



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Castleview Road, Slough 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**

Christopher Jones and
Andy Chapman

Report 12/112

July 2012



STAFF

Project Manager: Ian Meadows BA

Fieldwork supervision: Christopher Jones

Fieldwork: Rob Smith
Simon Wood BA MSc MA
Adam Meadows BSc

Text: Christopher Jones and Andy Chapman

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc PlfA

Flint, pottery and metalworking debris: Andy Chapman BSc MIfA FSA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	
Verified by	Ian Meadows		
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No 160608
Project title	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Castlevew Road Slough	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Thirty-three trenches were excavated, each 30m long by 2m wide. Archaeological features were concentrated within two areas. To the north-east a circular ditched enclosure, 10m in diameter, with flanking spreads of dumped material, has been dated by the pottery to the Middle to Late Iron Age. The quantities of ferrous slag, hammerscale and crucibles recovered from the ditches and the spreads, indicate that the enclosure was a specialised metalworking area, with primary smithing being carried out and perhaps smelting, along with copper alloy casting. A nearby ditch may have flanked a driveway. To the north-west, a pit, perhaps part of a more extensive pit group, produced pottery dated to the Early or early Middle Iron Age, perhaps the 6th to 5th centuries BC. Another pit produced a sherd of Beaker pottery from the Early Bronze Age. The rest of the trenches contained no archaeological features.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Bronze Age pit. Iron Age pit and enclosure	
Significant finds	Bronze Age pottery. Iron Age pottery, ferrous slag, hammerscale, crucibles	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Berkshire	
Site address	Castlevew Road	
NGR	SU 994 786	
Area (sq m/ha)	10.48 hectare	
Height aOD	22m AOD in the north of the site to 20m AOD in the south	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones	
Project Manager	Ian Meadows	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	11/06/2012	
End date	15/06/2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical		Pottery
Paper		Site records
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation at Castlevew Road Slough	
Serial title & volume	12/112	
Author(s)	Christopher Jones and Andy Chapman	
Page numbers		
Date	/06/2012	

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
3	BACKGROUND	
3.1	Topography and geology	4
3.2	Historical and archaeological background	4
4	EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY	5
5	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE	
5.1	The north-eastern area: The Iron Age enclosure	8
5.2	The north-western area: Bronze Age and Iron Age pits	11
6	THE FINDS	
6.1	Flint by Andy Chapman	12
6.2	The Bronze Age pottery by Andy Chapman	12
6.3	The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman	13
6.4	The metalworking debris by Andy Chapman	15
7	THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS by Val Fryer	18
8	DISCUSSION	
7.1	Early metalworking in Berkshire by Andy Chapman	20
7.2	The Castlevew site	21
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	22
	APPENDIX: CONTEXT LIST	24-36

Tables

Table 1: Quantification of the Iron Age pottery

Table 2: Quantification of ironworking debris

Table 3: Quantification of crucible fragments

Table 4: Quantification of charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Figures

Front cover: View of the Iron Age enclosure ditch in Trench 3

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: The excavated trenches showing geophysical survey results

Fig 3: Trenches 1-3, 6 & 7, plans and sections

Fig 4: Trench 1, looking south, showing the dumped layer (104)

Fig 5: Trench 2, looking east, western enclosure ditch [213] in foreground

Fig 6: Enclosure ditch [213], looking north (Section 3)

Fig 7: Trench 2, ditch 207, looking south (Section 1)

Fig 8: Trench 3, ditch [304], looking west (Section 2)

Fig 9: Trench 6, Iron Age pit [609], looking east (Section 8)

Fig 10: Trench 7, Bronze Age pit [705], (Section 6)

Fig 11: Rusticated Beaker sherd of the Early Bronze Age from ditch [705]

Fig 12: Thumb-impressed rim, left, and a burnished sherd with grooved decoration, right, from the fills of enclosure ditch [213]

Fig 13: Rim sherds from carinated bowl, burnished black over red hematite coating, from pit [609]

Fig 14: Recovering hammerscale from the fine sample residue

Fig 15: Two corner sections from Iron Age triangular crucibles, showing the vitrified outer surface (left) and the inner surface (right)

Back cover: Trench 33 backfilled, looking west

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT
CASTLEVIEW ROAD, SLOUGH
JUNE 2012**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at Castleview Road, Slough. Thirty-three trenches were excavated, each 30m long by 2m wide. Archaeological features were concentrated within two areas. To the north-east a circular ditched enclosure, 10m in diameter, with flanking spreads of dumped material, has been dated by the pottery to the Middle to Late Iron Age. The quantities of ferrous slag, hammerscale and crucibles recovered from the ditches and the spreads, indicate that the enclosure was a specialised metalworking area, with primary smithing being carried out and perhaps smelting, along with copper alloy casting. A nearby ditch may have flanked a droveway. To the north-west, a pit, perhaps part of a more extensive pit group, produced pottery dated to the Early or early Middle Iron Age, perhaps the 6th to 5th centuries BC. Another pit produced a sherd of Beaker pottery from the Early Bronze Age. The rest of the trenches contained no archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

In June 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at Castleview Road, Slough (NGR: centre SU 994 786; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and was undertaken to inform a planning application for the proposed development of the land for residential use.

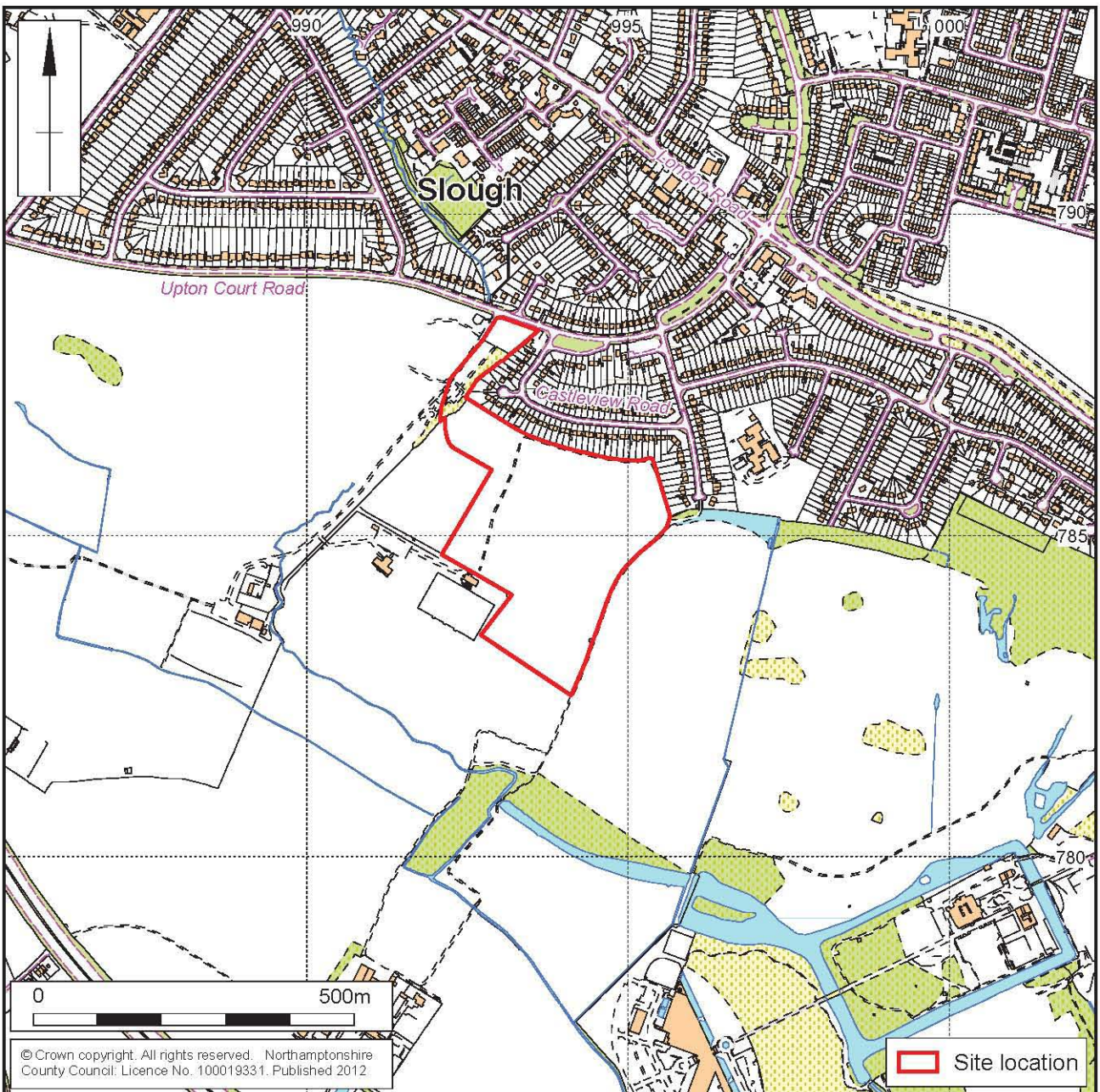
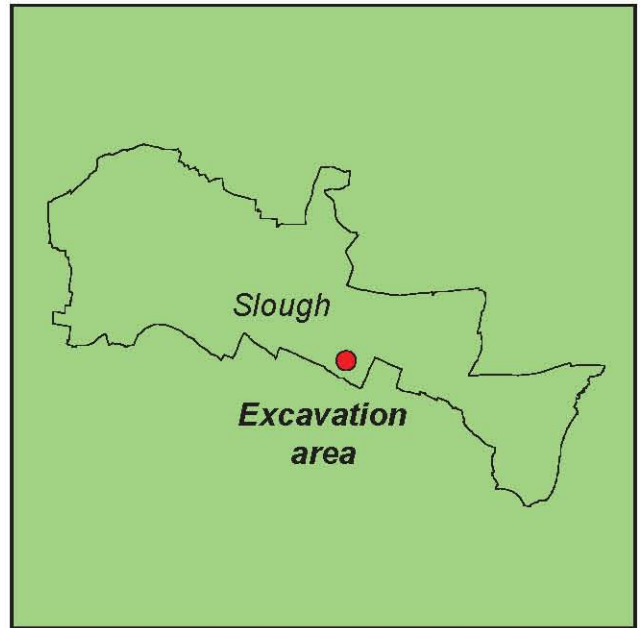
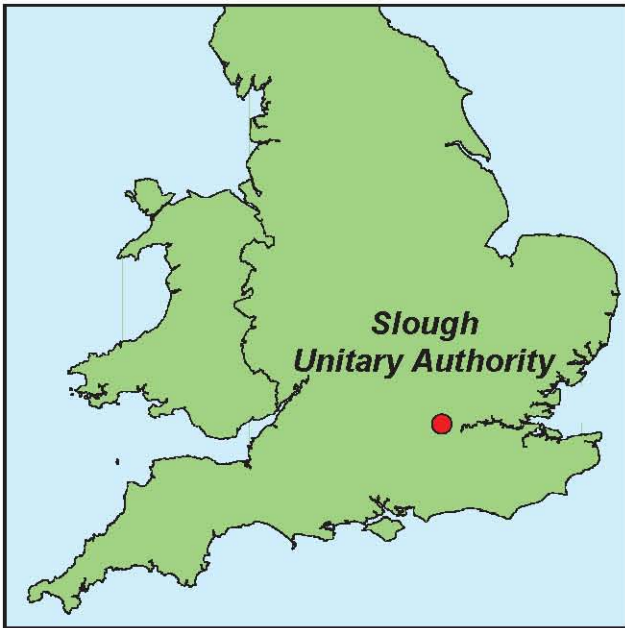
The scope of works was detailed in the written scheme of investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs May 2012). The works were undertaken according to the following guidelines: Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008), and English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2006).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting. The general aims of the investigation, as defined by the Berkshire Archaeology General Standards for Fieldwork Projects, are:

- To determine the existence or absence of any archaeological remains; and should remains be found to be present to ensure their preservation *in situ* (where nationally important remains are identified) or preservation by record, through zoned excavation, to the highest possible standard;
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains;

- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape;
- To determine, as far as is possible, the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity;
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/ or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The British Geological Survey (England and Wales Sheet 269 Windsor 1999) shows the site area located on Taplow Gravel (third terrace) River Terrace deposit in the north of the site and Shepperton Gravel (first terrace) in the south of the site. The north-western part of the site, lies in an area recorded in the BGS as 'Made Ground'. This is probably the result of culverting of the Datchet Common Brook and or landfill (Hydrock 2011).

The site lies on the gravel terraces of the northern valley slope of the River Thames, which flows approximately 1700m south-west of the study area. A small water channel known as Datchet Common Brook runs along the western boundary and lies within a culvert beneath the north-western part of the site. The study site gently slopes downwards from north to south from 22m aOD in the north of the site to 20m aOD in the south of the site.

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

The study site lies partly on the Taplow River terrace and partly on the Shepperton River Terrace, which is not considered to have a good potential for Palaeolithic remains. However, a few residual findspots have been identified within 1.5km radius of the study site. A handaxe and a struck flint were found at Langley. The archaeological potential of the study site for *in situ* palaeo land-surfaces is considered to be low although there is the potential for isolated and residual lithics to be found at depth.

An isolated Mesolithic tranchet head or adze was found in an allotment approximately 750m south-west of the site. An isolated Neolithic blade and a scatter of worked flint was found in Datchet approximately 1.5km south-east of the study site. No evidence of *in situ* activity dating to these periods has been recorded within the vicinity of the site. The archaeological potential of the site for evidence dating to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods is therefore considered to be low though isolated finds could be anticipated.

Evidence of Iron Age activity comprising several linear features were recorded at Riding Court Farm, approximately 500m south of the study site. Further to the south-west, one linear ditch was recorded during an excavation at Datchet approximately 1.1km south-west of the study site. A Middle-Late Iron Age settlement was identified during an evaluation at Agars Plough playing fields, approximately 1.5km south-west of the study site. A subsequent geophysical survey and excavation indicated the presence of a 'ladder' settlement extending from east to west. By the later prehistoric periods the site lay in a landscape that was slowly being exploited for farming and settlement activity close to the River Thames.

Two pits containing an assemblage of Roman material was found during the evaluation at Riding Court Farm, approximately 500m south of the study site.

By the medieval period the site lay outside the settlements of Upton, Datchet and Langley, most likely in agricultural land. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow are recorded on aerial photographs on Ditton Park to the east of the site.

During the post-medieval period the study site continued to lie within agricultural land outside the villages of Upton, Datchet and Langley. By the 19th century the site lay within a field to the west of Ditton Park and to the east of Upton. The Datchet

Common Brook flowed through the north-western part of the site, whilst a substantial gravel pit, known as Upton Gravel Pit, lay in the central northern part of the site. A trackway traversed the centre of the site from north to south. By the mid 20th century the former gravel pit had been backfilled and the Datchet Common Brook had been culverted. There has been no subsequent change to the site apart from the laying out of a car park in the north western most part of the site.

A magnetometer survey was undertaken across the site in February 2012. The large back-filled 19th-century quarry was located at the northern edge of the site (Butler 2012). This appears to have cut a possible driveway with flanking ditches and associated rectangular enclosures of possible late prehistoric or Roman date. A small circular enclosure flanked by possible pits was identified at the eastern end of the driveway.

An Earth Resistance Survey was undertaken in March 2012, targeting the central enclosure recorded during the Magnetometer Survey, to establish whether buried structural remains were present and to identify any additional archaeological anomalies. No evidence of structural remains were identified although a possible small stone or rubble concentration was recorded, in addition a small number of additional anomalies (possibly ditches) were recorded. The boundary between the Shepperton and Taplow gravels were potentially identified.

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Monitoring of the programme of fieldwork was carried out by CgMs Consulting and Berkshire Archaeology. All parties were informed of the commencement and progress of works.

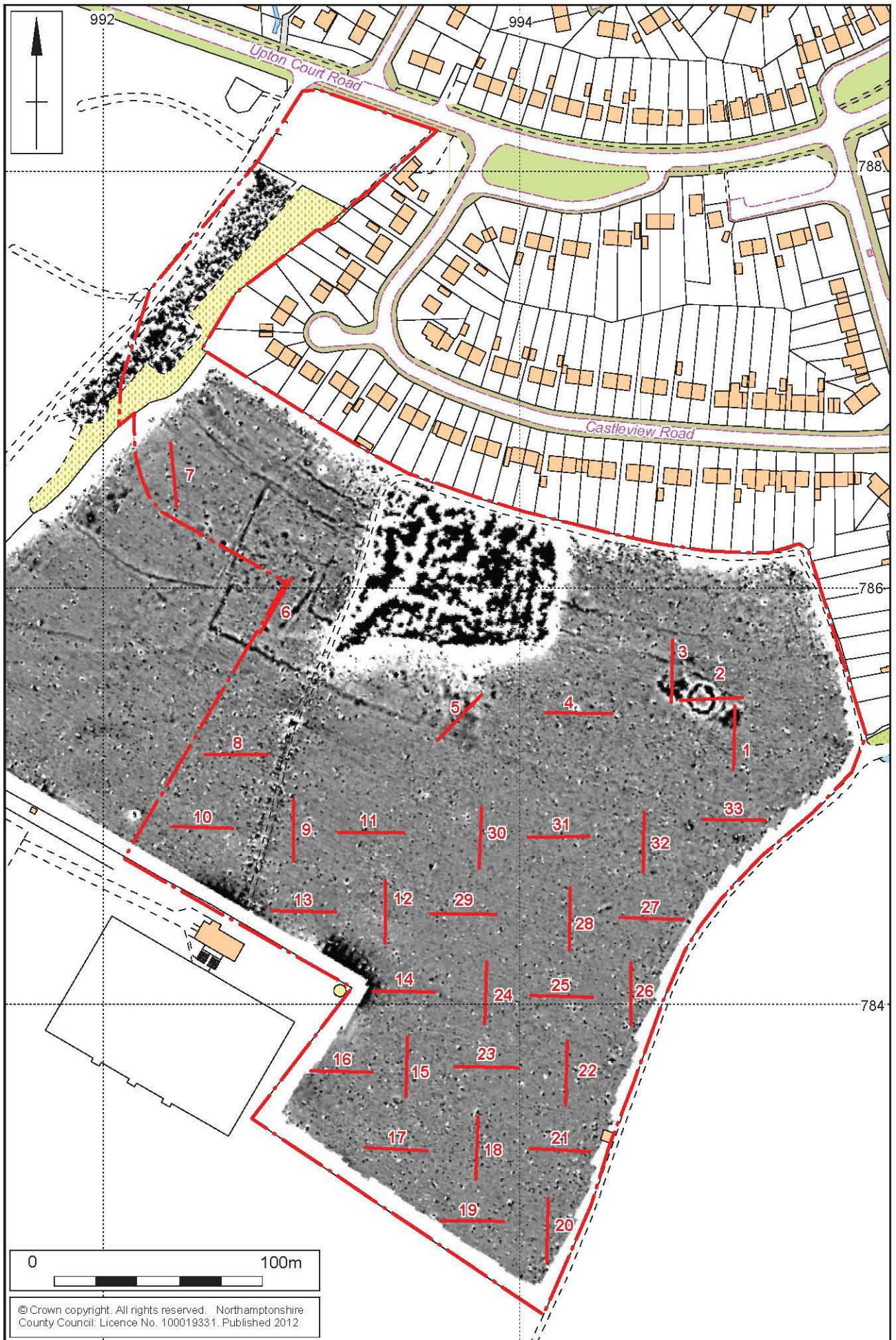
The trial trenches were positioned to ensure a full coverage of the area, whilst also targeting anomalies identified during the geophysical survey as well as avoiding known services (Fig 2). Each trench was located using a Leica System 1200 GPS operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum.

Thirty-three trenches were excavated, each measuring 30m x 2m. The trenches were excavated under continuous archaeological supervision and were excavated to the upper interface of geological deposits, where cut features became visible. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately on either side of the trench, at least 1.0m from the trench edges. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features, unless it was certain that there were no archaeological features or deposits present. All deposits were given individual context numbers and recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

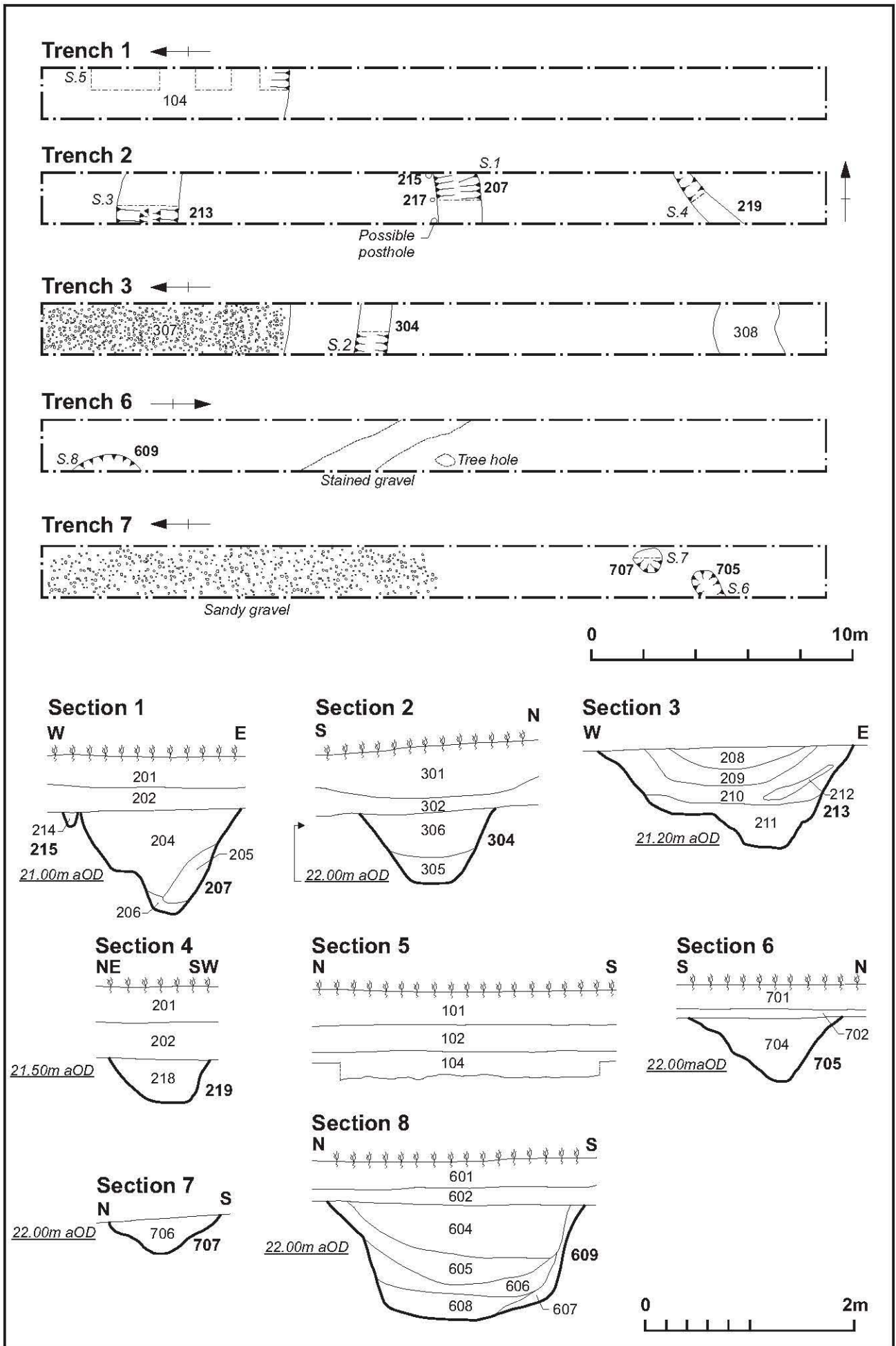
A photographic record was kept of the excavation, comprising black and white negatives and colour slides with supporting digital photographs. The field data were compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical digger. Subsoil and topsoil were backfilled separately.



Scale 1:2500 (A4)

The excavated trenches showing geophysical survey results Fig 2



Scales, Plans: 1:200, Sections 1:50 (A4)

Trenches 1-3, 6 & 7, plans and sections Fig 3

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The depth onto gravels and orange sandy clay natural varied from 0.35-0.75m, with an average depth of around 0.60m. The natural was overlain with red-brown sandy clay subsoil and the topsoil consisted of a dark brown clay loam. The topsoil, averaging 0.35m thick, was typically thicker than the subsoil, at 0.25m thick.

All the trenches in the southern part of the site (4, 5 & 8-33) contained no archaeological features. Only five trenches, 1, 2 and 3, to the north-east, and 6 and 7, to the north-west contained archaeological features (Fig 2).

5.1 The north-eastern area: The Iron Age enclosure

Trenches 1 to 3 were positioned over the small circular enclosure flanked by possible pits which had been identified in the magnetometer survey.

Trench 1 was excavated to natural orange sandy clay at a depth of 0.75m. At the northern end of the trench there was a layer of blackish-brown sandy clay (104), and three small sondages were excavated to establish the depth and the nature of this deposit (Fig 3, S.5 and Fig 4). It was 0.28m thick and contained Iron Age pottery, ferrous slag, hammerscale and a single fragment of crucible. The deposit contained few natural inclusions beyond the occasional small piece of burnt flint. The recorded extent was 9.5m but the deposit continued to the north of the trench, while to the south there was no clear edge, indicating that the deposit was a surface spread and did not fill a cut hollow (Fig 4).



Trench 1, looking south, showing the dumped layer (104) Fig 4

Trench 2 was excavated to natural orange sandy clay at a depth of 0.65m; cutting across the circular enclosure from west-east at its broadest point (Figs 3 and 5).



Trench 2, looking east, western enclosure ditch [213] in foreground Fig 5

The circular enclosure was 10m in diameter, with the geophysical survey suggesting the presence of a narrow entrance to the north. The western arm of the ditch [213], was 2.45m wide by up to 0.95m deep. The greater width and the stepped profile are suggestive of recutting, with a deeper V-shaped ditch replacing a shallower ditch, although this was not recorded in the sequence of fills, which comprised deposits of dark brown to grey-brown sandy clay (211 & 209) separated by a secondary fill of light orange and brown sandy clays (210 & 212) and with a final fill of orange-brown sandy clay (208).



Enclosure ditch [213], looking north (Section 3) Fig 6

The eastern arm [207], was 1.55m by 1.0m deep with a steep-sided V-shaped profile, although a narrow step on the western side, similar to that in ditch [213] is again suggestive of the presence of an earlier shallower ditch. The fills were again dark brown to grey-brown sandy clay (204 & 206) with some light orange sandy clay (205) slumped from the ditch side.

The fills of both ditches produced quantities of ferrous slag and hammerscale. A majority of the crucible fragments came from the western ditch [213], but there were also a few pieces in the eastern ditch [207].



Trench 2, ditch [207], looking south (Section 1) Fig 7

Towards the eastern end of the trench, there was a length of curving ditch [219], which was V-shaped, 0.90m wide by 0.40m deep, with a fill (218) of dark brown sandy clay with isolated flint gravel inclusions. This contained a few sherds of Iron Age pottery, although these may be residual, and the ditch might be an eastward continuation of the southern trackway ditch [304], seen in trench 3.

Trench 3 was excavated to natural orange sandy clay mixed with gravel and flint at a depth of 0.70m. The southern half of the trench crossed the deposit to the west of the enclosure as recorded by geophysical survey (Fig 2). The exposed layer (308), comprised dark grey-brown silty clays with some gravel, generally similar to the deposit to the east of the enclosure, and it was not investigated further.

To the north of layer (308), there was a ditch [304], with a U-shaped profile, 1.30m wide by 1.85m deep, with fills of light brown-orange (305) and dark greyish-brown sandy clay (306) (Fig 3, Section 2 & Fig 8). No dating evidence was recovered.



Trench 3, ditch [304], looking west (Section 2) Fig 8

Ditch [304] is the southern component of a double ditch system recorded by geophysical survey extending west-east for much of the length of the site, at least 270m. The ditches are spaced 12-14m apart, perhaps flanking a trackway. To the immediate north of ditch [304] there was a spread of gravel and flint (307), at least 9.5m wide and up to 0.15m thick, which may have been surfacing of a trackway.

5.2 The north-western area: Bronze Age and Iron Age pits

Trench 6 was excavated to the natural sub-angular coarse gravel and flint mixed with orange sand at a depth of 0.35m. The edge of a large circular pit [609] was located. The pit was at least 2.45m wide by 1.10m deep, with a U-shaped profile (Fig 3, Section 8 & Fig 9). The primary fills (608 & 606) and upper fills (604) were of dark brown-black clay sand, with a secondary fill of orange-brown sandy clay (605). The pit produced a pottery assemblage dated to the Early to early Middle Iron Age, perhaps the 6th and 5th centuries BC.



Trench 6, Iron Age pit [609], looking east (Section 8) Fig 9

Trench 7 was excavated to natural coarse gravel flint mixed with orange sand at a depth of 0.40m. There was a shallow pit [707], 1.05m diameter by 0.3m deep, with a root disturbed fill of orange-brown silty clay with gravel. Nearby, there was a larger elongated pit [705] that continued beyond the excavated area. It was at least 1.5m long by 0.9m wide and up to 0.6m deep (Fig 3, Section 6 & Fig 10). The fill (704) was brown sandy clay with frequent stone flint inclusions, and contained a sherd of rusticated Beaker pottery of the Early Bronze Age.



Trench 7, Bronze Age pit [705], (Section 6) Fig 10

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Flint by Andy Chapman

There is a small group of eight flint flakes, some of which may be a product of accidental striking, and there are no retouched tools. The group may include residual pieces of earlier prehistoric date and perhaps one of more pieces representing casual and opportunistic usage of flint within the Iron Age.

From the fill (204) of ditch [207] there is a large blade-like flake, 51mm long by 32mm wide, that may have been deliberately struck, with one edge showing extensive damage from utilisation. This may be a residual piece of earlier prehistoric date or an example of flint usage within the Iron Age. From the fill (209) of ditch [213] there are five irregular flakes of flint that could all be the product of accidental striking rather than struck flints. Four are in grey-brown vitreous flint and the other is in mottled grey opaque flint. There is a small ridged blade, 37mm long by 12mm wide, with extensive random edge damage, from the fill (606) of pit [609]. There is a small broken irregular flake in mottled grey opaque flint from the fill (704) of ditch [705].

There are three small lumps of burnt flint, light grey with crazed surfaces, 35-55mm diameter from layer (104), the fill (209) of ditch [213] and the fill (218) of ditch [219].

6.2 The Bronze Age pottery by Andy Chapman

From the fill (704) of elongated pit [705] there is single sherd, weighing 31g, from a rusticated Beaker of the Early Bronze Age (Fig 11). The fabric is hard, containing fine sand and moderate inclusions of angular flint, from 1-6mm in diameter. The sherd has a dark grey core and inner surface and a dark brown outer surface. The surface is decorated with quite regular lines of deep finger-pinched impressions, typically showing the fingernail impression at the base, with pads of clay forced up to one side.



Rusticated Beaker sherd of the Early Bronze Age from ditch [705]
(Scale 20mm) Fig 11

6.3 The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 195 sherds of hand-built pottery, weighing 1791g, dating to the Iron Age was recovered. There was a quantity from layer (104) in trench 1, further material came from enclosure ditches [207] and [213] in trench 2, and from ditch [219]. Another group with slightly different characteristics came from pit [609] in trench 6.

Fabrics

The sherds were generally hard and well fired, which accounts for the high average sherd weight of 9.2g. The cores are typically grey to grey-black, while the surfaces vary from light grey to brown and bright orange-brown. There are some thin-walled vessels, 5mm thick, but the majority of sherds come from larger vessels, with walls 8-10mm thick and bases up to 18mm thick. Four distinct fabric groups have been identified by visual examination.

Sandy:	Well fired with a coarse surface texture as a result of containing quantities of rounded quartz grains. 82 sherds, 42%
Ironstone:	Typically soft, usually oxidised a bright orange, containing sparse to moderate inclusions of red-brown ironstone, 0.5-4mm diameter, which often protrude from the surfaces. Some sherds also contain sand with quartz grains and these are harder, similar to the sandy fabric. 75 sherds, 39%
Flint:	Similar to the sandy fabric but even coarser surface texture as a result of containing angular inclusions of flint, 0.5-3mm in diameter and occasional larger pieces up to 5mm long. 31 sherds, 16%
Ironstone (hard)	Containing sparse to moderate inclusions of red-brown ironstone, 0.5-2mm diameter. A hard fabric, one vessel has probable hematite coating. 7 sherds, 4%

Table 1: Quantification of the Iron Age pottery

Fabrics Context/ Feature	Sandy Sherds	Ironstone Sherds	Flint Sherds	Ironstone (hard) Sherds	Total Sherds	Weight (g)
104 layer	22	8	5	0	35	240
204/207	9	4	2	0	15	145
206/207	5	0	0	0	5	11
208/213	0	3	0	0	3	5
209/213	23	26	1	0	50	386
210/213	0	12	1	0	13	66
211/213	3	2	2	0	7	48
218/219	0	2	3	0	5	60
604/609	19	12	12	3	46	645
605/609	1	5	1	0	7	122
606/609	0	1	1	4	6	34
608/609	0	0	3	0	3	29
Totals	82	75	31	7	195	1791
%	42.1	38.5	15.9	3.6	Ave sherd	9.2g

Form, decoration and chronology

The enclosure and adjacent soil layers on the north-eastern part of the site produced a substantial pottery assemblage with sufficient diagnostic material to define its chronology.

From the fill (204) of the eastern enclosure ditch [207] there is a plain body sherd in a fine sandy fabric, grey-black throughout, with a burnished surface. There are also two simple rounded upright rim sherds from smaller thin-walled jars, possibly within the saucepan pot tradition, but with too little of the profile surviving to be sure.

The fill (209) of the western enclosure ditch [213] contained one of the larger pottery groups, 386g, but comprised mainly body sherds. There is, however, a rim from a small jar with shallow fingertip impressions on the neck (Fig 12, left) and a small body sherd from a burnished bowl with a fragment of shallow grooved decoration, probably from a curvilinear design (Fig 12, right). There is a further burnished sherd from the primary fill (211) of the same ditch.



Thumb-impressed rim, left, and a burnished sherd with grooved decoration, right, from the fills of enclosure ditch [213] (Scale 20mm) Fig 12

The five sherds of pottery from ditch [219] in trench 2 are consistent with the material from the enclosure. They suggest an Iron Age or later date for this feature, as the sherds might be residual from the adjacent activity.

The material associated with the circular enclosure can be dated to the Middle Iron Age, with the presence of a proportion of burnished fabrics, usually grey-black throughout, and of vessels with curvilinear decoration, possibly suggesting a Middle to Late Iron Age date, perhaps the 2nd to 1st centuries BC.

Much of the material from pit [609], on the north-western part of the site, is broadly comparable to the assemblage from the enclosure. However, there is another fabric type and a distinctive vessel form. The lower secondary fill of the pit (606) contained a few plain body sherds in a hard fabric containing smaller pieces of ironstone, with walls only 6mm thick, and with uneven but smoothed surfaces, dark grey-black in colour. The upper fill (604) contained sherds in the same fabric, again hard and thin-walled, 5-6mm thick. The internal surfaces are grey-black and burnished, but on the outer surface there is an under-layer of red, probably a hematite coating. The vessel form is a distinct angular carinated bowl with an elongated neck (Fig 13).



Rim sherds from carinated bowl, burnished black over red hematite coating, from pit [609] (Scale 20mm) Fig 13

The distinctive carinated vessel form indicates an Early to early Middle Iron Age date for the assemblage from pit [609], perhaps the 6th to 5th centuries BC.

6.4 The metalworking debris by Andy Chapman

Quantities of ferrous slag, hammerscale and triangular crucibles, came both from the fills of the small, 10m-diameter, ring ditch, and from the soil deposits to the east, indicating that this small enclosure was probably devoted to metalworking, certainly smithing and possibly smelting, and also bronze casting through the lost wax process.

Table 2: Quantification of ironworking debris

Context	Large pieces of ferrous slag		Small pieces of slag (from samples)	Fine magnetic debris (from samples)	Hammerscale (from samples)	Totals
	Number	Weight (g)				
104 layer (Sample 2)	9	610	340	43	29	1022
204/207 (Sample 3)	10	630	172	59	24	885
205/207	2	55	0	0	0	55
208/213	2	50	0	0	0	50
209/213 (Sample 1)	7	1560	155	44	25	1784
Totals	30	2905	667	146	78	3796

Slags

A total of 2.9kg of larger pieces of ferrous slag was recovered from the enclosure ditches [207], 0.6kg, and [213], 1.7kg; and from layer (104), 0.6kg, and a further 0.7kg of smaller material, less than 50mm diameter, was recovered from the bulk soil samples (Table 2).

The larger material comprises irregular fragments, dense but vesicular, with some impressions of the charcoal fuel. The pieces are typically 50-70mm diameter, with a single larger piece 110mm in diameter. This material all falls within the general category of undiagnostic slag, indicative of ironworking but with no distinctive surface morphology to clearly distinguish between smithing and smelting (EH 2001, 11, fig 15).

There is no tap slag, but as much of the smelting in the Iron Age was carried out in bowl furnaces, without slag tapping, this absence is not definitive. Much of the smaller material from the soil samples and some of the smaller pieces from the hand-collected sample, do have quite fluid surfaces, but these may have come from a bowl furnace with the slag solidifying whilst percolating towards the bottom through the charcoal fuel.

In a few instances there is slag adhering to curved surfaces of fired clay hearth/furnace lining, and a further 63g of irregular fragments of fired clay came from the fill (204) of ditch [207].

There are also small pieces of fuel ash slag, although at least some of this material may have come from hearths used in copper alloy casting.

A further group of material recovered from the bulk soil samples comprises 146g of small irregular pieces of micro-slag, from 3-10mm diameter, which is magnetic, indicating high iron content. This may derive from incomplete separation between slag and iron in a bowl furnace (HMS 5, 3) and perhaps provides evidence for smelting on the site, although if the site was dealing in primary smithing, working up blooms brought in from elsewhere, this might explain all of the debris recovered.

Hammerscale

The fine residue from bulk soil samples from enclosure ditches [207] and [213], and from layer (104) all produced substantial quantities of hammerscale, a total of 78g (Table 2). On sites where there has been evidence for a little iron smithing the quantities recovered are usually too small to be worth weighing.

The material is dominated by flat platelets, typically 1-3mm across, but unusually it also includes some quite large pieces from 8-12mm long (HMS 10). There is also a proportion of spherical hammerscale in all three deposits, varying from 1-5mm diameter, and the larger droplets are also unusually large.



Recovering hammerscale from the fine sample residue Fig 14

Crucibles for copper-alloy casting

There are 26 fragments, weighing 167g, of fired-clay crucibles from layer (104), from the fill (204) of enclosure ditch [207] and with the largest proportion coming from the fills (208, 209 & 211) of the western arm of the enclosure ditch [213].

Table 3: Quantification of crucible fragments

Context	Fragments	Weight (g)
104 layer	1	4
204/207	4	36
208/213	4	16
209/213	14	94
211/213	3	17
Total	26	167

The fragments are all from triangular conical crucibles, with narrow rounded bases, which are characteristic of the Iron Age (EH 2001, 16, fig 22 and HMS, 1). They were used in casting bronze objects in clay moulds through the lost-wax process.

The remains are fragmentary, but the sides are in excess of 50mm long and a near complete profile for a crucible from ditch [207] (not illustrated) provides a depth of 50mm. Two corner sections survive well (Fig 15). Given the number of sherds that do not join it is difficult to estimate the number of crucibles represented, but from the three widely-spaced deposits the minimum number would be four, as there are fragments of at least two crucibles from ditch [213].

The fabric is light grey, containing sparse fine voids. Towards the outer surface the fabric occasionally has a reddish hue. The internal surfaces are sometimes the plain ceramic, although immediately inside the rim the surface is discoloured and bubbled, with glassy concretions. The external surfaces are typically black, bubbled with glassy, vitrified deposits, apart from some sherds from near the base. At the plain rounded rim the crucibles taper to 4mm thick, the bulk of the body is 7-8mm thick, while the base is up to 15mm thick.



Two corner sections from Iron Age triangular crucibles, showing the vitrified outer surface (left) and the inner surface (right)
(Scale 20mm) Fig 15

7 THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS

by Val Fryer

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills of the Iron Age enclosure ditches [213] (Sample 1) and [207] (Sample 3), and from the adjacent deposit [104] (Sample 2), and from the fill of the Early Iron Age pit [609] (Sample 4).

The samples were bulk floated by NA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted (Table 4). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots and seeds were also recorded. None of the samples contained a sufficient density of material for quantification (ie 100+ specimens).

Results

Although charcoal/charred fragments are present throughout, other plant macrofossils are scarce, with most occurring within the assemblage from sample 4. The composition of the assemblages from Iron Age ditches [207], [213] and deposit [104] appears to suggest that these features were situated close to an area of industrial activity, as all contain ferrous globules (generally associated with smithing), black porous and tarry residues, fragments of burnt stone and vitreous concretions. Coal fragments are also present within all three assemblages, but at the time of writing, it is unknown whether these are indicative of the contemporaneous use of coal, or the later contamination of the features. However, it may be of note that coal does not occur within the assemblage from sample 4, pit [609]. Sample 1 also includes a single bramble (*Rubus* sect *Glandulosus*) 'pip' and a possible bur-reed (*Sparganium* sp.) nutlet.

The composition of the assemblage from Sample 4 (from the fill of Early Iron Age pit [609]) is, perhaps, more typical of burnt domestic and/or agricultural refuse, containing both barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, chaff and seeds of common segetal weeds. However the density of material present is low (<0.1 litres in volume), possibly suggesting that primary deposition is not indicated, with the remains instead being derived from scattered or wind-dispersed refuse.

All four assemblages contain small, abraded fragments of burnt/calined bone, but the reason for this is not clear.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages appear to be derived from two very different types of activity, namely industry (particularly smithing) and the disposal/dispersal of either domestic or agricultural refuse. Whilst the material within layer (104) may be in its primary context, it is possible that the other remains are all derived from scattered detritus, which was accidentally incorporated within the fills.

Table 4: Quantification of charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample No	1	2	3	4
Context No	209	104	204	604
Feature No	213		207	609
Feature type	IA Ditch	IA Deposit	IA Ditch	EIA Pit
Cereals				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains) (Barley)	--	--	--	xcf
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains) (Wheat)	--	--	--	x
(glume base)	--	--	--	x
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume base)	--	--	--	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	--	--	--	xx
Herbs				
<i>Bromus</i> sp. (grasses)	--	--	--	xcf
<i>Galium aparine</i> L. (Cleavers)	--	--	--	x
Small Poaceae indet. (grasses)	--	--	--	xcf
Large Poaceae indet. (grasses)	--	--	--	x
Wetland plants				
<i>Sparganium</i> sp. (bur-reed)	xcf	--	--	--
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (hazel)	--	--	--	x
<i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> (bramble)				
Wimmer & Grab	x	--	--	--
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcola >2mm	xxx	x	xx	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	--	--	x	x
Charred root/stem	--	--	x	--
Indet. bud	--	--	--	x
Indet. culm node	--	--	--	x
Indet. seeds	--	--	x	x
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x
Black tarry material	x	--	x	x
Bone	xb	xb	xb	xb
Burnt stone	x	x	x	--
Ferrous globules	xx	xx	xx	--
Small coal fragments	x	x	x	--
Small mammal/amphibian bones	--	--	--	xb
Vitreous material	x	x	x	xxx
Sample volume (litres)	40	40	40	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key to table

x = 1 – 10 specimens; xx = 11 – 50 specimens; xxx = 51 – 100 specimens; xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf = compare; b = burnt

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Early metalworking in Berkshire by Andy Chapman

Iron working

Excavation at the end of the 1990s of a late Iron Age and Roman farmstead at Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Arborfield Garrison, Berkshire (Pine 2003), produced some 53kg of iron slag probably associated with iron smelting. The analysis of this material by Slater (2003a) helped to define a 'previously unrecognised medium-scale iron smelting industry', located on or close to the iron-bearing Bagshot or Bracklesham Beds. Analysis of known slag heaps, largely undated but suspected to be of Roman origin, showed a spread of at least 15km across east Berkshire from south of Wokingham in the west to the Surrey border south of Ascot in the east (Salter 2003b, 64). Slough lies 25km north-east of Wokingham, but can be considered to fall at the north-eastern margins of this localised iron smelting industry.

The east Berkshire iron smelting industry was not only active in the Roman period, a number of excavations have demonstrated that the industry was in production through the Middle and Late Iron Age. At Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham (Lewis *et al* 2011) over 1400kg of slag was recovered, and it was estimated that this represented 5% of the total deposit (Crabb 2011, 19-22). The majority of this came from a single dump of slag, 19m long by 10m wide and up to 0.57m thick, within a small hollow, with an adjacent well-preserved U-shaped smelting furnace, up to 1.45m in diameter, as well as nearby charcoal clamps to produce fuel and ore roasting pits. This final arrangement was in use in the Middle to Late Iron Age, 2nd to 1st centuries BC, but there were also fragmentary remains of earlier bowl furnaces, one with the furnace bottom still *in situ*, indicating an earlier less intensive phase of iron production at the beginning of the Middle Iron Age, perhaps the 4th to 3rd centuries BC.

At Baird Road, Arborfield Garrison, the terminal of a ring ditch and a nearby pit, possibly a well pit, dated to the Middle Iron Age, produced 14kg of slag from both smelting and smithing. This instance is interpreted as small scale iron working carried out on a family farm, in contrast to the industrial scale production at Sadler's End, Sindlesham, where the primary function of the site was iron production.

Similarly, at Grazeley Road, Reading (Ford *et al* 2003) there were two roundhouse ring ditches dated to the Middle Iron Age, forming a small unenclosed settlement. The south-western arc of the southernmost ring ditch produced 13kg of slag, probably from smelting, suggesting that one small area of the farmstead was devoted to ironworking.

At the Iron Age sites that produced the smaller quantities of slag from secondary deposition in ditches or other cut features, there has been some uncertainty in confirming the nature of the activity. Classic tap slag, the undisputed indicator of smelting, has been absent, and the other slags recovered cannot be reliably assigned to either smelting or smithing. However, the presence of smaller quantities and smaller pieces of slag with fluid surfaces has been interpreted as probably deriving from smelting slag that was percolating down through the fuel towards the base of bowl furnaces that had no provision for slag tapping. Small bowl furnaces therefore appear to be the standard smelting furnace through the Middle Iron Age. The much larger furnace at Sadler's End, Sindlesham, may suggest that larger slag-tapping furnaces were in use by the Late Iron Age, the 1st century BC.

The quantities of hammerscale from Castleview Road indicate that iron smithing was being carried out on a possible industrial scale. Whether the range of slags recovered

are debris from charcoal-fuelled smithing hearths or smelting furnaces is less clear. The quantity of slag recovered would tend to favour smithing only. In addition, the site is not located particularly close to the known centres of the local iron smelting industry, as discussed above, and this too might suggest the likelihood that it is was dealing with secondary processing.

The majority of the hammerscale is flat, which derives from mechanical or thermal shock when iron is forged (HMS 10). However, there are smaller quantities of spherical hammerscale, which derive from hot working, either fire welding components together or, perhaps most significantly in this instance, during the primary smithing of the bloom into a bar or billet. The size and the quantity of the material would suggest that while smelting may not have been undertaken at Castleview Road, they were probably at least dealing with primary smithing, perhaps utilising blooms brought in from the nearby smelting industries.

Copper alloy casting

Many Iron Age sites produce a little evidence for copper alloy casting, but the presence of crucible fragments on both sides of the enclosure and in the layer to the east of the enclosure indicates that the copper alloy casting, like the ironworking, was being carried out on a possible industrial scale. No other remains of copper alloy casting have been identified. Some of the bulk slag contains small pieces of fired clay, but none of these are clearly fragments from moulds, and the material is more likely to be fired hearth/furnace lining, but casting debris may be present elsewhere. As lost wax casting necessitates the breaking of the mould, it is often difficult to recover evidence for what objects were being cast, but horse-harness fittings were being produced in quantity in the Middle to Late Iron Age.

8.2 The Castleview site

The evaluation confirmed the results of the geophysical survey in recording no archaeological features in the southern half of the area.

The earliest feature recorded is a pit towards the north-western edge of the site that produced a sherd of rusticated Beaker pottery of the Early Bronze Age. Also in the north-western area, there was a large pit that produced an assemblage of Early to early Middle Iron Age pottery. The geophysical survey indicates the possible presence of further pits in this area, suggesting that there may be an area of settlement marked only by a pit scatter.

In the north-eastern part of the site, three trenches examined the circular enclosure and the two flanking anomalies recorded by geophysical survey. The ditch was shown to be 1.0m deep, and enclosing an area 10m in diameter. The fills produced ferrous slag and hammerscale from ironworking, certainly primary smithing, if not also smelting, as well as crucibles from lost-wax copper alloy casting. The two extensive anomalies flanking the enclosure, which are each at least 12m in diameter, were shown to be spreads of dark material including debris from ferrous metalworking. The pottery assemblage indicates that this enclosure dates to the Middle to Late Iron Age, perhaps 2nd-1st centuries BC. The quantities of material present suggest that the enclosure was a specialised metalworking area. The discussion of the metalworking debris, above, indicates that the ironworking at Slough may be an outlier to a known localised ironworking area focused on East Berkshire to the south-west, where there are several known sites of Iron Age and Roman date exploiting iron deposits associated with the iron-bearing Bagshot or Bracklesham Beds.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AAF 2007 *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archive Forum
- Bayley, J, Crossley, D, & Ponting, M, 2008 *Metals and Metalworking: A research framework for archaeometallurgy*, Historical Metallurgy Society, Occasional Publication, 6
- Butler, A, 2012 *Archaeological geophysical survey of land adjacent to Castleview Road, Slough, Berkshire: February 2012*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, 12/25
- CgMs 2011 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Land at Castleview Road, Slough*, CgMs Consulting
- CgMs 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works, Land at Castle view Road, Slough*, CgMs Consulting
- Crabb, S, 2011 Slag analysis, in J Lewis *et al*, 2000, 19-22
- EH 1991 *Exploring our past*, English Heritage
- EH 2001 *Archaeometallurgy*, Centre for Archaeology Guideline, 1
- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and MoRPHE Project Planning*, English Heritage
- Ford, S, Pine, J, and Weale, A, 2003 *Middle Iron Age occupation and iron working and a late Saxon hearth at Grazeley Road, Reading, Berkshire*, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report, 03/01b
- Hammond, S, 2011 An Iron Age iron-smelting site at Baird Road, Arborfield Garrison, Berkshire, 2002, in S Preston (ed) 2011, 33- 42
- HMS 1 undated *Crucibles and moulds*, Historical Metallurgy Society: Archaeology Datasheet, 1
- HMS 5 undated *Bloomery iron smelting slags and other residues*, Historical Metallurgy Society: Archaeology Datasheet, 5
- HMS 6 undated *Bloom refining and smithing slags and other residues*, Historical Metallurgy Society: Archaeology Datasheet, 6
- HMS 10 undated *Hammerscale*, Historical Metallurgy Society: Archaeology Datasheet, 10
- Hydrock 2011 *Ground Investigation at Castleview Road, Slough*, Hydrock
- IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists
- IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists
- Lewis, J, Crabb, S, and Ford, S, 2011 *Bronze Age urns, Iron Age smelting and Saxon charcoal production at Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire*, Thames Valley Archaeological Services draft publication report
- Knight, D, Vyner, B, and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage, An updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust
- NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology
- Pine, J, 2003 The excavation of a late Iron Age/Roman settlement and iron production site at Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Arborfield Garrison, Berkshire, *Berkshire Archaeo Journal*, 76, 37- 67

Preston, S, 2011 *Archaeological Investigations in the Silchester Hinterland: Exploring landscape and use around the Roman town*, Thames Valley Archaeological Services monog, 9

Salter, C, 2003a Metalworking debris, in J Pine 2003, 57-58

Salter, C, 2003b The regional context for ironworking, in J Pine 2003, 63-65

Salter, C, 2011 Metal-working debris, in S Hammond, 2011, 39-41

Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press

APPENDIX: CONTEXT LIST

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	30m x 2m N-S	499503/178529	21.41m aOD	20.66m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.25m deep	—
102	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.50m deep	—
103	Natural	Orange sandy clay		—
104	Deposit	Blackish-brown sandy clay spread	0.28m deep	I A pottery, Slag Flint Sample 2

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	30m x 2m E-W	499493/178547	22.34m aOD	21.71m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.33m deep	—
202	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.30m deep	—
203	Natural	Orange sandy clay		—
204	Fill of 207	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.82m deep	I A pottery. Slag. Flint. SF 1. Sample 3
205	Fill of 207	Yellow-grey sandy clay	0.32m deep	I A pottery. Slag
206	Fill of 207	Dark grey-brown silt sand	0.14m deep	I A pottery. Slag
207	Cut of ditch	V- shaped enclosure ditch West side	1.55m wide 1.04m deep	
208	Fill of 213	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.20m deep	Slag, Crucible
209	Fill of 213	Dark brown clay	0.40m deep	I A pottery, Slag, crucible, flint Sample 1
210	Fill of 213	Light orange-brown sandy clay	0.50m deep	I A pottery
211	Fill of 213	Dark brown sandy clay	0.20m deep	I A pottery, crucible

212	Fill of 213	Light brown clay sand	0.10m deep	
213	Cut of ditch	U-shaped enclosure ditch. East side	2.45m wide 1.00m deep	
214	Fill of 215	Med grey-brown sandy clay	0.17m deep 0.15m wide	
215	Cut of posthole	Circular V- shape profile	0.17m deep	
216	Fill of 217	Med grey-brown sandy clay	0.14m deep 0.09m wide	
217	Cut of posthole	Circular V- shaped profile	0.14m deep	
218	Fill of 219	Dark brown sandy clay	0.40m deep	I A pottery. Flint
219	Cut of ditch	V-shaped boundary ditch	0.92m wide 0.40m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	30m x 2m N-S	499473/178562	23.25m aOD	22.25m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.35m deep	—
302	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.30m deep	—
303	Natural	Orange sandy clay		—
304	Cut of ditch	Ditch U-shaped, aligned E-W	1.30m wide 1.85m deep	
305	Fill of 304	Light brown-orange sandy silt clay	0.30m deep	
306	Fill of 304	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.60m deep	
307	Layer	Coarse gravel flint. Possible trackway surface	0.15m deep	
308	Deposit	Blackish-brown sandy clay spread	0.25m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	30m x 2m E-W	499434/178540	22.11m aOD	21.56m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.40m deep	—
402	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.15m deep	—
403	Natural	Orange sandy clay		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	30m x 2m NE-SW	499376/178539	21.89m aOD	21.24m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.35m deep	—
502	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.30m deep	—
503	Natural	Orange sandy clay and angular flint		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	30m x 2m NE-SW	499282/178591	23.30m aOD	22.95m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
601	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.25m deep	—
602	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.10m deep	—
603	Natural	Sub angular coarse gravel/ flint mixed orange sand		—
604	Fill of 609	Very dark brown-black clay sand. charcoal	0.51m deep	1 A pottery. Sample 4
605	Fill of 609	Medium brown sandy gravel. Frequent gravel flint	0.29m deep	1 A pottery

606	Fill of 609	Very dark brown-black silt sand clay. Charcoal flint	0.24m deep	I A pottery
607	Fill of 609	Orange-brown sandy clay. flint	1.0m deep	
608	Fill of 609	Grey brown sandy loam	0.34m deep	I A pottery
609	Cut of pit	Circular U-shaped	2.45m wide 1.10m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	30m x 2m N-S	499233/178655	21.97m aOD	21.57m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
701	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.30m deep	—
702	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.10m deep	—
703	Natural			—
704	Fill of 705	Light brown sandy clay gravel. Frequent stone flint	0.56m deep	B A Pottery. Flint Small find 2
705	Cut of ditch	U-shaped with narrow base	1.10m wide 0.56m deep	
706	Fill of 707	Orange-brown silt clay. Stone roots	0.38 deep	
707	Cut of tree hollow	Uneven U-shape	0.38m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	30m x 2m E-W	499268/178520	20.80m aOD	20.30m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
801	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.30m deep	—
802	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.20m deep	—
803	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	30m x 2m N-S	499291/178483	20.91m aOD	20.30m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.35m deep	—
902	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.25m deep	—
903	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
10	30m x 2m E-W	499252/178485	20.51m aOD	19.96m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1001	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.35m deep	—
1002	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.20m deep	—
1003	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
11	30m x 2m E-W	499330/178482	20.71m aOD	20.11m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1101	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.30m deep	—
1102	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.30m deep	—
1103	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
12	30m x 2m N-S	499335/178444	20.53m aOD	19.87m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1201	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.38m deep	—
1202	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.28m deep	—
1203	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
13	30m x 2m E-W	499303/178444	20.63m aOD	19.93m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1301	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.40m deep	—
1302	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.30m deep	—
1303	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
14	30m x 2m E-W	499346/178406	20.37m aOD	19.82m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1401	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.40m deep	—
1402	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.15m deep	—
1403	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
15	30m x 2m N-S	499345/178373	20.30m aOD	19.80m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1501	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.35m deep	—
1502	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.15m deep	—
1503	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
16	30m x 2m E-W	499319/178367	20.29m aOD	19.83m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1601	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.36m deep	—
1602	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.10m deep	—
1603	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
17	30m x 2m E-W	499344/178330	19.97m aOD	19.45m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1701	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.30m deep	—
1702	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.22m deep	—
1703	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
18	30m x 2m N-S	499379/178331	19.84m aOD	19.32m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1801	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.35m deep	—
1802	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.17m deep	—
1803	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
19	30m x 2m E-W	499380/178296	19.54m aOD	19.06m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1901	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.37m deep	—
1902	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.11m deep	—
1903	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
20	30m x 2m N-S	499412/178288	19.53m aOD	18.98m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2001	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.31m deep	—
2002	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.24m deep	—
2003	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
21	30m x 2m E-W	499422/178330	19.76m aOD	19.24m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2101	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.38m deep	—
2102	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.14m deep	—
2103	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
22	30m x 2m N-S	499422/178366	19.58m aOD	19.15m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2201	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.34m deep	—
2202	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.09m deep	—
2203	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
23	30m x 2m E-W	499385/178370	20.23m aOD	19.69m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2301	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.41m deep	—
2302	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.13m deep	—
2303	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone. Coarse flint gravel west end		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
24	30m x 2m N-S	499383/178404	20.29m aOD	19.86m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2401	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.34m deep	—
2402	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.09m deep	—
2403	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
25	30m x 2m E-W	499422/178404	20.28m aOD	19.66m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2501	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.39m deep	—
2502	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.23m deep	—
2503	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
26	30m x 2m N-S	499453/178408	20.51m aOD	19.91m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2601	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.39m deep	—
2602	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.21m deep	—
2603	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
27	30m x 2m E-W	499465/178441	20.81m aOD	20.28m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2701	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.32m deep	—
2702	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.21m deep	—
2703	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
28	30m x 2m N-S	499424/178440	20.79m aOD	20.12m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2801	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.43m deep	—
2802	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.24m deep	—
2803	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
29	30m x 2m E-W	499379/178443	20.56m aOD	19.87m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
2901	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.42m deep	—
2902	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.27m deep	—
2903	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
30	30m x 2m N-S	499381/178479	20.66m aOD	20.06m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
3001	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.35m deep	—
3002	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.25m deep	—
3003	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
31	30m x 2m E-W	499423/178480	21.17m aOD	20.57m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
3101	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.30m deep	—
3102	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.30m deep	—
3103	Natural	Sub angular coarse gravel flint, patches of orange sandy clay		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
32	30m x 2m N-S	499459/178476	21.45m aOD	20.93m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
3201	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.32m deep	—
3202	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.20m deep	—
3203	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone. Coarse gravel flint south end		—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
33	30m x 2m E-W	499510/178488	21.54m aOD	21.04m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
3301	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay. Stone and roots	0.30m deep	—
3302	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.20m deep	—
3303	Natural	Orange sandy clay isolated flint/stone		—



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



Northamptonshire
County Council