Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation of the proposed Birstall Park and Ride Site Leicester, Leicestershire

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Report 10/70

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological evaluation of the proposed Birstall Park and Ride site, Leicester, Leicestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to the A6 and north of Longsdale School, Birstall, Leicestershire (NGR SK 5934 1049). Twenty-four trial trenches were targeted on results obtained through previous fieldwalking and geophysical surveys. The excavation revealed archaeological features in seven trenches. These comprised of four undated sections of two linear features, two Iron Age pits, two post-medieval field boundary ditches, and Iron Age pottery introduced into the colluvial layer through bioturbation. A small surface scatter of worked flint was recovered from the north-western corner of the proposed development area. Only an east to west running boundary ditch corresponded with the geophysical survey results.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Fieldwalking survey, geophysics survey	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Prehistoric/ modern	
Significant finds	Iron Age pits and pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Land Adjacent to A6, Birstall, Leicester.	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	*c* 6.5ha (of 7.5ha total area)	
OS Easting & Northing	SK 5934 1049	
Height OD	65-75m OD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolframm-Murray	
Project Manager	Ant Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	Leicestershire county Council	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	March 2010	
End date	March 2010	
ARCHIVES	**Location X.A29.2010**	**Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)**
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Pottery, animal bone, flint, glass, plant macrofossils
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Record sheets, drawings
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Digital mapping, photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	An archaeological evaluation of the proposed Birstall Park and Ride site, Leicester, Leicestershire	
Serial title & volume	10/70	
Author(s)	Yvonne Wolframm-Murray	
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED BIRSTALL PARK AND RIDE SITE LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to the A6 and north of Longsdale School, Birstall, Leicestershire (NGR SK 5934 1049). Twenty-four trial trenches were targeted on results obtained through previous fieldwalking and geophysical surveys. The excavation revealed archaeological features in seven trenches. These comprised of four undated sections of two linear features, two Iron Age pits, two post-medieval field boundary ditches, and Iron Age pottery introduced into the colluvial layer through bioturbation. A small surface scatter of worked flint was recovered from the north-western corner of the proposed development area. Only an east to west running boundary ditch corresponded with the geophysical survey results.

1 INTRODUCTION

In March 2010 Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to the A6 and north of Longsdale School, Birstall, Leicestershire (NGR SK 5934 1049, Fig 1 and Fig 2). The aim of the field work was to evaluate the archaeological nature of the area in advance of the proposed development of a new park and ride site.

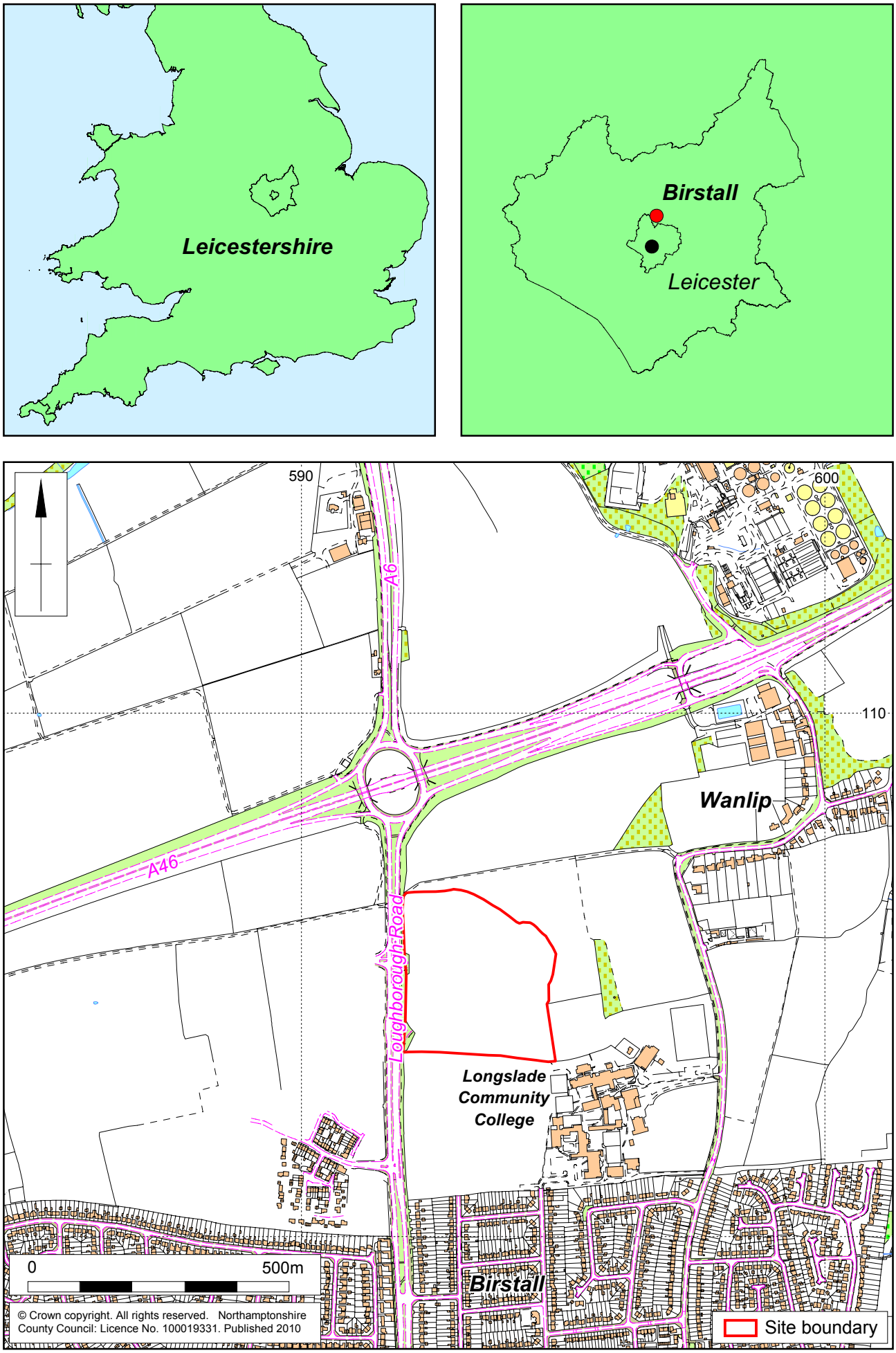
Previous work on the site comprised fieldwalking and satellite image survey conducted by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 2009 (Speed 2009) and a geophysical survey carried out by NA in October 2009 (Walford 2009)..

A total of 24 trial trenches were excavated between 18th and 29th March 2010 in compliance with a brief by the Leicestershire County Council (LCC 2010) and a WSI compiled by NA (2010). The trenches were targeted on features identified in the previous surveys and, in a higher concentration, on the previously un-surveyed south-eastern area.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

Previous archaeological work consisted of a geophysical survey undertaken by NA (Walford 2009) and a fieldwalking and satellite image survey carried out by ULAS (Speed 2009).



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Site Location Fig 1

General view of the proposed development area, looking east Fig 2

The geophysical survey (Fig 3) had identified seven possible archaeological features consisting of linear ditches and a ring ditch (Walford 2009). The following fieldwalking survey revealed a scatter of worked flint, which included a high proportion of tools dated to the late Bronze Age, with a focus toward the north-east corner of the field. Further finds included a Roman tile fragment. From the satellite image, obtained from Google Earth, possible enclosures and a possible trackway were identified (Speed 2009).

A search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland was conducted as part of the survey work carried out by ULAS (Speed 2009). Briefly summarised, a number of archaeological sites were identified in the vicinity of the development area ranging from the late Mesolithic to 5th to 6th century AD.

Nearby sites include Neolithic to Bronze Age flint scatters, Neolithic pits, and a Saxon settlement to the north of the development area. To the east of the area Neolithic and Bronze Age Burnt Mounds were found. There were Iron Age settlements to the west and north-east. To the south and east of the proposed development area was a Saxon inhumation cemetery. Additionally, fieldwalking in neighbouring fields yielded Saxon material and Neolithic flint scatters (Speed 2009).

2.2 Topography and geology

The site occupies a field on the northern edge of Leicester and south of the A46. The development area is bounded to the south by the sports grounds of

Scale 1:2000 Trench plan showing geophysical survey results Fig 3

Longsdale School, Birstall, to the west by the A6 and to the north and west by agricultural fields. The northern part of the site lies at the top of a south facing slope at *c* 75mOD, whereas the southern part, at the foot of the slope, lies at *c* 65mOD (Fig 4). At the time of the fieldwork the site was used for arable faming.

The underlying geology was identified as boulder clay and Triassic rocks (undifferentiated) mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, overlain by superficial deposits of till and river terrace deposits (undifferentiated) (BGS 2010).

South facing slope within proposed development area, looking west. Fig 4

3 OBJECTIVES

The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to quantify the quality, character, date, state of preservation, depth of burial and extent of the archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts and ecofacts within the area affected by the proposed development. This was to be achieved through trial trench evaluation based on the foregoing geophysical and field walking surveys, and the aerial photographic evidence.

Specific aims were to:

- Establish whether any archaeological deposits existed in the area
- Identify the date, form and function of the archaeological deposit together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and possible presence of masking colluvial deposits

- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy (NA 2010).

4 METHODOLOGY

An area of 2160m^2 was excavated, which was divided between 24 trial trenches measuring 1.8m wide and 50m long. Nine trenches were located in the previously un-surveyed south-east corner and 15 were located in the remainder of the proposed development area, targeted on anomalies and artefact scatters identified by the previous surveys (Walford 2009 and Speed 2009). All trenches were plotted on the ground using the Leica 1200 GPS and tied into the Ordnance Survey (Fig 5).

Topsoil, subsoil and modern overburden were removed under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The surfaces of significant archaeological remains were exposed or, where absent, the natural substrate. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil.

All features and layers of potential significance were sampled by hand excavation to determine their date and character. Linear features were examined in 1m-wide sections and 50% of the discrete features were excavated. All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of excavation were fully recorded following standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2003). Trenches with archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50, the trench sections and profiles through features were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Levels were related to the Ordnance Datum.

Artefacts were collected from archaeological deposits but unstratified bone and modern material was not retained. Soil samples were taken from dateable contexts with the potential for the preservation of charcoal and carbonised plant remains. The sampling strategy conformed to English Heritage guidelines (EH 2002).

Photographs were taken as 35mm monochrome negatives, colour transparencies and digital photos as a supplement for reporting purposes. A photographic record of vehicle movements and reinstatements was maintained. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned by metal detector.

The evaluation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE 2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief issued by the Leicestershire County Council (LCC 2010) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2010).

Scale 1:2500

Trench location plan Fig 5

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General comments

Changing with the topography of the site, the geology in the northern part of the site (Trenches 1-10), consisted of a firm reddish brown sandy clay with frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions, there were also occasional patches of an orangey brown sandy gravel or sand (Fig 6).

Clay geology, Trench 10, looking south. Fig 6

Moving southwards, down the slope, the geology changed to yellow-brown and red sand containing clay and gravel patches, and on occasion large erratic boulders of glacial origin toward the south-eastern edge of the area (Fig 7). Also in this area were colluvial layers comprising of friable, mid greyish yellow or orangey brown silty sands (Fig 8 and 9). Pottery was also recovered from colluvial deposits in Trench 11, possibly introduced through bioturbation. The single, thick-walled sherd from Trench 11 was small and was probably moved down through worm action.

Sand geology, Trench 12, looking north Fig 7

Colluvial layers, Trench 11, looking north Fig 8

Colluvial layers, Trench 12, looking west Fig 9

The geology and colluvium layers were overlain by a layer of subsoil which was soft, mid orange brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions becoming increasingly sandy towards the south. Above the subsoil was topsoil, which was a dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions also, becoming increasingly sandy towards the south.

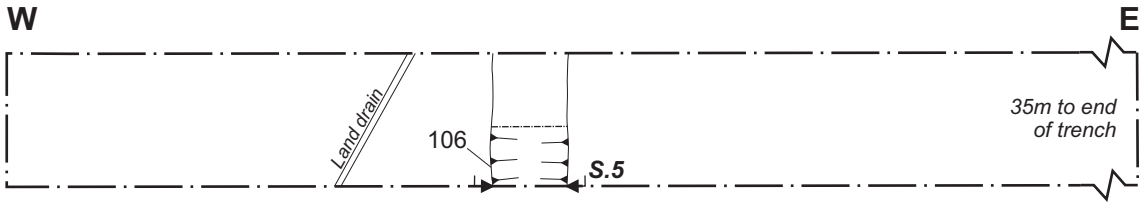
Archaeological features were present in seven of the 24 trenches. These consisted of four undated ditch sections (Trenches 1-3 and 9), two Iron Age pits (Trench 4), and two post-medieval field boundary ditches (Trenches 5 and 12). Details of all the other trenches (6-8, 10, 11, 13-22, and 24) are included in Appendix I.

5.2 Trench 1

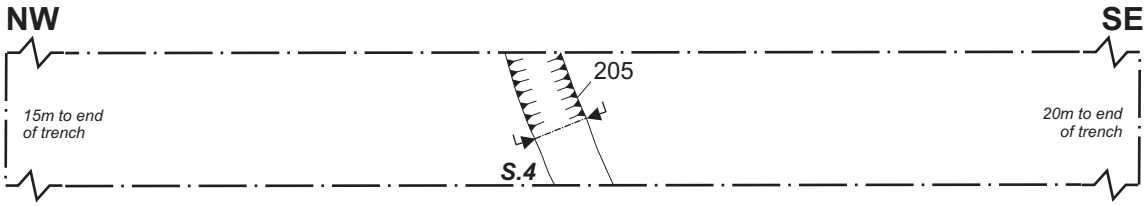
Trench 1 (1.8m x 50m) was aligned east to west and was located in the north-western corner of the proposed development area. It was targeted on a possible ditch identified in the geophysical and satellite image survey (Walford 2009 and Speed 2009). The clay and gravel geology was revealed at 0.57-0.80m below the existing ground level at a depth of 74.97-75.78mOD. This was overlain by 0.16-0.50m of subsoil and up to 0.30m of topsoil (Fig 10).

A 1.10m-wide, 0.15m-deep, ditch [106] was aligned north to south in the western end of the trench (Figs 11 and 12, Section 5). It had gently sloping sides, a flat base and was filled with firm mid-brown silty clay containing occasional small stones and charcoal flecks (105). No finds were recovered.

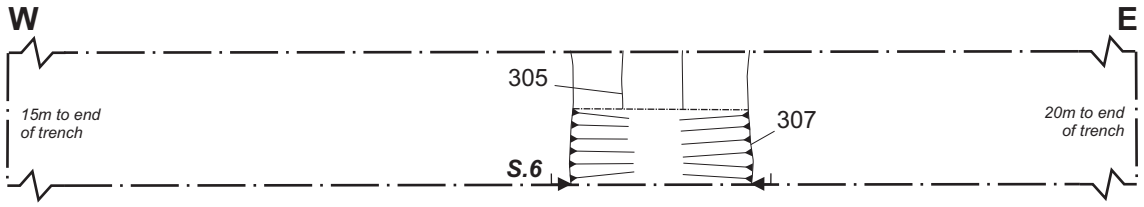
Trench 1



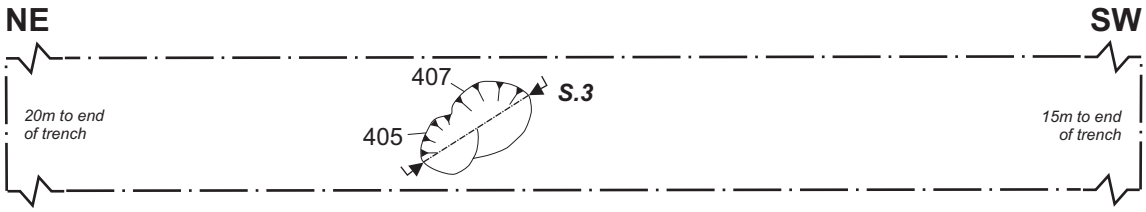
Trench 2



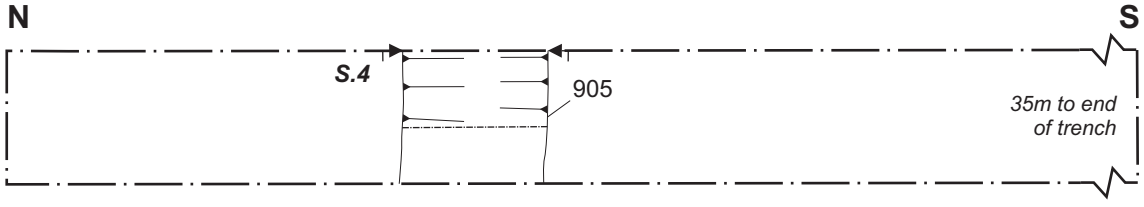
Trench 3

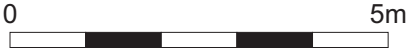


Trench 4



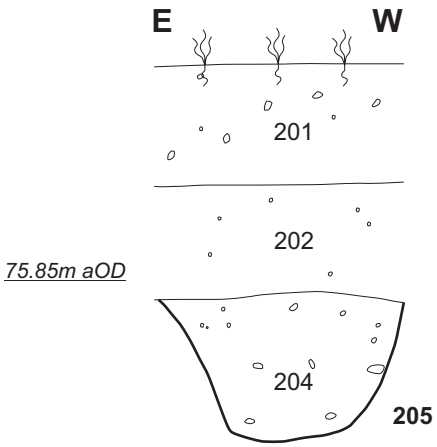
Trench 9



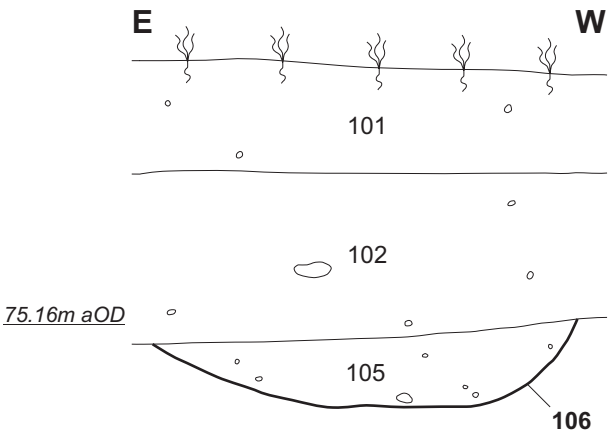


Scale 1:100 Plans of trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9 Fig 10

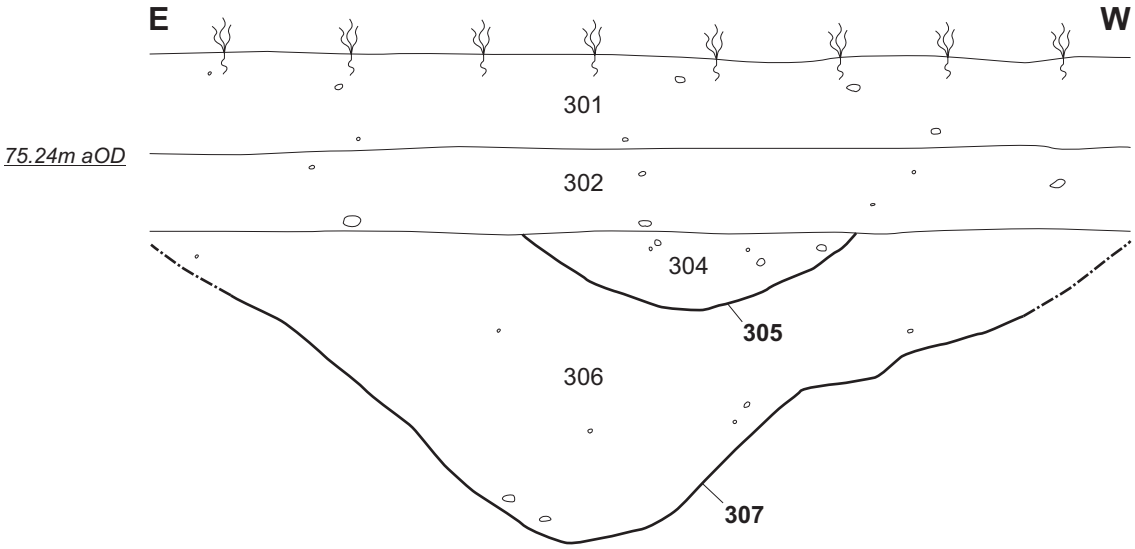
Section 2: Trench 2



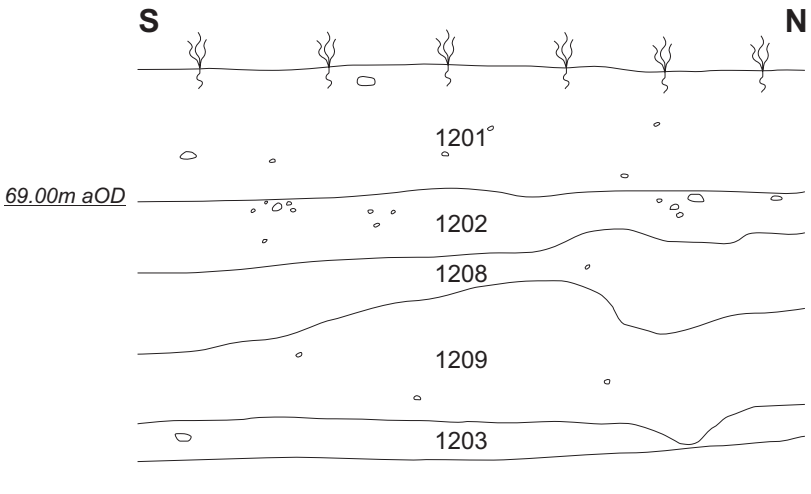
Section 5: Trench 1



Section 6: Trench 3



Section 9: Trench 12



Scale 1:20 Sections 2, 5, 6 and 9 Fig 11

5.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 (1.8m x 50m), aligned north-east to south-west, was located to the south of Trench 1 and similarly targeted on a possible ditch identified in the geophysical and satellite image survey (Walford 2009, Speed 2009). The clay geology revealed at 0.45-0.70m below the existing ground level at 75.14-75.44m OD. The geology was overlain by 0.10-0.41m of subsoil and 0.29-0.40m topsoil (Fig 10).

Towards the centre of the trench was an undated ditch [205] sealed by subsoil. It was aligned north-south and measured 0.39m deep and 0.66m wide with steep sides and a flat base. The fill (204) was a firm, mid to light brown silty clay, which contained occasional small to mid sized stones and charcoal flecks (Fig 11, Section 2 and 12). It produced cattle vertebra, sacrum and ribs possibly from the same animal, and a sheep or goat humerus.

Undated gully [205], Trench 2, looking north Fig 12

5.4 Trench 3

Trench 3 (1.8m x 50m) was aligned east to west and also situated in the north-western corner of the proposed development area to the south of Trench 2 and targeted on a possible ditch identified in the geophysical survey (Walford 2009). The clay geology was revealed at 0.20-0.57m below the existing ground level at 75.23-75.25m OD. This was overlain by up to 0.31m of subsoil, which was present only toward the centre of the trench, and 0.20-0.27m of topsoil (Figs 10 and 11, Section 6).

Near the centre of Trench 3 was an undated north to south aligned ditch [307] with a re-cut [305]. Both were sealed by subsoil. Ditch [307], measuring 2.60m wide and 0.83m deep, had steep sides with a concave base and was filled with a firm, light orangey brown silty clay (306) containing stone inclusions including possible potboilers and a few pieces of cattle bone. The re-cut [305], measuring 0.20m deep and 0.86m wide, had shallow sides sloping to a concave base. Its fill (304) was firm light orangey brown silty clay with frequent small angular chalk inclusions (Fig 11, Section 6, and 13).

Undated ditch [307] and re-cut [305], Trench 3, looking south Fig 13

5.5 Trench 4

Trench 4 (1.8m x 50m) was aligned north-east to south-west and located to the south-east of Trench 3. The clay and gravel geology was encountered at 0.55-068m below the existing ground level at 74.35-73.55m OD. This was overlain by 0.21-0.38m of subsoil and 0.23-0.29m of topsoil (Fig 10).

Two shallow pits [406] and [408], sealed by subsoil, were revealed towards the centre of the trench. The earlier pit [406], 0.10m deep and 0.63m in diameter, had shallow sides sloping down to an uneven base with a fill (405) of friable, dark brownish grey silty clay containing occasional small stones and charcoal flecks and burnt stones. Six sherds of Iron Age pottery were also present.

It was cut by pit [408], 0.12m deep and 1m in diameter, which had similarly shallow sides sloping down unto an uneven base with a friable, dark greyish brown sandy clay fill (407) that contained occasional small stones and charcoal flecks included. This pit contained two small Iron Age pottery sherds (Fig 11 and 14).

Samples 1 and 2 were taken from pit fills (405) and (407) respectively. Charred plant remains were present and indeterminate bone fragments were recovered from Sample 1 (405).

Pits [406] and [408], Trench 4, looking west Fig 14

5.6 Trench 5

Trench 5 (1.8m x 50m) was aligned east to west and was located near the centre of the proposed development area on the crest of the slope. The geology of sand was encountered at 0.35-0.43m below the existing ground level at 72.56-73.07m OD. This was overlain by 0.12-0.23m subsoil and 0.20-0.23m of topsoil.

Ditch [505] was aligned west to east along the entire length of the trench, cutting through the subsoil and the geology (Fig 17). It was sealed by the topsoil and measured 1.30m wide and 0.51m deep. It had sides sloping at approximately 45^{o} with a convex base; the fill (404) was a loose, mid brownish grey sandy loam.

The pottery and glass recovered from the ditch indicate a post-medieval date for this probable field boundary. Brick and modern animal bone were noted in the feature, but not collected.

5.7 Trench 9

Trench 9 (1.8m x 50m) was aligned north to south and was situated up-slope near the eastern site boundary. The clay geology was revealed at 0.42-0.62m

below the existing ground level at 73.36-72.98m OD. This was overlain by 0.16-0.33m subsoil and 0.28-0.30m of topsoil (Fig 10).

Near the northern end of the trench was a shallow undated ditch [905] cutting the geology and sealed by the subsoil. It was aligned in a west to east direction and measured 1.75m wide and 0.20m deep with shallow sloping sides and an uneven base. The fill (904) comprised of mid yellowish grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered (Fig 15).

Undated gully [905], Trench 9, looking east Fig 15

5.8 Trench 12

Trench 12 (1.8m x 50m) aligned north to south and located in the north-western corner of the proposed development area, was targeted on a possible ring ditch and pit identified in the geophysical survey (Walford 2009). The geology was encountered at 1.03-1.20m below the existing ground level at 67.10-68.61m OD.

A ditch [1207] was aligned south-east to north-west in the northern end of the trench. The feature cut through the geology and subsoil and was sealed by the topsoil. It measured 1.70m wide and 0.80m deep and was filled with a friable, mid reddish yellow silty sand with occasional small stones (1206). A glass bottle dating from the early 18th century was found in the bottom of the ditch.

5.9 Trench 23

Trench 23 (1.8m x 50m) aligned north to south and located in the south-eastern corner of the proposed development area. The colluvium was encountered at 0.63m below the existing ground level at 67.68-71.63m OD. The 20 plain body sherds recovered from Trench 23 were from a single vessel dating from the middle to late Iron Age (Fig 16). The vessel probably

moved down an animal burrow (several rabbit burrows were present in the vicinity) and finally rested on two glacial erratic boulders.

Colluvial deposit containing Iron Age Pot, Trench 23 Fig 16

6 THE FINDS

6.1 **Flint** by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

In total seven pieces of worked flint were recovered as residual finds in the topsoil. The artefacts comprised of six flakes and one core. Post-depositional edge damage was present on all artefacts consisting of frequent nicks and crushing of the edges. The raw material was a vitreous flint ranging from a light honey to a mid brownish grey. The cortex present on the dorsal surfaces and striking platforms was a light to mid brown. The core was keel-shaped producing flakes from two opposing platforms, maintenance of the larger platform was evident in the form of the removal of a re-juvenation flake.

The worked flint is not directly dateable but the technological characteristics of the core suggest a broadly Neolithic to late Bronze Age date.

6.2 Pottery

Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 29 sherds, weighing 395g, of hand-built pottery dating to the middle to late Iron Age were recovered from four contexts.

The largest group, from Trench 23, comprises 20 plain body sherds, weighing 290g, from a single vessel in a sandy fabric containing small quartz grains, up to 2mm, and sparse larger mineral inclusions. The fabric is grey with a grey-brown external surface. Given the presence of only plain body sherds, no more specific date than middle to late Iron Age can be attributed to this vessel.

The fill (405) of pit [406] produced a small assemblage, comprising six sherds weighing 85g. Two large sherds are in a sandy fabric from the rim of a hand-built vessel, with shallow finger impressions visible on the inner surface. It has a red, oxidised, core and inner surface and a red-brown to dark grey outer surface. The vessel was a barrel-shaped jar, with a simple rounded rim and no neck, and the surface is decorated with near vertical scoring. There is also a sherd from a vessel with a simple upright rounded rim, and a small fragment of orange-brown soft fired clay containing angular flint inclusions might be a piece of briquetage. A small body sherd from a plain thin-walled vessel in a light brown-grey fabric containing small black mineral inclusions may be slightly later in date.

Two small sherds, weighing 10g, from the fill (407) of pit [408], are in a sandy fabric, dark grey throughout. One has a flattened rim and the other a simple rounded rim.

A thick-walled sherd from Trench 11 has a sandy fabric with a dark grey core and orange-brown surfaces.

The larger assemblage from Trench 23 and the presence of the scored ware vessel from pit [406], and the flattened and simple rounded rims from pits [406] and [408], are all indicative of a broad middle to late Iron Age date, but probably the later part of this period, the 2nd century BC onward. The single very small thin-walled sherd from pit [406] is probably slightly later in date, suggesting that activity continued into the early 1st century AD, the late Pre-Roman Iron Age.

Post-Medieval pottery by Ian Soden

A single sherd of English Stoneware from a jar or jug of *c* 1900 from fill (504) of the post-medieval field boundary ditch [505].

6.3 Bottle glass by Tim Upson-Smith

Fragments from two bottles were recovered from two contexts during the evaluation. A bottle neck and two adjoining fragments was recovered from context (1204). The bottle was blown and is in dark green glass. The form of the neck would suggest an early 18th century date.

Recovered from context (504), a ditch fill, were four fragments of a pale brown green bottle complete with its stopper. The bottle is moulded and is marked 'filed by (Brun)swick bottling... and Leicester' around the base. The stopper is marked Brunswick Rileys Bottling co Patent.

The Brunswick St Brewery was founded in 1858, and was known as the Brunswick Bottling Co between 1904 and 1909 (http://www.histman.co.uk/brewers/pages/database).

7 The faunal and charred plant remains

7.1 **The animal bone** by Karen Deighton

A total of 1095 grams of animal bone were hand recovered from the excavation. These were scanned to determine the species present, state of preservation.

Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von den Driesch 1976) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows, bones where the state of fusion is apparent and neonatal bones. Animal bone from wet sieving (3.4mm and 1mm residues) was also included; sample sizes varied with context but were typically between 10 and 20 litres. Hand collected bones had previously been washed.

Preservation was poor. Bones were heavily fragmented and surfaces were abraded. The poor condition of the bone surfaces possibly obscured any evidence for butchery or canid gnawing. No evidence of burning was noted

Fill (204) produced seven cattle vertebra, a sacrum and at least four ribs. It is possible these elements are from the same animal. A sheep/goat humerus (shaft and distal epiphysis) was also present. The ditch fill (306) produced a cattle humerus shaft and a cattle calcaneum. Indeterminate bone fragments were recovered from Sample 1(pit fill 405)

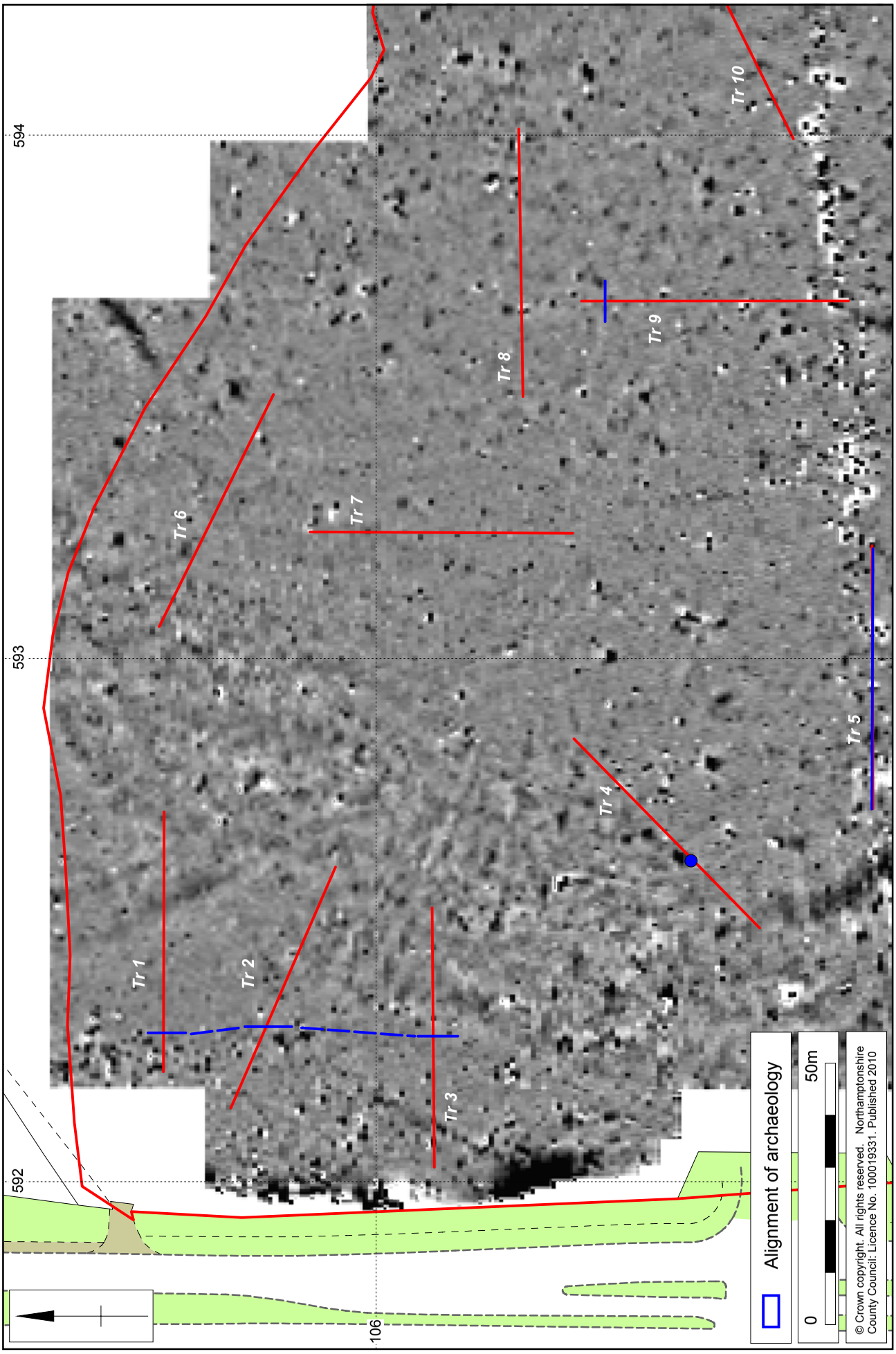
Only the sheep/goat humerus from (204) provided any ageing data (epiphyseal fusion) and two measurements.

Little can be said of the animal economy of the site other than that cattle and sheep/goat were utilised at the site. This paucity of information is due to poor preservation and the small size of the sample.

7.2 **The charred plant remains** by Karen Deighton

A total of two samples were collected from two contexts by hand during the course of excavation. These were assessed to determine the presence, nature and level of preservation of any ecofacts. The potential contribution of analysis to the understanding of the function of the site was also considered.

The samples were processed using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 500-micron mesh and 250-micron flot sieve. The resulting flot was dried and sorted for ecofacts using a binocular microscope (10X magnification). Identifications were made with the aid of the author's small reference



Scale 1:1000

Geophysical survey results showing the alignment of archaeology within the trenches

Fig 17

collection, the atlases Cappers *et al* (2006), Jacomet (2006) and Schoch *et al* (1988). Residues were also dried and scanned.

Preservation was solely by charring. Fragmentation and abrasion were at a low level.

Table 1: taxa by context and sample

Cut/fill	406/405	408/407
Sample	1	2
Volume	10	10
Feature	Layer	Pit
Charcoal	200-300	20
Cereal indet	1	
C.album (fat hen)	30	19
G.aparine (cleavers)		1

Both samples appear to be background; in the case of Sample 2 material washed or blown into the feature from activities taking place elsewhere, and in the case of Sample 1 material accumulated during deposition. The dominant taxa is *Chenopodium album* (fat hen). Fat hen is a ubiquitous plant of disturbed ground and is observed on many archaeological sites therefore it provides no site specific environmental information.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The aim was to evaluate the potential archaeology identified during the fieldwalking, satellite image and geophysical surveys of the proposed development area. 24 trenches were excavated, fifteen targeted and nine distributed in the previously un-surveyed south-western corner. In close vicinity to the area a number of archaeological sites and flint scatters had been uncovered.

The topography and geology divides the site into a higher northern area with clay geology and a lower southern area with a predominately sand geology. The sand geology is overlain by up to three layers of colluvium, which were the deepest around Trenches 14 and 15, measuring up to 0.54m in depth at this location. The difference in geology appears to have had an effect on the archaeology recorded during the excavations, which was confined to the northern part of the area.

A small Neolithic to late Bronze Age flint scatter, comprising of six flakes and one flake core, were recovered from the topsoil in the north-western corner of the proposed development area. The small flint scatter recovered is similar to the fieldwalking results recorded by ULAS (Speed 2009). The ditch sections excavated in Trenches 1 to 3 and 9 were undated. The two pits in Trench 4 contained Iron Age pottery; in the vicinity of the area Iron Age sites have been previously excavated. The two field boundary ditches in Trenches 5 and 12 contained post-medieval pottery and glass bottles.

Archaeological features were recorded in seven trenches (Fig 17). The features recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 may relate. A relative earlier, deeper ditch was revealed in Trench 3 with a shallower re-cut similar in characteristics to the features uncovered in Trenches 1 and 2. These possibly belong to a single ditch running in a north to south direction along the western edge of the area. The linear feature recorded in Trench 9 runs in east to west direction, however, it was not picked up in Trench 4 and a relationship to the north to south aligned ditch is unclear. No dating evidence was recovered from the excavated sections and only animal bone was recovered from two sections. Only one trench, Trench 4, revealed dateable features in the form of two shallow pits. The artefacts comprised of pottery sherds dating to the middle to late Iron Age.

Two field boundary ditches were recorded in Trenches 5 and 12. The ditch in Trench 5 runs along the ridge in an approximately east to west direction, and along the line marked in the geophysical survey as a ferrous disturbance. The ditch in Trench 12 runs in an approximately north to south direction

The possible archaeological features identified during the course of the surveys were not revealed during the excavations. Trench 12 had targeted a possible ring ditch (Fig 3), which was not found upon opening of the trench. Further analysis of the data indicates that the anomalies detected during the geophysical survey may more likely reflect either small scale inclusion of magnetic gravel to the sand geology or, given the proximity of road construction, thermorennantly magnetised brick fragments within the plough soil (Adrian Butler *pers comm*).

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APPENDIX I Table of contexts

Trench	Context	Context type	Description	Finds/ comments	Depth below ground level
1	(101)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.29-0.30m
	(102)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.46-0.80m
	(103)	Geology I	Mid reddish brown sandy clay in east end of trench	Present in east part	0.59m>
	(104)	Geology II	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with patches of sand and gravel in west end of trench		0.46m>
	(105)	Fill of [105]	Mid brown silty clay with occasional small stones		
	[106]	Linear cut	Undated shallow ditch		0.46-0.61m
2	(201)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.29-0.40m
	(202)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.45-0.70m
	(203)	Geology	Reddish brown clay with frequent stone inclusions and light orangey brown sandy patches		0.45m>
	(204)	Fill of [205]	Mid greyish brown silty clay	Animal bone	
	[205]	Linear cut	Undated narrow ditch		0.70-1.09m
3	(301)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.20-0.27m
	(302)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions	Present in the centre	0.26-0.57m
	(303)	Geology	Mid reddish brown clay		0.20>
	(304)	Fill of [305]	Light orangey brown silty clay with frequent small chalk inclusions		
	[305]	Linear re-cut	Re-cut, cutting fill (306)		0.57-0.77m
	(306)	Fill of [307]	Light orangey brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions	Animal bone	
	[307]	Linear cut	Undated large ditch with re-cut		0.57-1.40m
4	(401)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.23-0.30m
	(402)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small		0.49-0.68m

Trench	Context	Context type	Description	Finds/ comments	Depth below ground level
			stone inclusions		
	(403)	Geology I	Dark reddish brown clay with sandy and sandy clay patches in north-east end of trench		0.55m>
	(404)	Geology II	Mid brownish orange clay-sand with gravel patches in south-west end of trench in south-west end of trench		0.49m>
	(405)	Fill of [406]	Dark brownish grey sandy clay	Iron Age pottery	
	[406]	Pit	Shallow Iron Age pit		0.55-0.65m
	(407)	Fill of [408]	Dark brownish grey sandy clay	Iron Age pottery	
	[408]	Pit	Shallow Iron Age pit		0.55-0.67m
5	(501)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.20-0.23m
	(502)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.43-0.55m
	(503)	Geology	Light brownish orange silty sand with red clay marl patches increasing to the east of the trench		0.43m>
	(504)	Fill of [505]	mid brownish grey sandy loam	Animal bone and brick (not retained), pottery and glass bottle	
	[505]	Linear cut	Post-med field boundary		0.43-0.94m
6	(601)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.21-0.28m
	(602)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.31-0.49m
	(603)	Geology	Mid red clay marl with orange sand and gravel patches, very gravelly at north-west end of trench		0.31m>
7	(701)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.26-0.32m
	(702)	Subsoil	Occasional present, mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.39-0.56m
	(703)	Geology	Mid red clay marl with frequent patches of mid orange sand and gravel		0.39m>

Trench	Context	Context type	Description	Finds/ comments	Depth below ground level
			patches		
8	(801)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.26-0.32m
	(802)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions	Not present in east part	0.43-0.46m
	(803)	Geology	Mid red clay marl with frequent small to medium stone inclusions		0.26m>
9	(901)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.28-0.30m
	(902)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.42-0.62m
	(903)	Geology	Mid red clay marl with frequent small to medium stone inclusions		0.42m>
	(904)	Fill of [905]	Mid yellowish grey silty clay with occasional small stones		
	[905]	Linear cut	Undated shallow ditch or furrow		0.46-0.66m
10	(1001)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay-loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.20-0.30m
	(1002)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.35-0.38m
	(1003)	Geology	Mid red clay mark with frequent small to medium stone inclusions		0.30m>
11	(1101)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.28-0.30m
	(1102)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clay-sand with occasional small stone inclusions		0.52-0.62m
	(1103)	Colluvium I	Light yellowish brown and orangey brown mottling of silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions		0.85-1.10m
	(1104)	Colluvium II	Mid orangey brown silty sand with red clay marl patches with occasional small to large stone inclusions		1.03-1.14m
	(1105)	Colluvium III	Dark orangey brown clay-sand with occasional small to large rounded stones	Pot found	1.26-1.36m
	(1106)	Geology	Mid reddish brown sandy		1.14m>

Trench	Context	Context type	Description	Finds/ comments	Depth below ground level
			gravel with red clay marl patches		
12	(1201)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.35m
	(1202)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.43-0.55m
	(1203)	Geology			0.93m>
	(1204)	Fill of [1205]	Mid reddish brown silty sand with small stone inclusions		
	[1205]	Linear cut	Post-med field boundary ditch cutting [1207]		0.25m
	(1206)	Fill of [1207]	Mid reddish yellow silty sand with small stone inclusions		
	[1207]	Linear cut	Post-med field boundary ditch cut by [1205]		0.25m
	(1208)	Colluvium I	Yellowish brown silty sand with infrequent stone inclusions		0.57-0.74m
	(1209)	ColluviumII	Mid reddish and yellow silty sand with infrequent stones		0.92-0.98m
13	(1301)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.27-0.34m
	(1302)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.61-0.73m
	(1304)	Geology	Light creamy brown silty sand with occasional small stones, gravelly in places		0.61m
14	(1401)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.19m
	(1402)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.49m
	(1403)	Colluvium I	Mid orangey brown silty sand with frequent small to medium rounded stones		0.71m
	(1404)	Colluvium II	Mid orangey brown with light yellowish brown mottling and moderate small stone inclusions		0.84m
	(1405)	Geology	Mid orangey brown with light yellowish brown and reddish brown silty sand with a clay component		0.84m>

Trench	Context	Context type	Description	Finds/ comments	Depth below ground level
			and frequent small to medium stone inclusions		
15	(1501)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.28-0.33m
	(1502)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.50m
	(1503)	Colluvium I	Mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions		0.71m
	(1404)	Colluvium II	Mid brown silty sand with frequent small to medium stone inclusions		1.13m
	(1505)	Colluvium III	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stone inclusions		1.25m
	(1506)	Geology	Light yellowish orange silty sand with occasional small to medium stone inclusions		1.25m>
16	(1601)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.29-0.23m
	(1602)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.40-0.48m
	(1603)	Geology I	Mid red clay marl with occasional small stones		0.32m>
	(1604)	Geology II	Mid orangey red sand with occasional small stones		0.40>
17	(1701)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.16-0.25m
	(1702)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions	Present in centre	0.16-0.49m
	(1703)	Geology I	Mid orangey brown silty sand	Present in west part	0.25m>
	(1704)	Geology II	Mid reddish brown sandy clay	Present in east part	0.25m>
18	(1801)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.30-0.34m
	(1802)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.64-0.79m
	(1803)	Geology	Mid orangey and yellowish brown clay-sand with occasional small stones		0.64m>
19	(1901)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional		0.16-0.40m

Trench	Context	Context type	Description	Finds/ comments	Depth below ground level
			small stone inclusions		
	(1902)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.36-0.64m
	(1903)	Colluvium	Mid yellowish brown clay-sand with frequent small to medium rounded stones		0.46-0.85m
	(1904)	Geology	Mid reddish brown clay with occasional small angular stones		0.36m>
20	(2001)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.24m0.34m
	(2002)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions	Present in south part	0-0.32m
	(2003)	Geology	Mid creamy brown (redder toward north) clay-sand with occasional small stones		0.24m>
21	(2101)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.25-0.40m
	(2102)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions	Not present in east part	0.35-0.62m
	(2103)	Colluvium	Mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional reddish brown clay lenses		0.25m>
22	(2201)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.30-0.33m
	(2202)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.43-0.66m
	(2203)	Geology	Mid orangey brown and light yellowish brown mottles silty sand, with reddish brown clay patches		0.65m
	(2204)	Colluvium	Light yellowish brown silty sand	Present in centre	0.65m>
23	(2301)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.25-0.35m
	(2302)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.44-0.68m
	(2303)	Colluvium I	Light yellowish brown silty sandy with glacial erratic near south end		0.72-0.82m
	(2304)	Colluvium II	Mid reddish brown silty	Present in	0.63m>

Trench	Context	Context type	Description	Finds/ comments	Depth below ground level
			sand	north part	
	(2305)	Fill of [2306]	Mid brown with reddish brown streaks silty sand	Iron Age pot	
	[2306]	Animal burrow	Irregular shaped sides and base pit		0.58-0.83m
24	(2401)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions		0.30-0.35m
	(2402)	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions		0.47-0.57m
	(2403)	Colluvium	Mid orangey brown silty sand		0.72-0.80m
	(2404)	Geology	Mid greyish brown with light yellowish brown patches, large granite boulders and other erratic near east end		0.72m>

APPENDIX II Table of flint

Trench	Context	Flake/ Blade	Tool	Period	Material	Cortex	Comments
3	(301)	Flake	No	N/A	vitreous mid brownish grey	light brown	Broad and wide cortical striking platform
4	(401)	Flake	No	N/A	vitreous light honey	mid brown	hinge termination
4	(401)	Flake	No	N/A	vitreous mid brownish grey	light brown	heavy post-depositional edge damage
5	(501)	Flake	No	N/A	vitreous mid brownish grey	light brown	crushed striking platform
9	(901)	Core	Core	Neolithic	vitreous mid brownish grey	light brown	keel-shaped flake core with two opposing striking platforms, a re-juvenication flake had been taken
9	(901)	Flake	No	N/A	vitreous mid greyish honey	light brown	cortical striking platform
10	(1001)	Flake	No	N/A	vitreous mid greyish brown	mid brown	post-depositional edge damage, wide striking platform

APPENDIX II Table of pottery

Trench	Context	Age	Sherds
4	(405)	Iron Age	6
4	(407)	Iron Age	2
5	(504)	Post-med	1
11	(1105)		1
23	(2305)	Iron Age	20

APPENDIX IV Table of animal bone

Trench	Context	Element	Taxa	Side	fragmentation	Notes
2	204	Vertebra	Cattle	N/A		Possibly same animal
2	204	Vertebra	cattle	N/A		Possibly same animal
2	204	Vertebra	cattle	N/A		Possibly same animal
2	204	Vertebra	cattle	N/A		Possibly same animal
2	204	Vertebra	cattle	N/A		Possibly same animal
2	204	Vertebra	cattle	N/A		Possibly same animal
2	204	Vertebra	cattle	N/A		Possibly same animal
2	204	rib	cattle	N/A	end+shaft	Possibly same animal
2	204	rib	cattle	N/A	end+shaft	Possibly same animal
2	204	rib	cattle	N/A	end+shaft	Possibly same animal
2	204	rib	cattle	N/A	end+shaft	Possibly same animal
2	204	Humerus	sheep/goat	Right	end+shaft	
3	306	Humerus	cattle	right	shaft	
3	306	Calcaneum	cattle	left	end missing	

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