebe Road. The Roman small town of Medbourne is located 11 km to the north-east and it has been suggested that Market Harborough may also have been a Roman small town.

In both character and date range, the site appears to be contemporary to that excavated just over a km away at Airfield Farm (Clarke 2010) and two km away at Lubenham Hill (Clarke 2011). Roman activity has been recorded four kilometres way on the Ridgeway at Great Bowden (HER).

A recently excavated site 15 km away at Great Glen was similar in both character and date range. The excavated area was much larger than that at Glebe Road and showed the establishment of a farmstead and associated sub-rectangular field system in the 2nd century continuing until 4th century over an area of 2ha (Barker and Luke 2011).

There is no evidence for an Iron Age precursor to activity at Glebe Road although this could be due to the excavation area being a marginal part of the settlement and it maybe focused somewhere to the east. Activity began in the late 1st century with an intensification of activity in the 2nd century. Although evidence for activity in the 3rd and 4th century is limited it may indicate an established landscape at this time with ditch digging giving way to the existing boundaries having established banks and hedge rows. It is clear that the excavated evidence from Glebe Road represented the western margin of a much larger settlement situated to the east.

Saxon/medieval

In the mid 6th or early 7th century activity resumed on the site with the excavation of three isolated pits, they appear to have been used for the deposition of domestic waste indicting that settlement was located within the vicinity.

Subsequent to the Saxon activity, no further identified activity occurred at the site until the area was put under the plough in the medieval period.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albarella, U, 2003 The animal bone, in M. Germany 2003, 193 – 200

Anderson, T, 2001 Two decapitations from Roman Towcaster, *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, **11**, 400-405

Armitage, P L, 1982 Developments in British cattle husbandry from the Romano - British period to early modern times. *The Ark (Journal of the Rare Breeds Trust),* **IX (2),** 50-54

Aufderheide, A C, and Rodríguez-Martín, C, 1998 *Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Palaeopathology,* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Barker, B, and Luke, M, 2011 *Stretton Road, Great Glen, Assessment of potential and Updated Project Design,* Albion Archaeology, **160**

Blagg, T F C, and King, A C, (eds) 1984 *Military and Civilian in Roman Britain*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, **136**

Boessneck, J, Müller, H-H, and Teichert, M, 1964 Osteologische Unterscheidungmerkmale zwischen Schaf (*Ovis aries* Linné) und Ziege (*Capra hircus* Linné), *Kühn-Archiv, Bd.* **78**, **H.1-2**

Bolton, E G, 1968 Romano-British Pottery kiln at *Greetham*, Rutland, *Trans Leicestershire Archaeol Hist Soc*, 43, 1–3

Bond, J M, and O'Connor, T P, 1999 *Bones from Medieval Deposits at 16-22 Coppergate and Other Sites in York*, The Archaeology of York, **15/5,** York Archaeological Trust & Council for British Archaeology

Brickley, M, and McKinley, J, 2004 *Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains*, Institute of Field Archaeologists, Paper **7**

Brooks, S, and Suchey, J M, 1990 Skeletal age determination based on the os pubis: a comparison of the Acsádi-Nemeskéri and Suchey-Brooks methods, *Human Evolution*, **5**, 227-238

Brothwell, D, 1981 *Digging up bones*, Oxford University Press

Bull, G, and Payne, S, 1982 Tooth eruption and epiphysial fusion in pigs and wild boar, in B Wilson *et al* (eds) 1982, 55-71

Buikstra, J, and Ubelaker, D H, 1994 *Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains,* Proceedings of a Seminar at the Field Museum of Natural History, Fayetteville, Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series, **44**

Clarke, J, 2008 *Iron Age Enclosures and Droveway at Airfield Farm, Market Harborough, Leicestershire,* Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **08/85**

Clarke, J, 2010 *Archaeological evaluation of land at Airfield Farm, Market Harborough, Leicestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **10/156**

Clarke, J, 2011 *Archaeological evaluation of land at Lubenham Hill, Market Harborough, Leicestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **11/233**

Clarke, J, 2012 *Archaeological evaluation of land at Glebe Road, market Harborough, Leicestershire,* Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **12/62**

Davis, S, and Payne, S, 1993 A barrow full of cattle skulls, *Antiquity,* **67,** 12 – 22

Duhig, C, 2011 Human Skeletal remains, in A Lyons (ed) 2011

Feher, G, 1976 *Haziallatok funkcionalis anatomiaja,* Budapest

Flitcroft, M, 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works at Land off Glebe Road, Market Harborough*, CgMs Consulting **MF/01**

Finnegan, M, 1978 Non-metric variation of the infracranial skeleton, *Journal of Anatomy*, **125**, 23-37

Friendship-Taylor, R M, 1979 The coarse pottery catalogue, in R.M. Friendship-Taylor, 1979, 59-116

Friendship-Taylor, R M, The Excavation of a Belgic and Romano-British settlement at Quinton, Northamptonshire, Site 'B' 1973-7, *Journal of the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery,* **13**

Germany, M, *Excavations at Great Holts Farm, Boreham, Essex, 1992 – 94,* East Anglian Archaeology Report*,* **105**

Getty, R, 1975 *Sisson and Grossman's The Anatomy of the Domestic Animals*, Volumes 1 & 2, 5th edition. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company

Geber, J, nd *Osteological Analysis of the Human Remains from Latton Lands, North Wiltshire*, Unpublished Osteological report, Oxford Archaeology

Grant, A, 1982 The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates, in B Wilson *et al* 1982, 91-108

Grigson, C, 1982 Sex and age determination of some bones and teeth of domestic cattle: a review of the literature, in B Wilson *et al* (eds) **1982,** 7-23

Hamerow, H F, 1993 *Excavations at Mucking Volume 2: The Anglo-Saxon Settlement,* English Heritage Archaeol Report, **22**

Harding, C, and Heighway, C, (eds) 2007 *The Churchyard. Wharram: a Study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds*, **11** English Heritage

Hearne, C M, and Birbeck, V, (eds) 1999 *A35 Tolpuddle to Puddletown Bypass DBFO, Dorset, 1996-1998*, Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology

Hillson, S, 2005 *Teeth,* Cambridge manuals in archaeology, 2nd edition

Howard, M, 1963 The metrical determination of the metapodials and skulls of cattle, in A E Murant & F E Zeuner (eds) 1963, 91 – 100

Hughston, J C, Hergenroeder, P T, and Courtenay, B G, 1984 Osteochondritis on Femoral condyles, *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery,* **66A**,1340-1348

Hunter, R, 1977 The pottery, in R Hunter and D Mynard 1977, 109-133

Hunter, R, and Mynard, D, Excavations at Thorplands near Nothampton 1970 and 1974, *Northamptonshire Archaeol,* **12**, 97-154

IfA 1994, revised 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct,* Institute for Archaeologists

Inskip, S A, nd *The Human Remains from Aston Clinton,* Unpublished Osteological report, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Iscan, Y M, and Kennedy, K A R, (eds) 1989 *Reconstruction of Life from the Skeleton,* New York: Alan R. Liss

Larsen, C S, 1997 *Bioarchaeology. Interpreting Behaviour from the Human Skeleton*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Lovejoy, C O, Meindl, R S, Pryzbeck, T R, and Mensforth, R P, 1985 Chronological metamorphosis of the auricular surface of the ilium: A new method for the determination of adult skeletal age at death, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, **68**, 15-28

Lyons, A, (ed) 2011 *Life and Afterlife at Duxford, Cambridgeshire: Archaeology and History in a Chalkland Community,* East Anglian Archaeol, **141**, Oxford Archaeology East

King, A, 1978 A comparative survey of bone assemblages from Roman sites in Britain, *Institute of Archaeology Bulletin No,* **15**, 207-232

King, A, 1984 Animal bones and the dietary identity of military and civilian groups in Roman Britain, Germany and Gaul, in T F C Blagg and A C King (eds) 1984,187-217

Lawrence, M J, and Brown, R W, 1973 *Mammals of Britain Their Tracks, Trails and Signs***,** London: Blandford Press, revised edition

Levine, M A, 1982 The use of crown height measurements and eruption-wear sequences to age horse teeth, in B Wilson *et al* (eds) 1982, 223 – 250

Luff, R M, 1982 *A Zooarchaeological Study of the Roman North-western Provinces* British Archaeological Reports, International Series, **137**

Mackinder, A, (ed) 2000 *A Romano-British cemetery on Watling Street,* Museum of London Archaeology Studies, **4,** London: Museum of London Archaeology Service

Mann, R W, and Murphy, S P, 1990 *Regional Atlas of Bone Disease. A Guide to Pathologic and Normal Variation in the Human Skeleton*, Illinois: Charles C Thomas Press

Mays, S A, 2007 The Human Remains, in C Harding and C Heighway (eds) 2007

Mays, S A, 2010 *The Archaeology of Human Bones*, Oxford: Routledge Publications

Mays, S, Brickley, M, and Dodwell, N, 2002 *Human bones from archaeological sites. Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports,* BABAO/English Heritage

McKinley, J, 1993 A decapitation from the Romano-British cemetery at Baldock Hampshire, *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, **3**,41-44

McKinley, J, 1999 Human Bone from Tolpuddle Bell, in C M Hearne and V Birbeck (eds) 1999,150-160

Merbs, C F, 1989 Trauma, in Y M Iscan and K A R Kennedy (eds) 1989, 161–189

Merbs, C, 2002. Spondylolysis in Inuit Skeletons from Arctic Canada, *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology,* **12**, 279–290

Murant, A E, & Zeuner F E, (eds) 1963 *Man and Cattle*, London: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Murphy, E M (ed) 2010 *Deviant Burial in the Archaeological Record,* Oxford: Oxbow.

Myres, J N L, 1977 *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period,* 2 vols, Cambridge

Noddle, B, 1988 A note on the skeleton of a dwarf steer, *Circaea,* **6(1)**, 15

NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Ortner, D J, 2003 *Identification of pathological conditions in human skeletal remains*, Oxford: Academic Press

Payne, S, 1973 Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Aşvan Kale, *Anatolian Studies,* **XXIII,** 281-303

Payne, S, 1985 Morphological distinctions between the mandibular teeth of young sheep, *Ovis*, and goats, *Capra*, *Journal of Archaeological Science,* **12,**139-147

Perrin, R, 2012 The pottery in J Clarke 2012, 6-8

Philpott, R, 1991 *Burial Practices in Roman Britain*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 219, Oxford: Archaeopress

Pollard, R, 2005 The Roman Pottery Industry of West-Central Leicestershire, *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies*, **12**, 149-154

Roberts, C, and Cox, M, 2003 *Health and Disease in Britain from Prehistory to the Present Day*, Stroud: Sutton Publishing UK

Roberts, C, and Manchester, K, 2005 *The Archaeology of Disease*, Stroud: Sutton Press

Säger, P, 1969 *Spondylosis Cervicalis. A Pathological and Osteoarchaeological Study of Osteochondrosis Invertebralis Cervicalis, Arthrosis Uncovertebralis and Spondylarthrosis Cervicalis*, Copenhagen: Munksgaard

Scheuer, L, and Black, S, 2000 *Developmental Juvenile Osteology*, London: Academic Press

Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of animal bones for prehistorians, archaeologists and Quaternary geologist*

Smith, A D, 1960 Osteochondritis of the knee, *Journal of Joint and Bone Surgery*, **42**,288-294

Soden, I, and Butler, A, 2009 *Desk-based assessment at Glebe Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **09/90**

Sisson, S, and Grossman, J D, 1953 *The Anatomy of the domestic animals,* 4th edition revised

Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isle,* second edition, Cambridge University Press

Stewart, T, 1931 Incidence of separated neural arch in the lumbar vertebrae of Eskimos, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, **16,** 51-58

Swan, V G, 1984 *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain,* Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, supplementary series, **5**

Taylor, A, 2010 Aspects of Deviant Behaviour in Roman Britain, in EM Murphy (ed) 2010, 91-114

Trotter, M, and Gleser, G C, 1952 Estimation of stature from long bones of American Whites and negros, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, **10**, 463-514

Trotter, M, Gleser, G C, 1958 A re-evaluation of estimation of stature based on measurements of stature taken during life and long bone after death, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, **16**, 79-123

Von den Driesch, A, 1976 *Guide to the measurement of Animal bones from Archaeological sites,* Harvard, University Press

von den Driesch, A, 1976 *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Peabody Museum Bulletin, **1**

von den Driesch, A, and Boessneck, J, 1974 Kritische Anmerkungen zue Widerristhöhenberechnung aus Langenmassen vor-und frűhgeschichlicher Tierknochen, *Saugetierkundliche Mitteilungen,* **22,** 325-348

Waldron, T, 2009 *Palaeopathology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

West, S E, 1985 *West Stow. The Anglo-Saxon Village,* East Anglian Archaeol, **24**

White, B, 2000 The Cemetery Population, in A Mackinder (ed) 2000, 26-27

Wilson, B, Grigson, C, and Payne, S (eds) 1982 *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, British Archaeol Reports, International Series, **109,** Oxford, 55-71

Maps

British Geological Survey, Market Harborough Sheet 170, Solid and Drift Edition enhanced 1:50000 reprint.1997.

Websites

BGS 2009 http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html British Geological Survey website

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1401	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.19m thick	
1402	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy clay	0.18m thick	
1403	Natural	Dark orange-brown clay		
1404	Fill of 1405	Mid brown-blue sandy clay		
1405	Posthole	Sub-circular, Fill (1404)	0.35m wide 0.24m deep	
1406	Fill of [1646]	Dark orange-brown sandy clay		Flint (SF 11), Roman pottery, tile, animal bone
1407	Fill of [1408]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay, cut by [1646]		Roman pottery, animal bone
1408	Ditch	E-W. Fill (1407)		
1409	Fill of [1410]	Mid blue-grey sandy clay		Animal bone, tile
1410	Pit	Sub-circular, Fill (1409)	1.15m wide 0.13m deep	
1411	Fill of [1413]	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.33m wide 0.07m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1412	Fill of [1413]	Light grey-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery
1413	Ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1412)	0.39m wide 0.15m deep	
1414	Fill of [1416]	Mid orange-brown sandy clay	1.60m wide 0.35m deep	
1415	Fill of [1416]	Dark grey sandy clay	2.10m wide 0.40m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 4
1416	Pit	Sub-circular, Fill (1414) (1415)	2.10m wide 0.40m deep	
1417	Fill of [1418]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Same as (1419)		Roman pottery
1418	Ditch	NW-SE, Fill (1417). Same as [1510]	0.81m wide 0.33m deep	
1419	Fill of [1420]	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Same as (1417)		Flint (SF 12) Roman pottery
1420	Ditch	NW-SE, terminating. Fill (1419). Same as [1418]	0.88m wide 0.16m deep	
1421	Fill of [1422]	Dark brown-black sandy clay		Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 5
1422	Pit	Sub-circular, Fill (1421)	1.57m wide 0.67m deep	
1423	Fill of [1424]	Mid grey-blue sandy clay		animal bone
1424	ditch	NW-SE, Fill (1423), cuts (1425)	1.40m wide 0.50m deep	
1425	Fill of [1426]	Dark blue-grey sandy clay. Cut by [1424]		Flint (SF22) Roman pottery, animal bone

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1426	ditch	Re-cut, N-S, Fill (1425). Cuts (1427)	1.60m wide 0.56m deep	
1427	Fill of [1429]	Light brown-grey silty clay. Fill of [1428]. Cut by [1426]. Overlies (1428)	1.90m wide 0.65m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1428	Fill of [1429]	Mid yellow-grey silty clay. Primary fill	2.74m wide 0.97m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 6
1429	ditch	E-W. Fill (1427) and (1428). Re-cut by [1426]	2.90m wide 0.98m deep	
1430	Fill of [1432]	Mid grey silty clay.	1.03m wide 0.24m deep	Roman pottery
1431	Fill of [1432]	Light grey silty clay. Primary fill. Cut by [1429]	1.52m wide 0.56m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone, glass (SF23)
1432	ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1430) and (1431)	1.52m wide 0.56m deep	
1433	Fill of [1434]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
1434	gully	NW-SE. Fill (1433). Cuts (1431)	0.31m wide 0.17m deep	
1435	Fill of [1436]	Dark grey-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery
1436	gully	E-W. Fill (1435). Same as [1440]	0.45m wide 0.18m deep	
1437	Fill of [1438]	Dark grey-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery
1438	gully	N-S. Fill (1437)	0.50m wide 0.10m deep	
1439	Fill of [1440]	Dark grey-brown sandy clay. Same as (1435)		Roman pottery
1440	gully	E-W. Fill (1439). Same as [1436]	0.45m wide 0.18m deep	
1441	Fill of [1441]	Dark grey-brown sandy clay		
1442	gully	N-S. Fill (1441) Same as [1438]	0.50m wide 0.10m deep	
1443	Fill of [1444]	Dark grey-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery
1444	gully	N-S. Fill (1443) Same as [1438]	0.60m wide 0.12m deep	
1445	Fill of [1446]	Dark grey-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery
1446	gully	N-S. Fill (1445) Same as [1438]	0.50m wide 0.20m wide	
1447	Fill of [1448]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		
1448	gully	E-W butt-ending. Fill (1447)	0.38m wide 0.36m deep	
1449	Fill of [1450]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
1450	ditch	N-S, possible former hedgerow. Fill (1449). Cuts (1451)	0.15m deep	
1451	Fill of [1452]	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [1450]		Roman pottery. Sample 7
1452	ditch	E-W. Fill (1451)	1.50m wide 0.50m deep	

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1453	Fill of [1455]	Dark-brown lack silty clay	0.94m wide 0.18m deep	Flint (SF24) Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 8
1454	Fill of [1455]	Dark brown-grey silty clay	1.08m wide 0.41m deep	Flint (SF 25-7) Roman pottery, animal bone, slag
1455	ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1453) (1454)	1.15m wide 0.43m deep	
1456	Fill of [1458]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Cut by [1561]	1.86m wide 0.45m deep	Roman pottery
1457	Fill of [1458]	Dark grey-brown silty clay	0.65m wide 0.32m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1458	ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1456) (1457)	1.86m wide 0.75m deep	
1459	Fill of [1461]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	1.63m wide 0.37m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1460	Fill of [1461]	Mid grey-brown silty clay	1.03m wide 0.36m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1461	ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1459) (1460). Cuts (1456)	1.68m wide 0.63m deep	
1462	Fill of [1463]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Cut by [1458]		Roman pottery, animal bone
1463	gully	E-W. Fill (1462)	0.40m exc 0.32m deep	
1464	Fill of [1465]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, animal bone
1465	ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1464)	1.11m wide 0.36m deep	
1466	Fill of [1468]	Dark brown-grey sandy clay. Overlies (1467)	2.70m wide 0.60m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 9
1467	Fill of [1468]	Dark brown-grey silty clay. Primary fill	2.70m wide 0.22m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1468	pit	Sub-circular. Cuts (1471). Same as [1549]	2.70m wide 0.64m deep	
1469	Fill of [1470]	Dark brown sandy clay		
1470	furrow	N-S. Fill (1469)	1.68m wide 0.38m deep	
1471	Fill of [1472]	Mid brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [1467] [1470]		Roman pottery, animal bone
1472	ditch	E-W. Fill (1471)	0.64m deep	
1473	Fill of [1474]	Mid brown-grey silty clay		
1474	ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1471)	0.70m wide 0.28m deep	
1475	Fill of [1477]	Dark grey-brown silty clay	1.92m wide 0.79m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1476	Fill of [1477]	Mid brown-grey silty clay	0.40m wide 0.05m wide	Quern (SF28)

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1477	ditch	N-S. Fill (1475) (1476). Same as [1458]. Cuts (1478)	1.92m wide 0.83m deep	
1478	Fill of [1479]	Mid grey-brown silty clay Cut by [1477]		Roman pottery, CU bracelet (SF29)
1479	ditch	N-S. Fill (1478). Cuts (1480)	0.65m exc 0.80m deep	
1480	Fill of [1481]	Light brown-grey sandy clay. Cut by [1479]		
1481	ditch	N-S, butt-ending. Fill (1480)	0.85m wide 0.73m deep	
1482	Fill of [1486]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	2.50m wide 0.18m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1483	Fill of [1486]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	1.03m wide 0.56m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1484	Fill of [1486]	Dark grey-brown clay	0.42m wide 0.51m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1485	Fill of [1486]	Mid grey-brown silty clay. Primary fill.	0.87m wide 0.18m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1486	ditch	N-S. Fill (1482-6). Cuts (1487). Re-cut of ditch [1489]	1.67m wide 0.61m deep	
1487	Fill of [1489]	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay. Cut by [1486]	0.72m wide 0.78m deep	Roman pottery animal bone
1488	Fill of [1489]	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.43m wide 0.22m deep	Roman pottery
1489	ditch	N-S. Fill (1487-8)	0.72m wide 0.93m deep	
1490	Fill of [1491]	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery
1491	gully	NE-SW. Fill (1490)	0.43m wide 0.27m deep	
1492	Fill of [1493]	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay		
1493	gully	NE-SW. Fill (1492). Same as [1491] [1493] [1497]	0.37m wide 0.11m deep	
1494	Fill of [1495]	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay		
1495	gully	E-W, Fill (1494), same as [1491] [1493] [1497]	0.39m wide 0.14m deep	
1496	Fill of [1497]	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay		
1497	gully	E-W, Fill (1496), same as [1491] [1493] [1495]	0.24m wide 0.09m deep	
1498	Fill of [1499]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay		
1499	gully	NE-SW, Fill (1498)	0.50m wide 0.24m deep	
1500	Fill of [1501]	Mid brown-grey silty clay		Roman pottery, animal bone
1501	gully	NE-SW, Fill (1500)	0.50m wide 0.15m deep	
1502	Fill of [1503]	Mid brown-grey sandy clay		
1503	gully	E-W, Fill (1502)	0.60m wide 010m deep	

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1504	Fill of [1506]	Mid grey brown silty clay. Cut by [1508]	1.68m wide 0.69m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1505	Fill of [1506]	Mid grey silty clay. Primary fill.	1.14m wide 0.33m deep	Loom weight (SF34) animal bone
1506	ditch	N-S, Fill (1504) (1505)	1.68m wide 0.83m deep	
1507	Fill of [1508]	Mid orange-brown silty clay		Flint (SF33), Roman pottery, animal bone
1508	ditch	N-S, Fill (1507), cut (1509)	1.36m wide 0.51m deep	
1509	Fill of [1510]	Mid orange-brown silty clay. Cut by [1508]. Same as (1417)		Animal bone
1510	ditch	N-S, Fill (1509). Same as [148]	0.30m wide 0.20m deep	
1511	Burial 1	Inhumation burial		Roman pottery. Samples 10-12
1512	Fill of inhumation 1	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Re-deposited natural backfill.		
1513	inhumation	Sub-rectangular grave pit. Fill (1511) (1512)	2.30m long, 0.66m wide 0.21m deep	
1514	ditch	E-W turning to N-S. Fill (1515). Cuts (1519)	1.08m wide 0.70m deep	
1515	Fill of [1514]	Mid grey brown sandy clay		Roman pottery, animal bone
1516	ditch	N-S, Fill (1517). Re- ditch [1518]	2.20m wide 0.85m deep	
1517	Fill of [1516]	Mid brown-grey sandy clay		Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 20
1518	ditch	N-S, Fill (1519). Cuts [1517]	1.40m wide 0.45m deep	
1519	Fill of [1518]	Mid brown-grey sandy clay. Cut by [1514]		Roman pottery, animal bone
1520	Fill of [1521]	Mid grey-brown silty clay. Same as (1524)		Roman pottery
1521	gully	NW-SE, Fill (1520). Cuts (1522)	0.69m wide 0.38m deep	
1522	Fill of [1523]	Mid grey-orange silty clay. Cut by [1521]		Roman pottery
1523	gully	NW-SE, Fill (1522)	0.37m wide 0.14m deep	
1524	Fill of [1525]	Mid grey-brown silty clay. Same as (1520)		Roman pottery
1525	gully	NW-SE, Fill (1524). Same as [1521]. Cuts (1530)	0.70m wide 0.19m deep	
1526	Fill of [1527]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, animal bone

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1527	ditch	NE-SW, Fill (1526). Cuts (1528)	1.15m wide 0.46m deep	
1528	Fill of [1529]	Mid orange-grey silty clay. Cut by [1527]		Roman pottery, animal bone, slag
1529	ditch	NE-SW, Fill (1528), cuts (1530)	0.61m wide 0.41m deep	
1530	Fill of [1531]	Mid orange-grey silty clay. Cut by [1529]		Roman pottery, animal bone
1531	ditch	NE-SW, Fill (1530)	0.40m wide 0.22m deep	
1532	Fill of [1533]	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Cut by [1535]		Animal bone
1533	gully	E-W. Fill (1532). Gully below Burial 1	0.48m wide 0.26m deep	
1534	Fill of [1535]	Mid grey-brown silty clay.		
1535	Posthole	Sub-circular. Fill (1534). Cuts (1532)	0.32m diam 0.22m deep	
1536	Fill of [1537]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
1537	Posthole	Sub-circular. Fill (1536)	0.30m diam 0.22m deep	
1538	Fill of [1539]	Dark grey-brown silty clay	1.78m wide 0.73m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1539	ditch	E-W to N-S. Fill (1538). Cuts (1540). Re-cut of [1542]	1.78m wide 0.78m deep	
1540	Fill of [1542]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	0.31m deep	
1541	Fill of [1542]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	0.30m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 13
1542	ditch	E-W to N-S. Fill (1540) (1541)	0.85m deep	
1543	Fill of [1544]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
1544	pit	Sub-circular. Fill (1543)	0.86m wide 0.44m deep	
1545	Fill of [1546]	Mid brown-grey sandy clay		Slag
1546	gully	E-W. Fill (1545).	0.40m wide 0.22m deep	
1547	Fill of [1549]	Dark grey-brown silty clay	2.90m long, 2.70m wide 0.60m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1548	Fill of [1549]	Dark grey-brown silty clay	2.90m long, 2.70m wide 0.22m deep	Animal bone
1549	pit	Sub-circular, Fill (1547) (1548), Same as [1468]	2.90m long, 2.70m wide 0.70m deep	
1550	Fill of [1551]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 14
1551	ditch	E-W. Fill (1550). Cuts (1552) (1554)	1.17m wide 0.48m deep	

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1552	Fill of [1553]	Mid grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [1552]. Same as (1471)		Roman pottery, animal bone
1553	ditch	E-W. Fill (1551). Cuts (1554). Same as [1472]	0.66m deep	
1554	Fill of [1555]	Light grey-brown sandy clay. Cut by [1553]		Roman pottery, animal bone and slag
1555	ditch	N-S. Fill (1554)	0.52m deep	
1556	Fill of [1558]	Mid brown-grey sandy clay. Overlies (1557)	2.40m wide 0.35m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1557	Fill of [1557]	Mid grey sandy silt. Primary fill	0.80m wide 0.12m deep	
1558	pit	Sub-circular. Fill (1556) (1557)	2.40m wide 0.50m deep	
1559	Fill of [1560]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		
1560	ditch	E-W. Fill (1559). Same as [1562]	1.20m wide 0.44m deep	
1561	Fill of [1562]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, animal bone
1562	ditch	E-W, Fill (1561), cuts (1563). Same as [1560]	0.80m exc wide 0.70m deep	
1563	Fill of [1564]	Mid orange-grey silty clay. Cut by [1562]		Roman pottery
1564	ditch	N-S. Fill (1563)	0.48m exc wide 0.55m deep	
1565	Burial 2	Inhumation burial		
1566	Fill of [1567]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Back fill of Burial 2		
1567	grave pit	Sub rectangular, Fill (1565) (1566). Cuts (1636)	1.60m long, 0.50m wide 0.20m deep	
1568	Fill of [1569]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Cut by [1571]		Flint (SF45) Roman pottery
1569	gully	N-S. Fill (1568)	0.40m wide 0.28m deep	
1570	Fill of [1571]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery
1571	gully	N-S. Fill (1570). Cuts (1568)	0.80m wide 0.40m deep	
1572	Fill of [1573]	Mid yellow-grey sandy clay.		Roman pottery
1573	pit	Sub-circular. Fill (1572)	1.0m wide 0.20m deep	
1574	Fill of [1575]	Mid brown-grey sandy clay		Roman pottery
1575	ditch	E-W. Fill (1574)	8m wide (exc) 0.77m deep	
1576	Fill of [1577]	Dark brown-grey silty clay. Same as (1602)		Roman pottery

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1577	ditch	E-W. Fill (1576). Cuts (1578)	0.79m wide (exc) 0.47m deep	
1578	Fill of [1579]	Mid brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [1577]		Roman pottery
1579	ditch	N-S. Fill [1578]	0.90m wide (exc) 0.39m deep	
1580	Void			
1581	Void			
1582	Void			
1583	Void			
1584	Fill of [1584]	Same as (1644)		
1585	ditch	Same as [1645]		
1586	Fill of [1587]	Mid grey-black sandy clay		Roman pottery
1587	ditch	E-W. Fill (1586). Cuts (1588) (1598)	1.60m wide 0.40m deep	
1588	Fill of [1589]	Mid black-grey sandy clay. Cut by [1587]		Roman pottery. Sample 19
1589	ditch	E-W. Fill (1588)	0.85m wide 0.30m deep	
1590	Fill of [1591]	Mid grey-orange silty clay		Roman pottery
1591	gully	N-S. Fill (1590). Cuts (1592)	1.50m wide 0.36m deep	
1592	Fill of [1593]	Mid grey-orange silty clay. Cut by [1591]		
1593	ditch	E-W. Fill (1592)	0.62m wide 0.16m deep	
1594	Fill of [1595]	Mid sandy clay. Cut by [1597]		Roman pottery worked stone (SF52). Sample 21
1595	pit	Sub-circular. Fill (1594)	1.02m wide 0.24m deep	
1596	Fill of [1597]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay		
1597	gully	N-S. Fill (1596). Cuts (1594)	0.65m wide 0.22m deep	
1598	Fill of [1600]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Cut by [1587]	1.30m wide 0.35m deep	Roman pottery
1599	Fill of [1600]	Light grey-brown sandy clay	1.30m wide 0.10m deep	Roman pottery
1600	ditch	E-W. Fill (1598) (1599)	1.30m wide 0.45m deep	
1601	Fill of [1604]	Mid brown-grey silty clay	1.28m wide 0.13m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1602	Fill of [1604]	Mid brown-grey silty clay	1.13m wide 0.38m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1603	Fill of [1604]	Light grey-brown silty clay. Primary fill	1.28m wide 0.50m deep	

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1604	ditch	E-W. Fill (1601-3)	1.28m wide 0.54m deep	
1605	Fill of [1606]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
1606	gully	E-W. Fill (1605)	0.48m wide 0.11m deep	
1607	Fill of [1608]	Mid brown-grey silty clay		Roman pottery
1608	gully	N-S. Fill (1607)	0.32m wide 0.07m deep	
1609	Fill of [1610]	Mid grey-yellow sandy clay		
1610	ditch	E-W. Fill (1609). Cuts (1611)	1.0m wide 0.36m deep	
1611	Fill of [1614]	Mid brown-grey silty clay. Cut by [1610]		
1612	Fill of [1614]	Mid orange-brown clay		
1613	Fill of [1614]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
1614	ditch	NE-SW, Fill (1612-14)	0.30m deep	
1615	Fill of [1616]	Mid grey-orange silty clay		
1616	ditch	NW-SE. Fill (1615)	0.36m wide 0.09m deep	
1617	Fill of [1618]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay		Roman pottery
1618	gully	E-W. Fill (1617)	0.70m wide 0.23m deep	
1619	Fill of [1620]	Mid grey sandy clay. Cut by [1622]		Roman pottery
1620	gully	NE-SW. Fill (1619)	0.55m wide 0.14m deep	
1621	Fill of [1621]	Dark grey silty clay		Sample 22
1622	Posthole	Fill (1621). Cuts (1619)	0.20m diam 0.26m deep	
1623	Fill of [1624]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
1624	gully	N-S. Fill (1623)	0.67m wide 0.07m deep	
1625	Fill of [1626]	Dark grey-orange silty clay		Roman pottery, animal bone
1626	gully	NW-SE. Fill (1625). Cuts (1627)	0.85m wide 0.20m deep	
1627	Fill of [1630]	Dark grey-orange silty clay	1.02m wide 0.14m deep	
1628	Fill of [1630]	Mid grey-orange silty clay	0.80m wide 0.10m deep	
1629	Fill of [1629]	Mid grey-orange silty clay. Primary fill.	0.38m wide 0.90m deep	
1630	ditch	Fill (1627-29). Cuts (1631). Re-cut of ditch [1635]	1.22m wide 0.33m deep	
1631	Fill of [1635]	Dark grey-orange silty clay.	0.30m wide 0.24m deep	
1632	Fill of [1635]	Dark grey-orange silty clay	0.80m wide 0.30m deep	

Context	*Context type Feature & type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1633	Fill of [1635]	Mid orange-grey silty clay	0.54m wide 0.20m deep	Flint (SF53), Roman pottery, animal bone
1634	Fill of [1635]	Mid grey-orange silty clay	0.35m wide 0.10m deep	
1635	ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1631-34)	1.32m wide 0.56m deep	
1636	Fill of [1638]	Mid brown-grey sandy clay. Cut by [1567]	0.60m wide 0.18m deep (truncated)	Animal bone
1637	Fill of [1638]	Light blue-grey sandy clay	0.50m wide 0.22m deep	
1638	pit	Sub-circular. Fill (1636-7)	0.60m wide 0.70m deep (truncated)	
1639	Fill of [1640]	Dark grey sandy clay		Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 23
1640	gully	NE-SW. Fill (1639)	1.56m wide 0.24m deep	
1641	Fill of [1643]	Mid grey-orange sandy clay	1.22m wide 0.38m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
1642	Fill of [1643]	Mid grey-orange sandy clay. Primary fill.	0.60m wide 0.11m deep	
1643	ditch	NE-SW. Fill (1641) (1642)	1.22m wide 0.39m deep	
1644	Fill of [1644]/[1584]	Dark black grey silty clay. Same as (1583)		
1645	ditch	N-S. Fill (1644). Same as [1584]	0.60m wide 0.16m deep	

Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology
2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk