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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. NGR SP 73019 88637

Claire Brown

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For: David Wilson Homes – East Midlands

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Summary

An archaeological excavation was undertaken in November 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), on behalf of David Wilson Homes, off Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The fieldwork was a post-determination requirement on a proposed planning application for a residential development in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12.

Geophysical survey has identified anomalies of probable archaeological origin, including enclosures and evidence of probable settlement activity across the development site. A scheme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken to test the geophysical anomalies to determine their date, character and state of preservation.

The archaeological evaluation confirmed the geophysical anomalies as archaeological features, identifying areas of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement activity. The area of settlement comprises a series of adjoining enclosures, along with larger enclosures, boundary ditches and pits. Pottery from the west of the development area (Area 1) consisted of abraded fragments of mid-late Iron Age pottery, but the majority of the ceramic remains suggest an occupation period of 1st -3rd centuries AD with the majority of finds from the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD in the east of the area.

The geophysical survey shows a semi-circular enclosure with possible D-shaped adjoining enclosure which, together with the dating evidence provided by the pottery indicate early to middle Iron Age use of the western field for occupation. Moving west across the development site, the evidence suggests early-mid Roman settlement activity with a roughly north-south enclosure ditch curving round to the east delineating the settlement area. Some pottery of a later 3rd century date indicates later Roman occupation in the south-eastern corner of the area.

Archaeobotanical samples from five of the excavated features revealed evidence of grain processing so it is likely that the grain was grown in the area and used for bread and/or beer making.

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A129.2017.

Introduction

This document presents the results of an archaeological excavation by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), on behalf of David Wilson Homes East Midlands, on land off Burnmill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The work was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment in* advance of the erection of 149 dwellings including

associated infrastructure and landscaping. Geophysical survey had identified anomalies of possible archaeological origin including possible prehistoric enclosures (Sumo Services Ltd. 2017).

Following recommendations by the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist, the archaeological field excavation was undertaken to provide indications of the character and extent of the site's heritage assets in order to determine a suitable mitigation strategy.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The development area consists of three parcels of land, amounting to *c.*6.5 ha, and is located north of a farm trackway that runs west from Burnmill Road, on the northern edge of Market Harborough (Fig. 1). The site is accessed via a field track from the top of Burnmill Road and is currently pasture with tall hedgerows along the eastern sides and a line of trees forming the site's northern boundary, with the farm buildings to the west.

Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger® Sheet 141 (Kettering & Corby) 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
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The site is located on high ground (approximately 129m OD) on the northern edge of a modern housing estate (Fig. 2). To the north, the land slopes downwards towards the Grand Union Canal (Leicester Section Market Harborough Branch) which lies at *c.*108m OD. To the south, Burnmill Road slopes downwards towards the town centre of Market Harborough, which lies at around 88m OD. The development area therefore lies on a fairly prominent ridgeline landscape feature just above the 120m contour line.

The British Geological Survey shows the underlying geology to be mid Pleistocene Till overlying Whitby Mudstone Formation.

Figure 2: Proposed development area highlighted in red (WSI, ULAS, 2017)

Archaeological and Historical Background

The Desk-based Assessment for the project (Hunt and Score 2017) notes that there are several known archaeological sites containing Iron Age and Roman settlement close to the proposed development. A large number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the area recently, including large-scale archaeological investigation on the prehistoric and Roman site at Airfield Farm to the west, and excavations on an Iron Age and Roman settlement site at Waterfield Place to the east, as well as Desk-based Assessments in relation to other proposed development schemes within the surrounding area.

The development area lies in what was once within the rural hinterland of the town. Although the site itself has no obvious agricultural earthworks there is ridge and furrow surrounding it, suggesting it was once part of the medieval fields surrounding the town. The map evidence suggest that the site was fields on the outskirts of the settlements of Market Harborough and Great Bowden during the medieval period and has remained agricultural in nature since then.

A geophysical survey (Sumo 2017, Fig. 3) found extensive anomalies indicative of Iron Age/Roman settlement across the site – particularly in the east of the survey area, possibly related to other sites along the ridge. Evidence of later prehistoric or Romano-British settlement activity has been revealed, comprising a series of adjoining enclosures, indicative of a ladder settlement, along with larger enclosures, boundary ditches and pits.

Figure 3: Geophysical Survey of the proposed development area. (SUMO 2017)

Aims and Methods

The aims and objectives of the evaluation were specified in the Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2017). The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.
-

Specifically in relation to the results of the geophysical survey, the aims are to:

- Characterise the prehistoric settlement resource and investigate intra-regional variability.
- Investigate intra-regional variations in development of fields and linear boundaries.
- Investigate landscape context of rural Roman settlements.

Within the stated project objectives, the initial aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site

in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the development. All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014), and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and *Archaeological excavations* (2014).

All work was considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight *et al.* 2012).

Fieldwork was carried out in November 2017 and involved the machine excavation of a number of evaluation trenches across the development area. Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. A total of 38 trenches (30m x 1.8m) were excavated providing a 3% sample of the area. Figure 4 shows the location of the trenches excavated.

Results

Thirty eight trenches were located to target the features present in the geophysical survey (Figs 4 and 5).

Machine excavation established the presence of medium density archaeology in the western field, Area 1 (seven trenches out of twenty four either had no archaeology or only showed evidence of ridge and furrow, **T1, T2, T6, T12, T20, T21, T22,**). There was evidence of medium to high density in the eastern field, Area 2. (two trenches out of thirteen were empty of archaeology or only had traces of ridge and furrow, **T25 and T26**). **Appendix 1** contains details of all trenches.

The trenches in Area 1 showed evidence of enclosures, probably related to stock management, whereas those in Area 2 had contrasting evidence, including pits and boundary ditches, suggestive of settlement activity.

Figure 4: Trench plan overlain on the geophysical survey. The pale grey diagonal line in Area 2 indicates a 10m stand-off for the service trench.

Figure 5: Trench plan showing detail of archaeological features after excavation.
Pale green indicates trenches empty of archaeology

Area 1

Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.(Fig. 6)

Trenches 1, **2**, **6**, and **7** were empty of archaeological features.

Trenches 3 and **4** targeted a curving linear feature on the western edge of Area 1 which formed part of series of enclosures and linear features probably associated with livestock control. This anomaly was represented in both trenches as a ditch. The ditch in **Trench 3** was unexcavated, but hand-excavation of the same feature in Trench 4, ditch [32], showed that it was shallow (0.13-0.24m) with a rounded profile that may have been truncated by the ridge and furrow present in Area 1 (Fig. 7 and 8). Bone was recovered but it was undated due to lack of associated dateable pottery

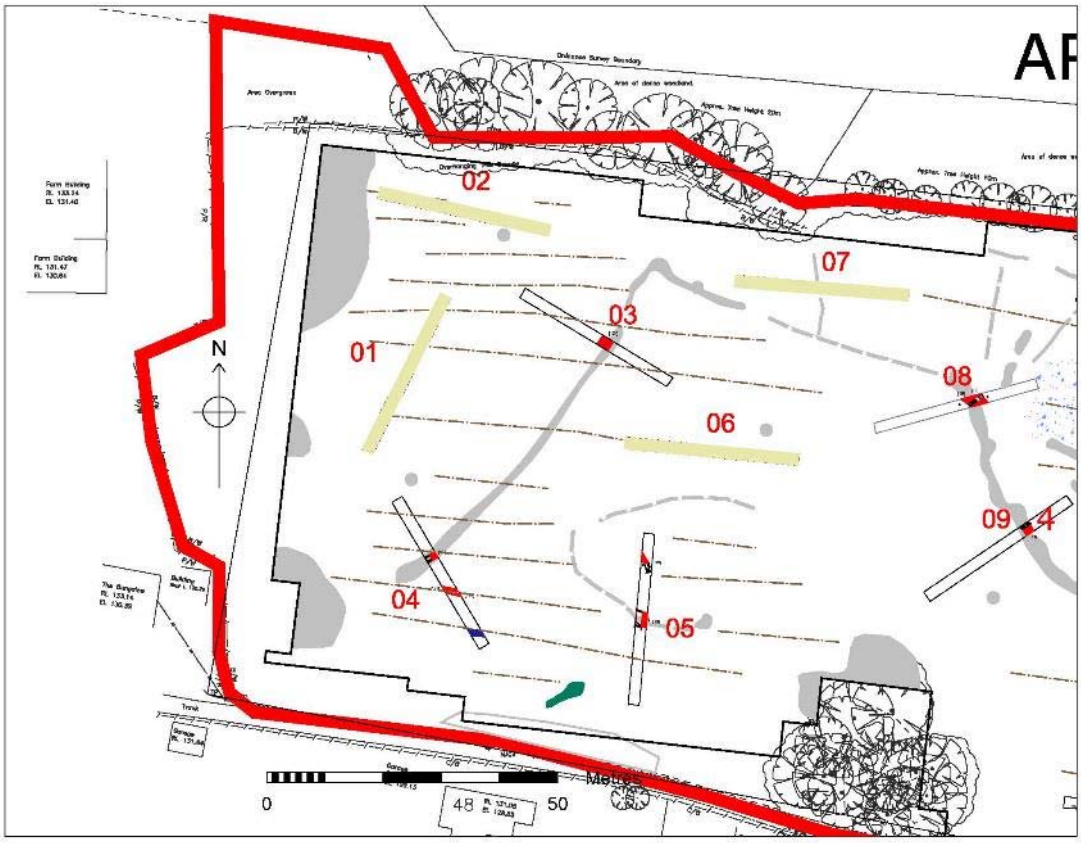

Figure 6: Showing the linear boundary feature and associated curvilinear features and the trenches that overlay them.

Figure 7: Excavated section of ditch [32] in Trench 4

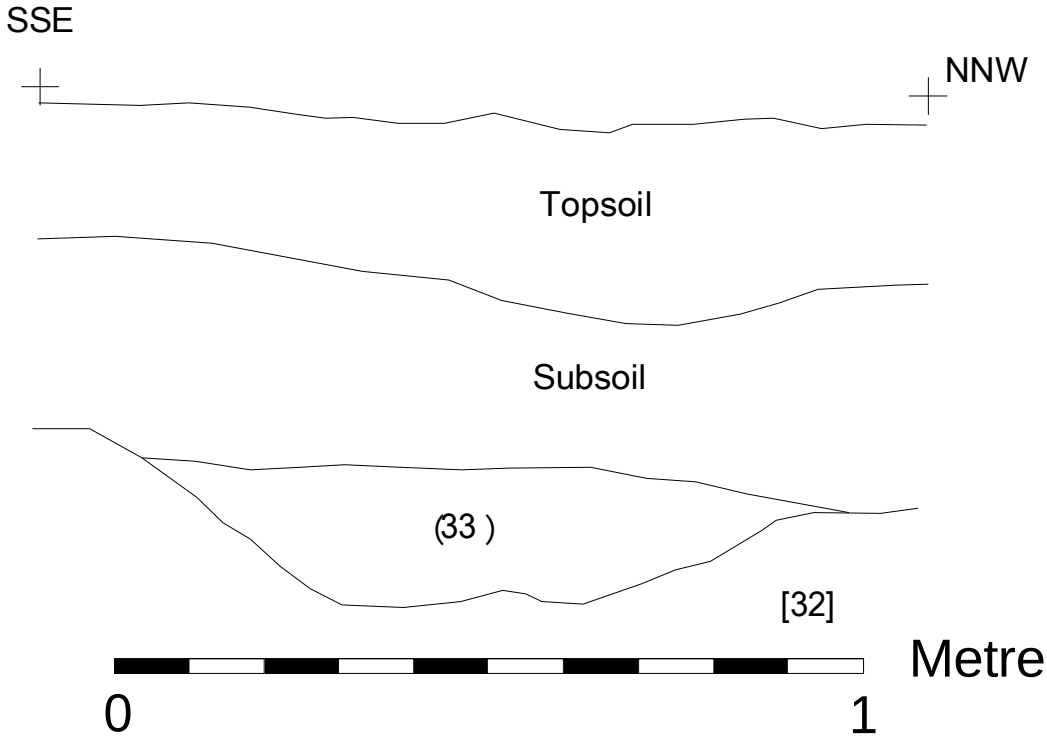

Figure 8: Section drawing of ditch [32] in Trench 4

Trench 5 was located to coincide with a C-shaped curvilinear feature in the southern half of the area. Within this trench a shallow ditch [16] measured *c.*0.13-0.24m in depth and had an irregular profile, probably truncated by ploughing (Fig. 9). Another linear feature in this trench,

[09] (Figs. 10 & 11) was proven by excavation to be a shallow (*c*.0.05m deep) gully terminus, with irregular sides and base and orientated SE - NW. There were no finds in either feature.

Figure 9: Truncated ditch [16] in Trench 5

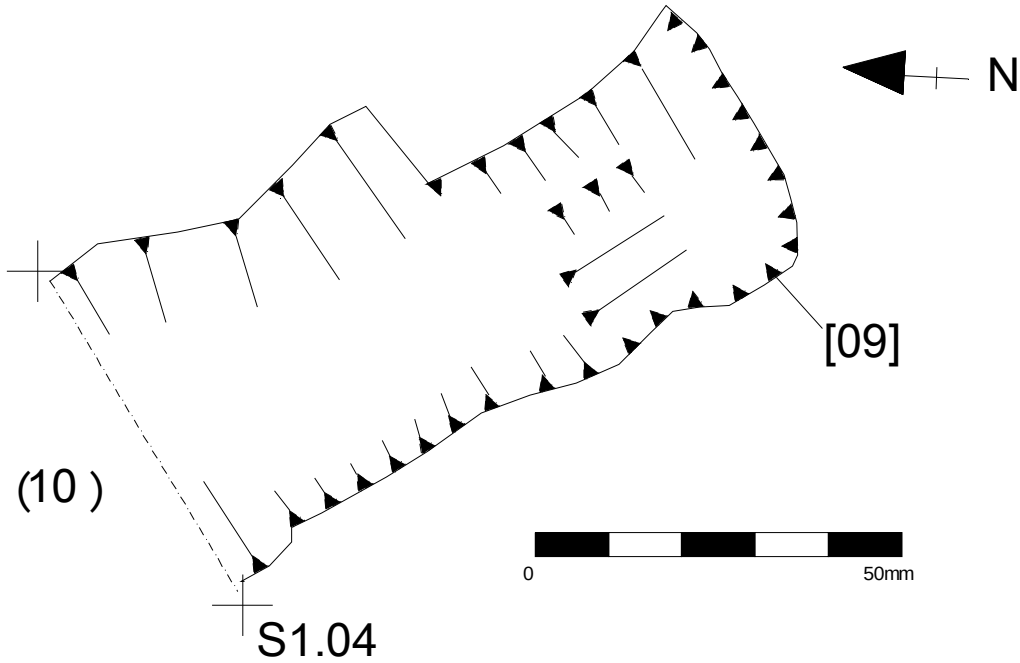

Figure 10: Gully Terminus [09] in Trench 5

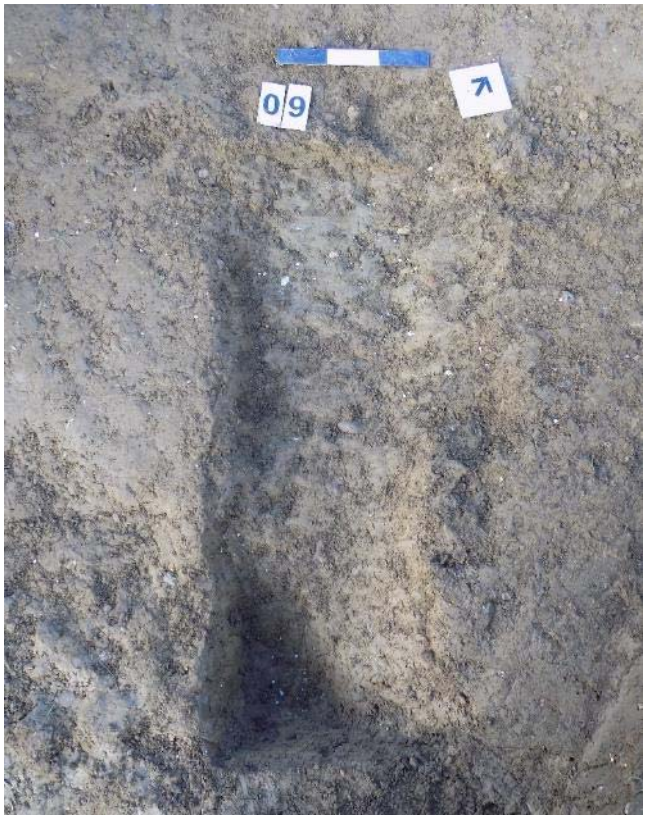

Figure 10: Gully Terminus [09] in Trench 5

Trenches 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14

These trenches targeted a large semi-circular feature and its environs in the middle third of Area 1 (Fig. 12). Of these interventions, only Trench 12 proved negative.

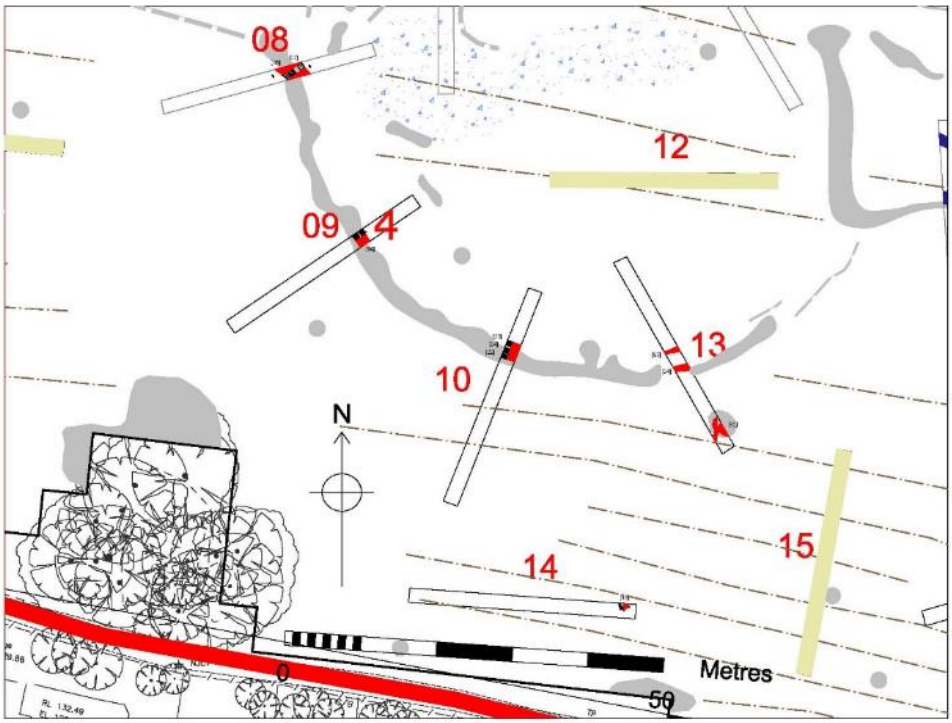

Figure 11: Close up of semi-circular Iron Age enclosure ditch with trenches overlaid.

Trenches 8, **9** and **10** all contained similar evidence relating to the large enclosure anomaly represented by the geophysical survey. This was represented by a large concave ditch of two phases, with the likely recut located on the outer edge of the original boundary.

In **Trench 8** the earliest of the two ditches, [07], had a broad U-shaped profile measuring *c.*1.8m wide x 0.55m deep and contained two fills. The recut had a V-shaped profile measuring c.1.5m wide x 0.4m deep and contained three fills. A small quantity of mid-late Iron Age pottery and animal bone was found in the middle fill of ditch [07] (See figs 13, 14, and 15).

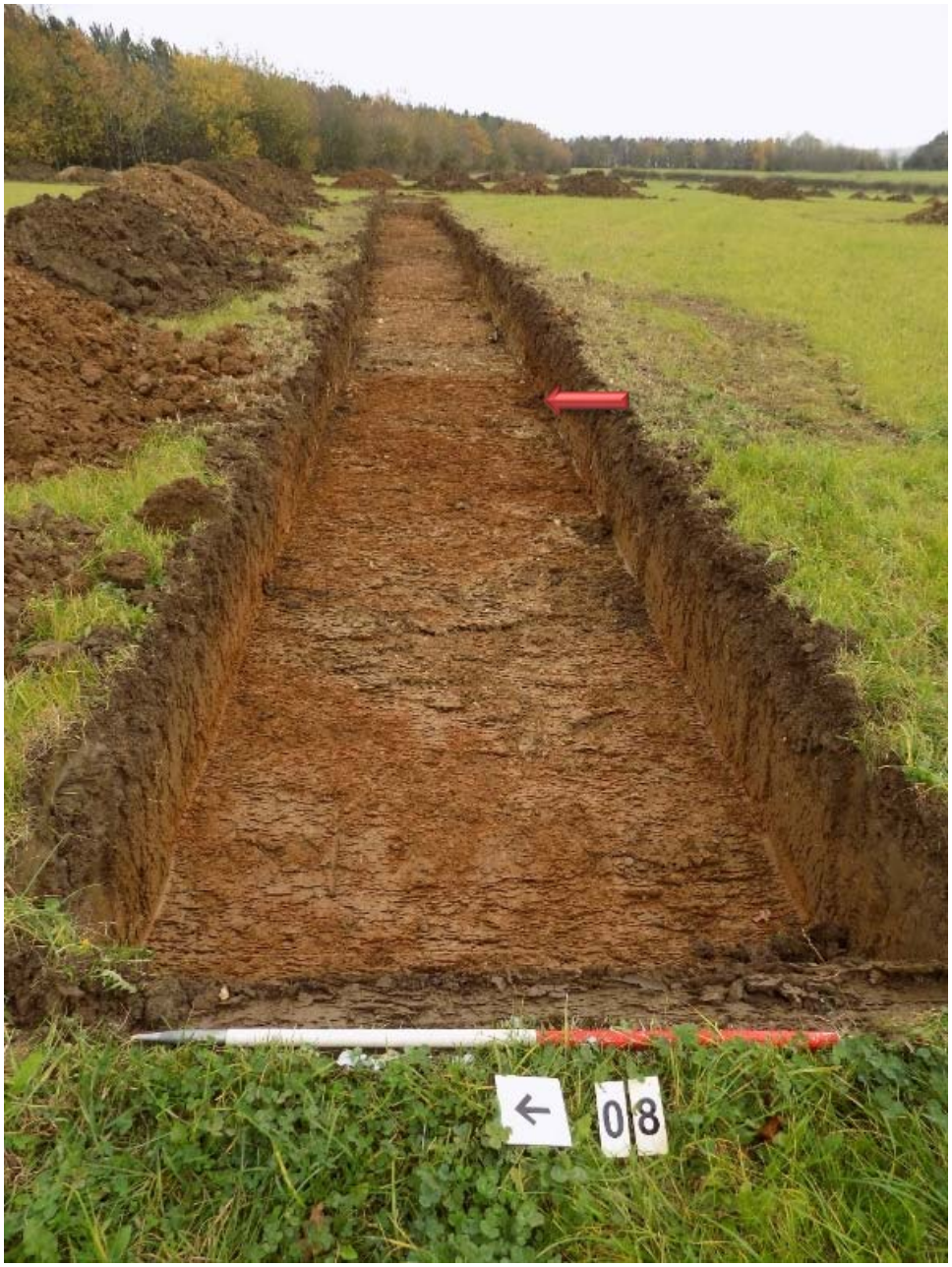

Figure 12: East facing photo of Trench 8 with ditch feature [05] and [07] indicated.

Figure 13: Photo of excavated section of recut enclosure ditch [05] and [07] in Trench 8

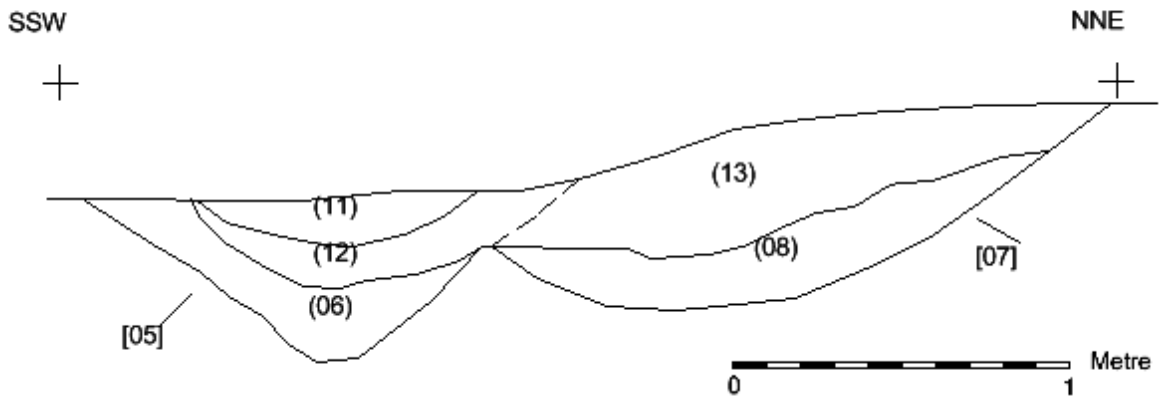

Figure 14: Section drawing of enclosure ditch [05] and [07]

Similar evidence for the continuation of the recut boundary ditches was excavated in **Trenches 9 and 10**. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the earlier ditch and animal bone was recovered from both ditches in **Trench 10**.

Features in **Trench 13** were unexcavated, but showed evidence of a continuation of the boundary ditch [94] as well as two other features, one linear [96] and the other irregular [92] (Fig. 16)

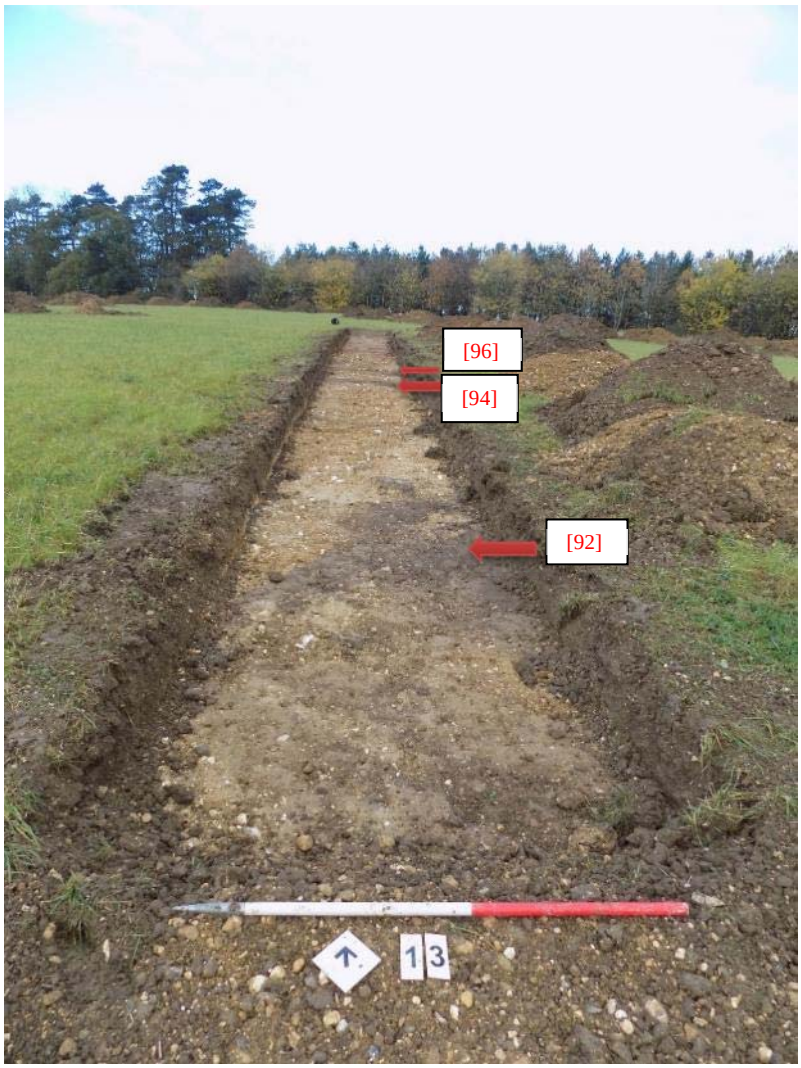

Figure 15: Trench 13 showing features [92], [94] and [96]

Trench 12 near the middle of the semi-circular enclosure contained no archaeology.

Trench 14 was positioned to the south of the semi-circular enclosure to coincide with a potential pit feature on the geophysical survey. This anomaly proved to be a large pit, [18], measuring *c.*1.31m in diameter and 0.45m deep (Figs. 17 and 18). The pit contained a single fill, from which animal bone and frequent charcoal fragments were recovered.

Figure 16: Quarter sectioned pit [18] in Trench 14

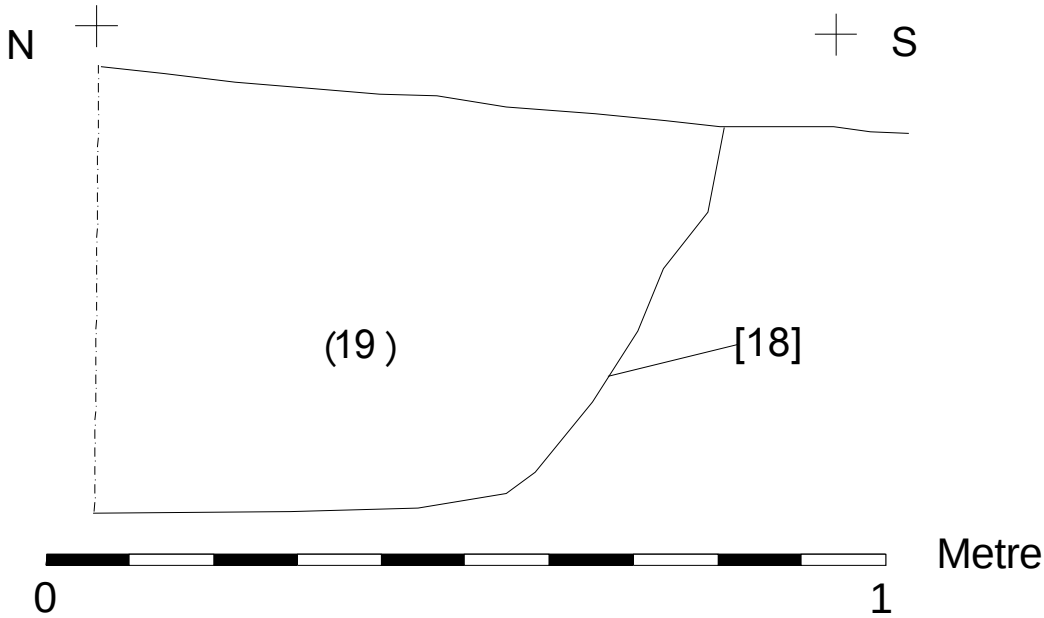

Figure 17: Section drawing of pit [18] in Trench 14

Trenches 11 and 16

These trenches were located to target the straight linear feature running along the northern edge of Area 1 from east to west; a feature that probably formed a continuation of the stock enclosure/boundary ditches in the rest of this area (Fig. 19).

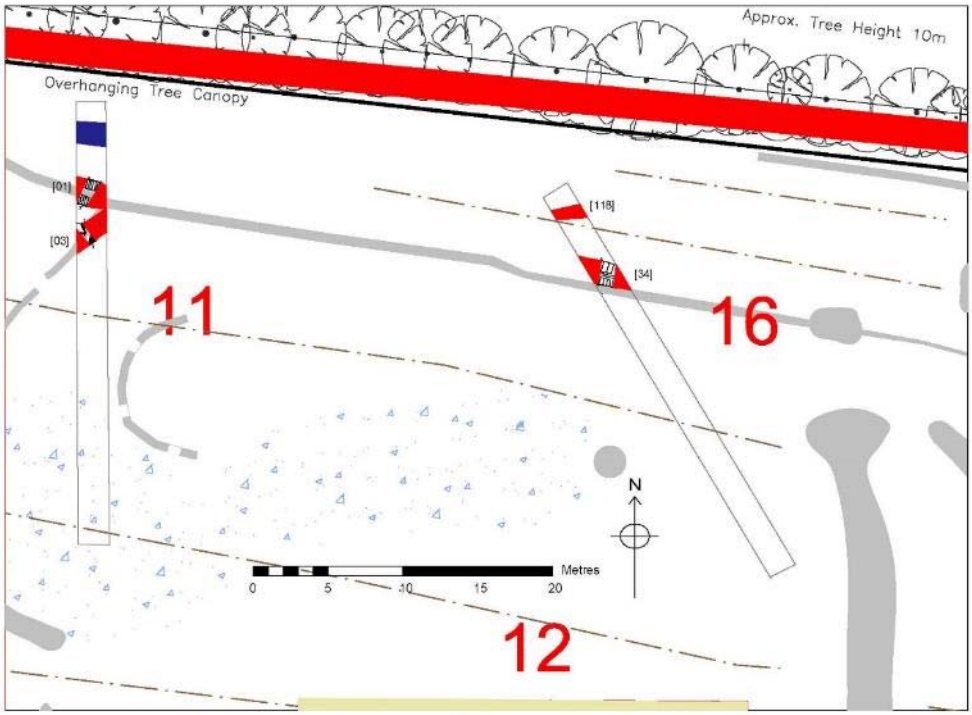

Figure 18: Trenches 11 and 16

Both trenches contained a ditch with a similar, shallow U-shaped profile, although the feature in **Trench 11** was shallower than that in **Trench 16** (0.25 m compared to 0.40m – see Figs. 20 & 21). Ditch [01], in **Trench 11**, contained animal bone dated to mid-late Iron Age pottery.

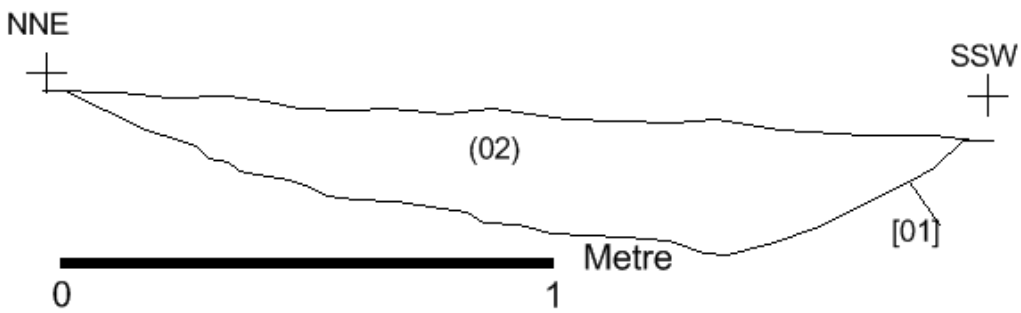

Figure 19: Ditch section [01] in Trench 11

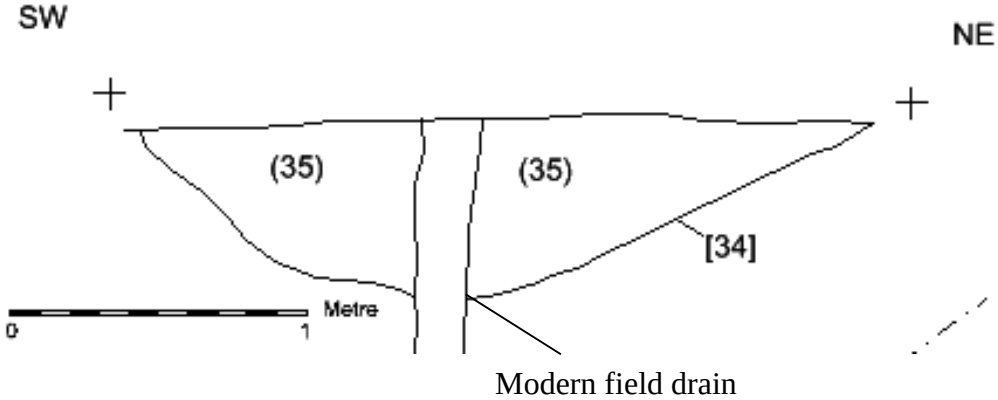

Figure 20: Ditch section [34] in Trench 16

A second shallow ditch [03], was located in Trench 11, and associated with a curvilinear geophysical anomaly. This also produced Iron Age pottery and bone (Fig. 22).

Figure 21: [01] and [03] in Trench 11

An undated and unexcavated linear feature [118] lay to the north of the main boundary in **Trench 16** (Fig. 19).

Trenches 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Trench 20 contained no archaeology.

Trenches 17, **18**, **22** and **24** were placed to investigate the geophysical anomaly of a probable D-shaped enclosure and associated boundary ditch (see Fig. 23)

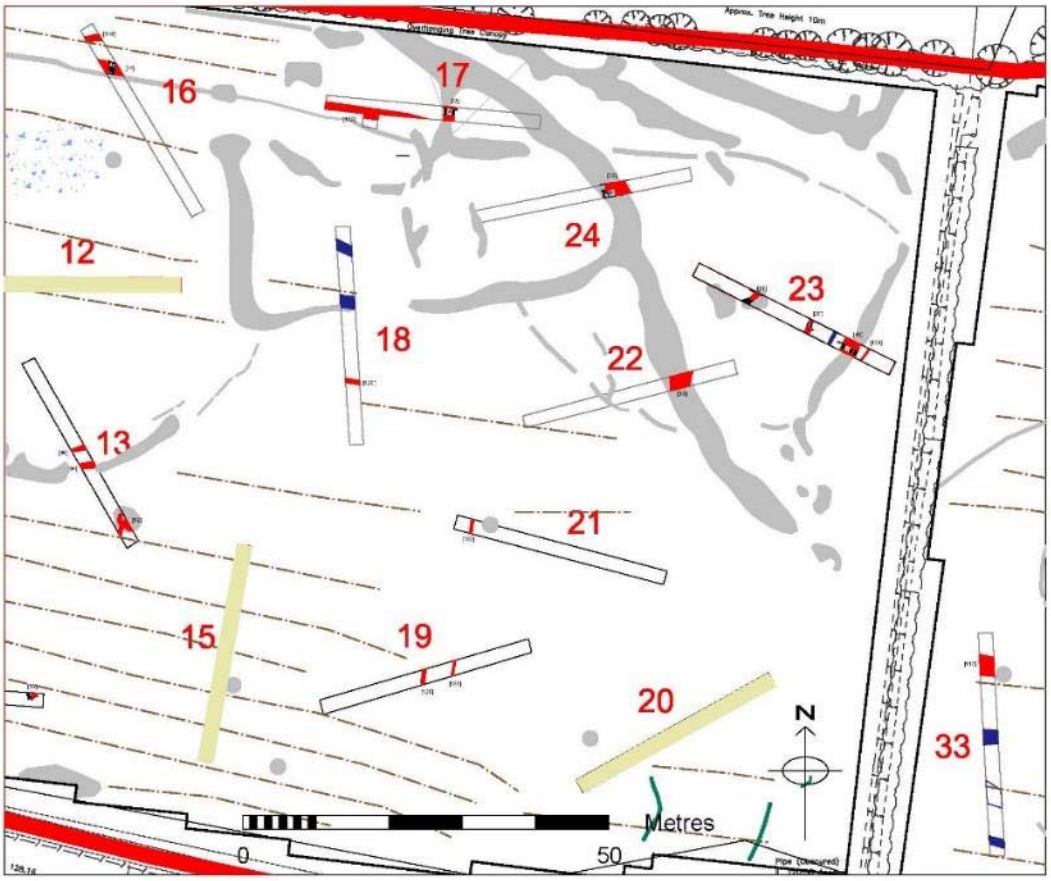

Figure 22: Detail showing D shaped enclosure and ditch with associated trenches.

Trench 24 was placed over a linear feature forming the eastern edge of the D shaped enclosure and continuing in a north-south direction to the eastern edge of Area 1. The ditch [36] was partially excavated to a depth of approximately 0.5m but its profile proved difficult to define due to the presence of a colluvial build-up that covered the feature. The excavation of this feature revealed mid-late Iron Age pot and animal bone (Fig. 24).

Figure 23: Partially excavated drainage ditch [36] in Trench 24

Trench 17 did not contain comparable evidence for the same ditch but did contain a shallow linear feature [31] (*c*.0.25m deep, 1m wide) oriented north/south that contained late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery and animal bone (Figs 25 and 26).

Figure 24: Ditch [30] (31) in Trench 17

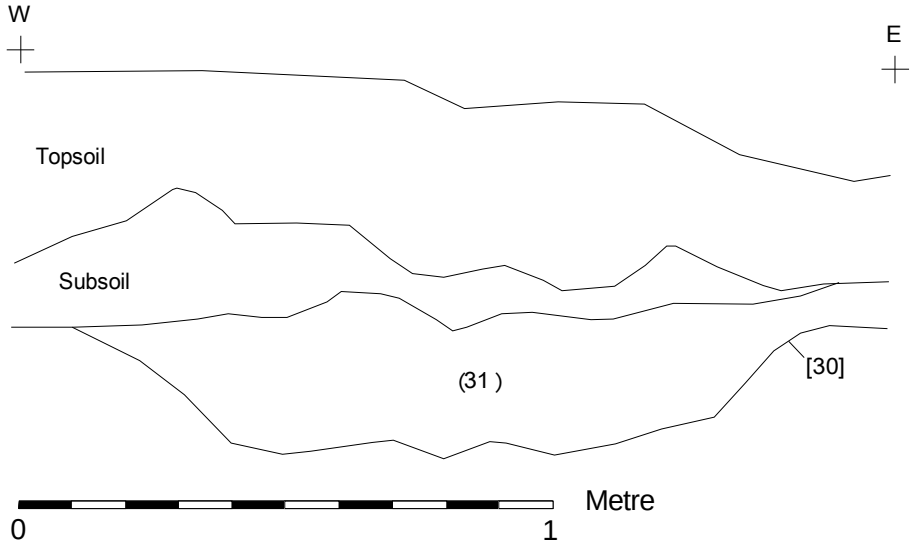

Figure 25: Section of ditch [30] in Trench 17

Figure 26: Trench 18 with faintly visible D-shaped enclosure ditch section [126]

Trench 18 contained a ditch corresponding with the southern border of the D-shaped enclosure [126] but this was not excavated (Fig. 27).

Trench 19 contained two linear features [128] and [130] running approximately north/south, neither of which were excavated (Fig. 28).

Figure 27: Showing linear features [128] and [130]

Trench 23 was located over four linear anomalies lying on an approximate N-S alignment to the east of the D-shaped enclosure at the eastern margin of Area 1 (Fig. 29).

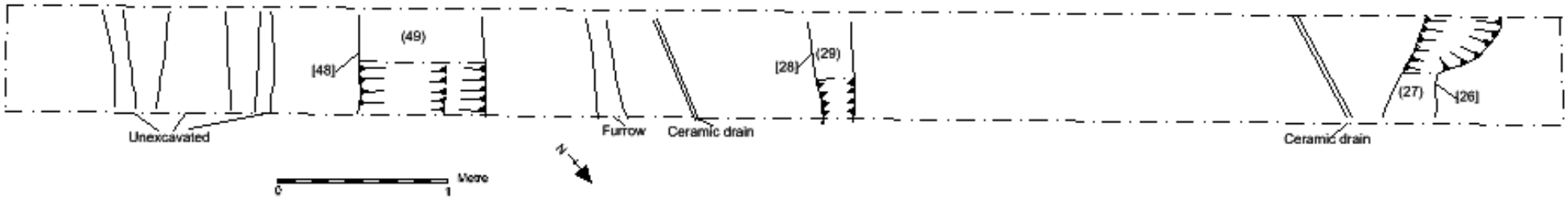

Figure 28: Trench 23

Two of the ditches were very shallow ([26] and [28], 0.07m and 0.13m respectively, and contained occasional bone. They were both truncated/disturbed by bioturbation and possibly hill wash so were possibly drainage ditches. The third ditch [48] was deeper (0.37m) and 2m in width with a possible recut on the north-east side although only a single fill was apparent. This feature seems likely to have been a boundary ditch (Fig 30 and 31)

Figure 29: Likely boundary ditch [48] in Trench 23

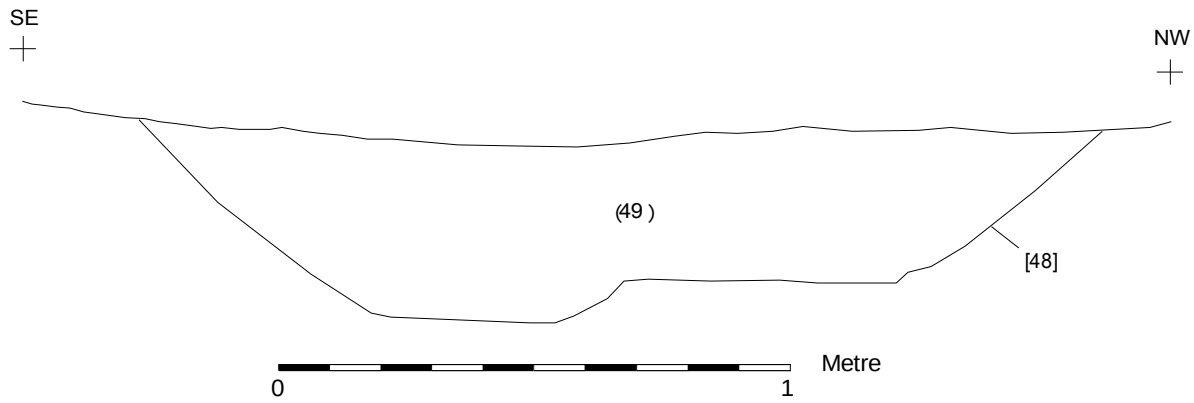

Figure 30: Section of ditch [48] in Trench 23

Area 2

The geophysical survey results on the eastern half of this area showed a series of adjoining sub-rectangular and irregularly shaped enclosures which potentially represented a Romano-British ladder settlement, with associated pits and linear features such as ditches and gullies. Particularly significant is a curvilinear feature running diagonally north east to south west and then turning south which is suggestive of a boundary ditch delineating the western margin of the settlement (Fig. 32)

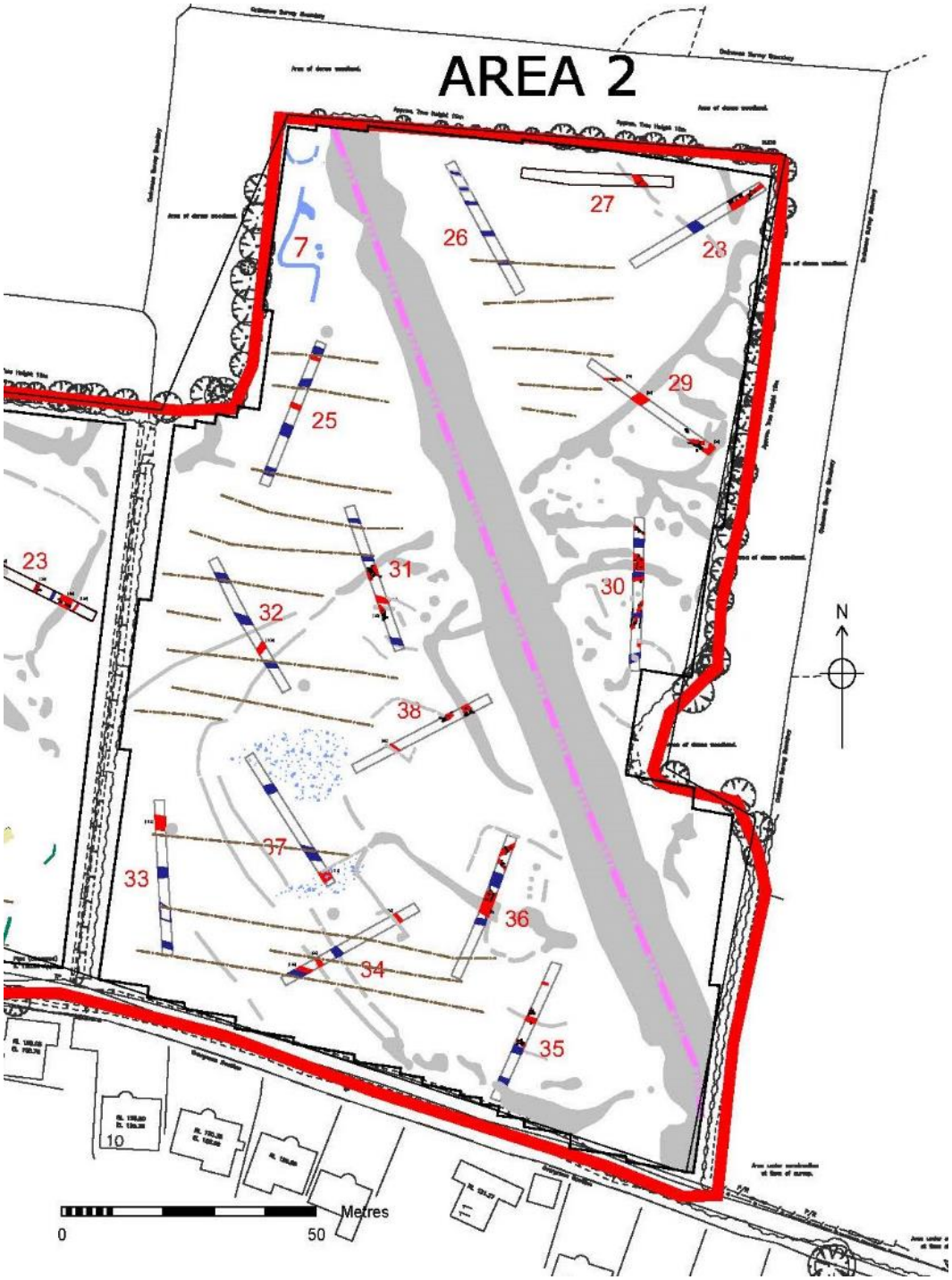

Figure 31: Area 2 (The diagonal grey line marks a delimited area around a water pipe)

Trenches 25-30

Trench 25 contained a series of linear features, none of which were excavated although some are likely to have been furrows. **Trench 26** also contained linear features associated with ridge and furrow cultivation, while **Trench 27** targeted a linear feature [58] that proved on excavation to be a drainage ditch producing no pottery or bone.

Trench 28, situated at the north east corner of Area 2 contained a deep ditch [138] which produced late Iron-Age pottery and animal bone. It was possibly part of the boundary ditch running along the western margin of the settlement. It was 1m deep and 3m wide (see Fig. 33) and comprised 3 fills containing bone, ceramic building material, slag and abraded fragments of Iron Age pot. The second fill, (140) also contained significant charcoal and burnt bone, and samples taken from it revealed small amounts burnt chaff derived from spelt wheat and barley. It was possibly intersected by a gully [146] which was empty of finds (Figs. 33, 34 and 35)

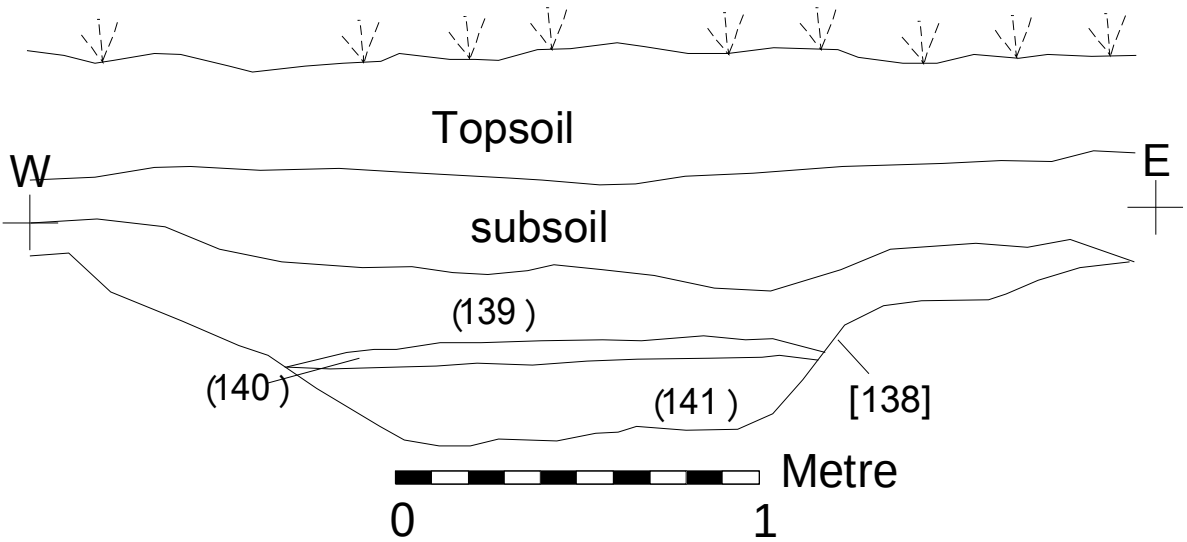

Figure 32: Ditch [138], probably boundary ditch in Trench 28

Figure 33: Gully [146] running perpendicular towards ditch [138] in Trench 28

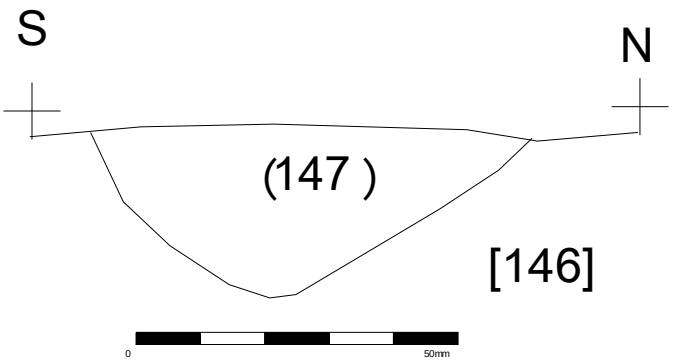

Figure 34: Section of gully [146] in Trench 28

Trench 29, lying directly to the south of Trench 28, contained a possible continuation of the boundary ditch [84], that also appears in **Trenches 31** [70] and **32** [108], although it remained unexcavated. It also contained a shallow ditch [76] into which was cut a post hole [78], that produced undated bone and ceramic building material (Figs 36 and 37).

Figure 35: Ditch [76] containing possible post hole [78] in Trench 29

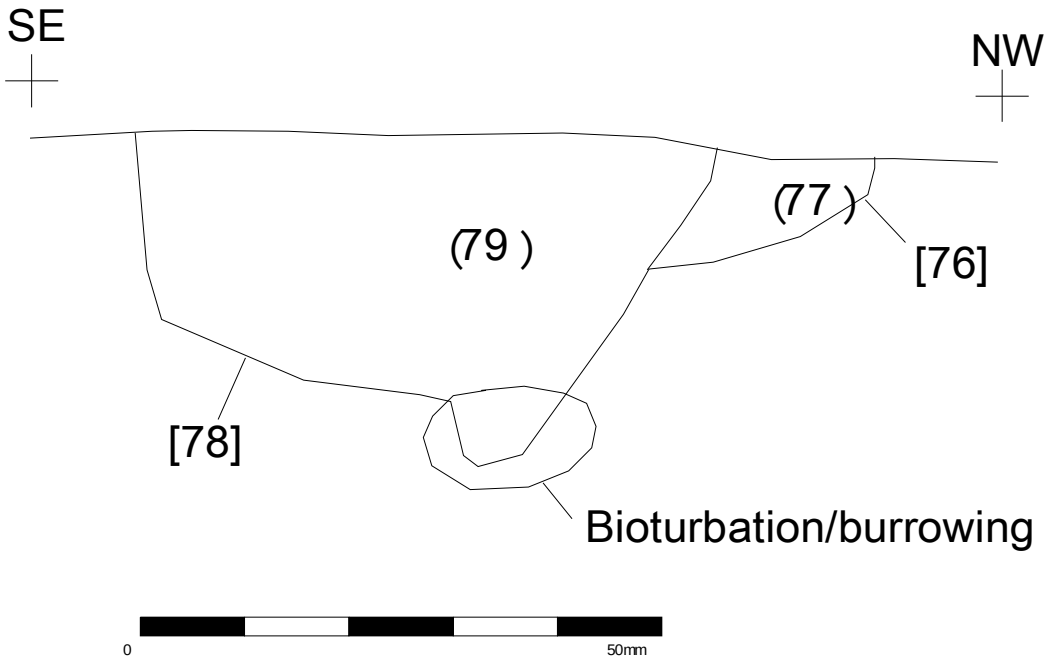

Figure 36: Ditch [76] with post hole [78] in Trench 29

Adjacent to ditch [76], to the north-west, was a further shallow post hole [56] which produced small amounts of undated bone (Fig. 36).

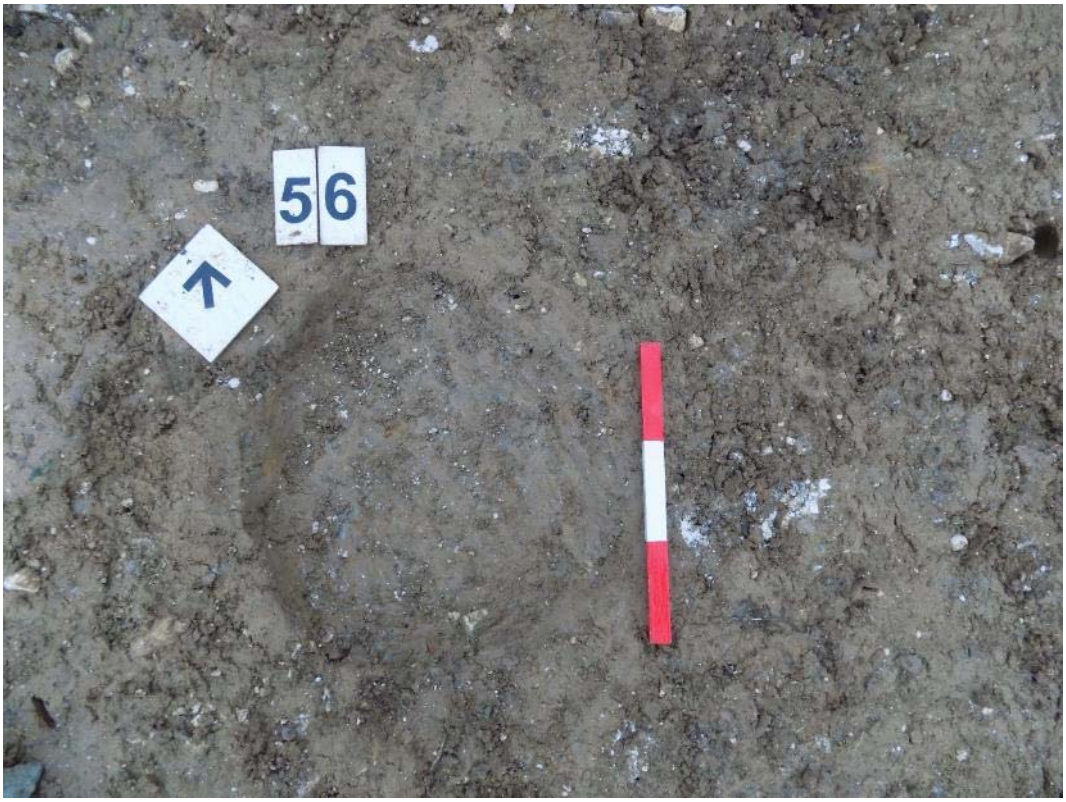

Figure 37: Shallow post hole [56] in Trench 29

Trench 30 lay due south of **Trench 29** and was orientated north to south, in the east of Area 2 targeting geophysical anomalies of pits, linear and curvilinear features in the probable Romano-British settlement area. It contained, in addition to furrows, a pit [42], two ditches [46] [52] and two gullies [50] and [54] and a further unexcavated linear feature [101] (Fig. 39). The features produced the largest concentration of pottery of any of the trenches on the site, dating from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

The pit [42] was shallow (0.19m) and irregularly shaped and contained an iron nail, Romano-British 1st century pottery and some charcoal (Figs 40 and 41)

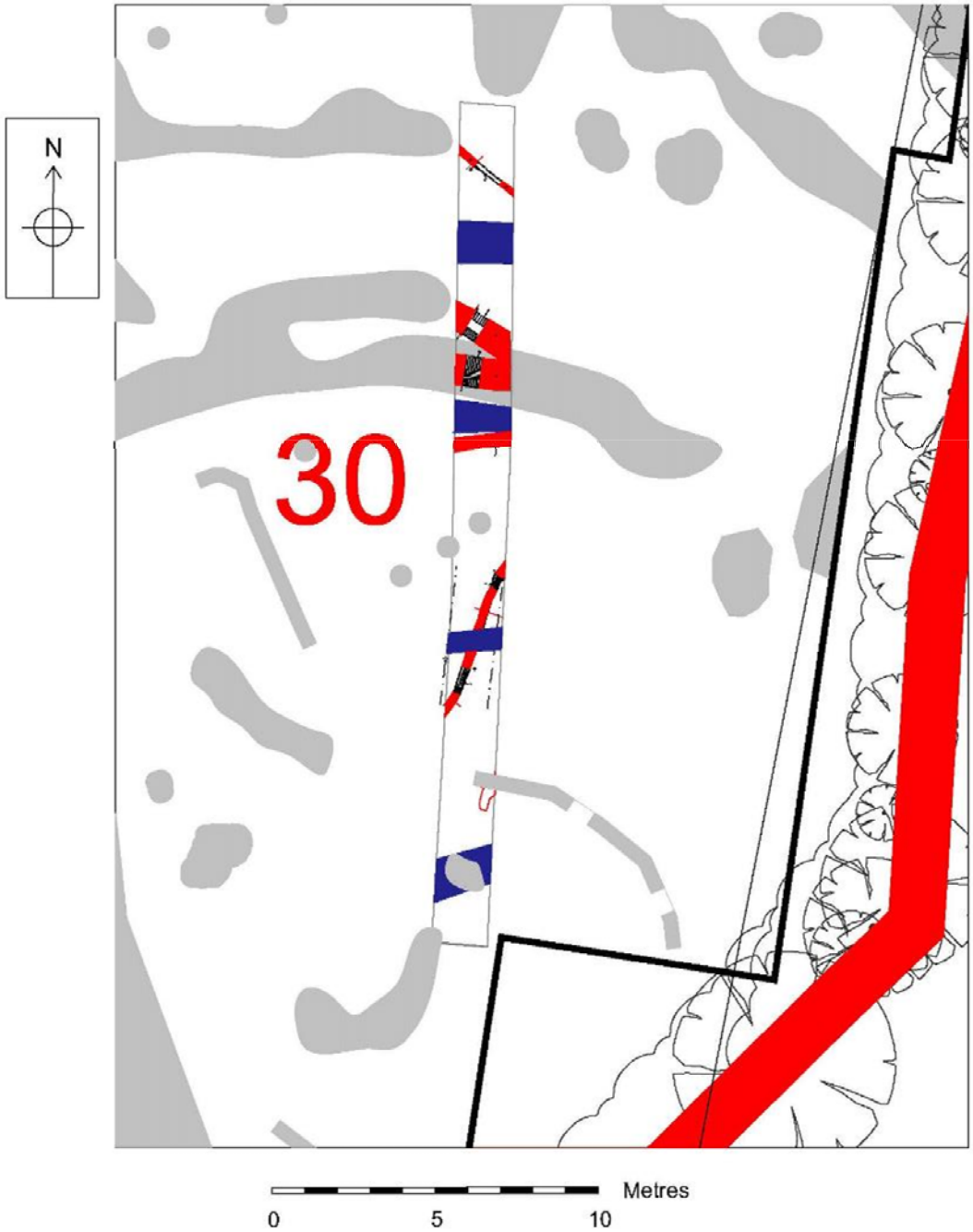

Figure 38: Trench 30 with ridge and furrow in blue

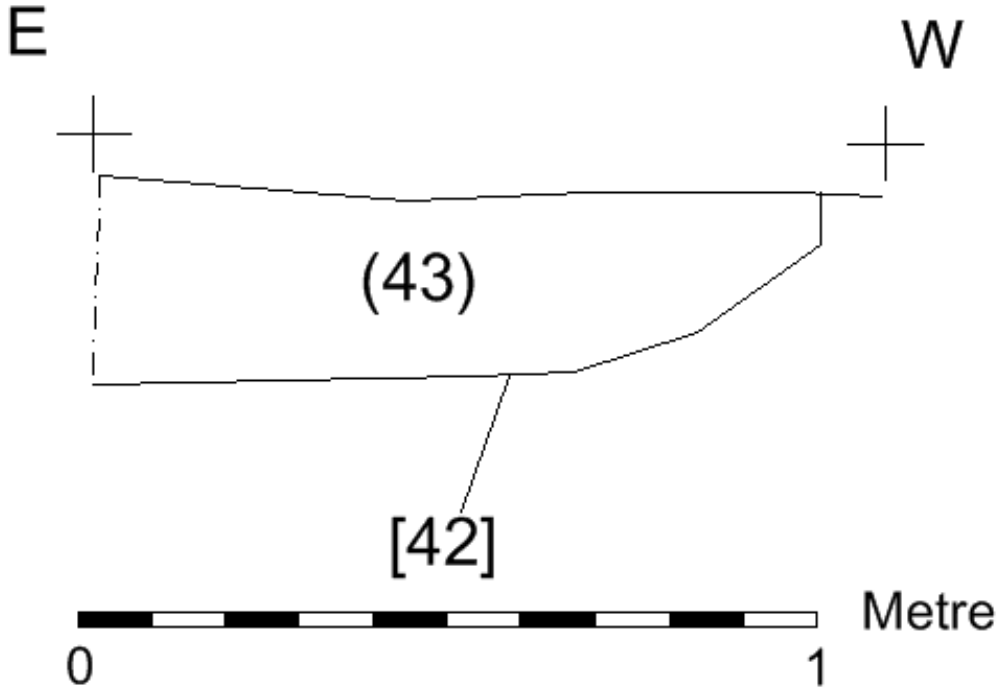

Figure 39: Pit [42] in Trench 30

Figure 40: Pit [42] in Trench 30, looking south

Of the remaining linear features, the section of Ditch [46] contained the largest amount, and most varied collection of pottery recovered in one feature on the site as well as animal bone dated mid to 1st century AD. It was 0.5m in depth and 1.15 m wide, V-shaped in profile and aligned roughly east west (Figs 42 and 43).

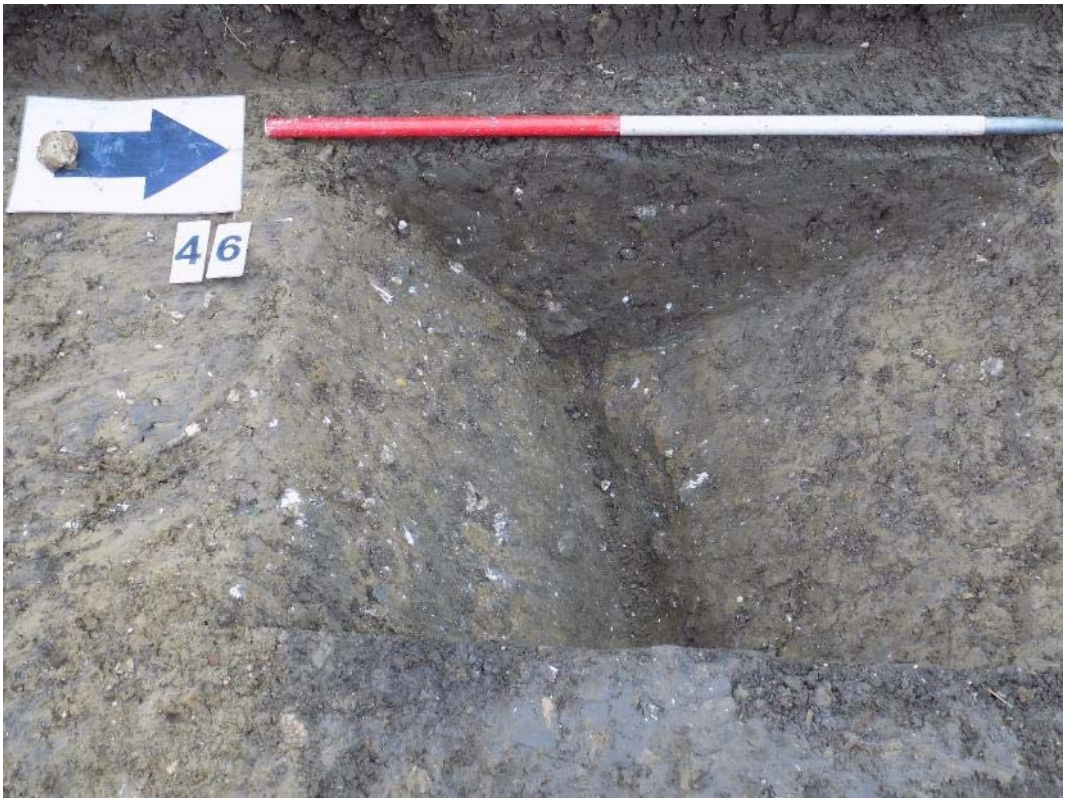

Figure 41: Ditch section [46] in Trench 30

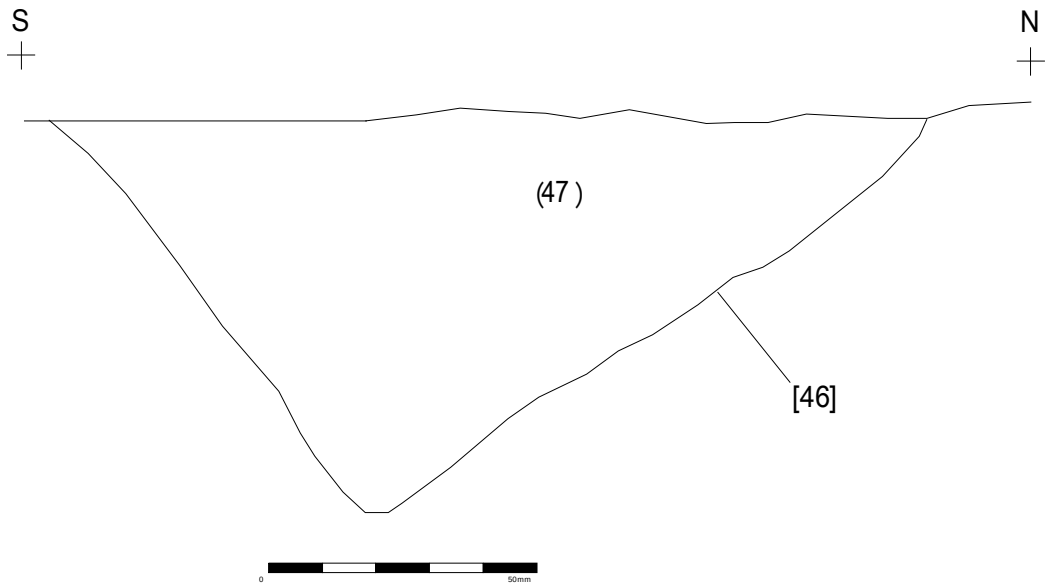

Figure 42: Section Drawing of Ditch [46] in Trench 30

Trench 25 and Trenches 31-38

Trench 25 contained faint linear features [136] and [106] as well as evidence of ridge and furrow, and was not excavated (Fig. 44).

Figure 43: Trench 25

Trenches 32, 33 and 37 similarly contained ridge and furrow as well as faint linear features which were not excavated (Figs 45, 46 and 47). A sondage into the linear feature [110] in **Trench 37**, produced a single piece of Roman Grey ware.

Figure 44: Trench 32

Figure 45: Trench 33

Figure 46: Trench 37

Trench 31 was positioned to investigate the boundary ditch running north east to south west across Area 2 that defined the western edge of the Romano British settlement. As well as the boundary ditch [70] there was a wide, shallow pit [38] and a further linear feature [114] that was unexcavated..

The boundary ditch section [70] was 1.64m wide and 0.38m deep and produced Romano-British pottery and animal bone of 1st-2nd century date (Figs 48 and 49).

Figure 47: Section of boundary ditch [70] in Trench 31

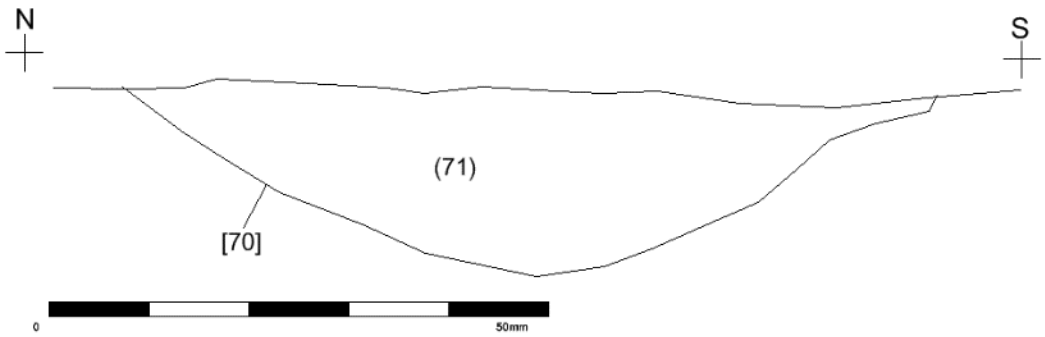

Figure 48: Section of boundary ditch [70] in Trench 31

The pit [38] in **Trench 31** was 1m south of the unexcavated linear feature [114] and was more than 0.90m in diameter x 0.30m in depth and contained a single piece of mid-late 1st century Romano-British pottery and animal bone (Figs 50 and 51). The single fill was charcoal rich and an environmental sample from this feature contained high concentrations of chaff from wheat and some spelt wheat.

Figure 49: Quarter section of pit [38] in Trench 31

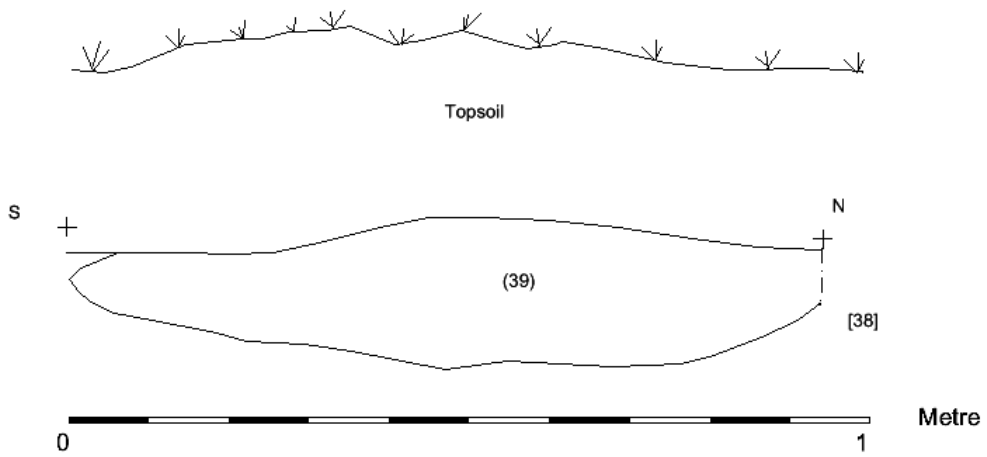

Figure 50: Quarter section of pit [38] in Trench 31

Trench 38 was placed over a one axis of a rectilinear feature inside the area of likely Romano-British settlement – ditch [40]. The excavated section of the ditch was oriented north west to south east, and was flat-bottomed with moderately steep sides, 0.45m deep and 1.4m wide. It contained 307g of Roman 1st and 2nd century pottery and animal bone (Figs 52 and 53) Samples were taken of the ashy fill which revealed very high concentrations of wheat and some barley grains.

Figure 51: Ditch section [40] in Trench 38

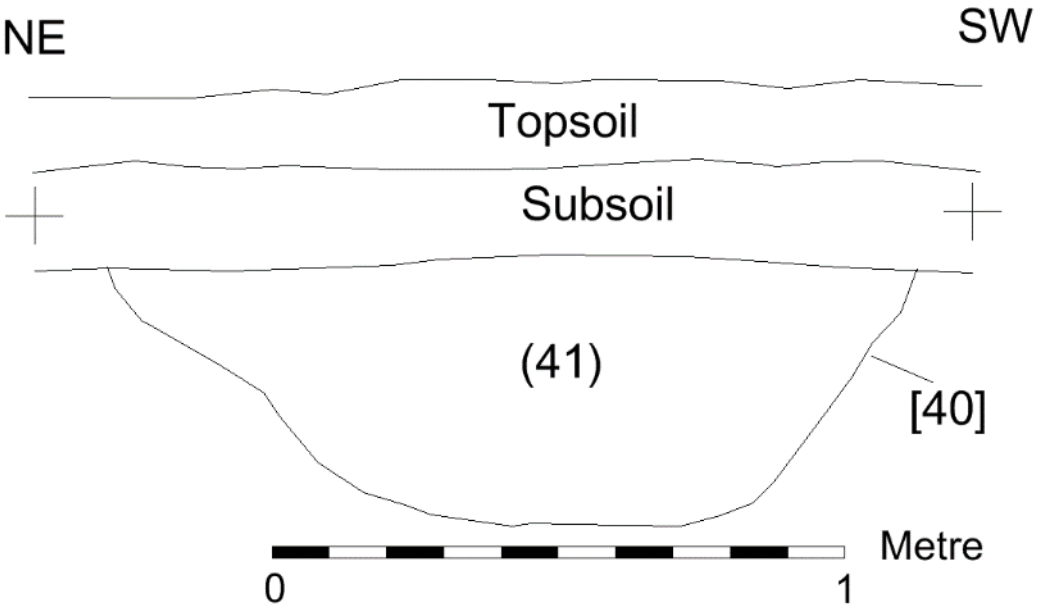

Figure 52: Ditch section [40] in Trench 38

2m south west of Ditch [40] was a shallow oval pit [80], that was 0.2m deep and 1.9m wide with a single ashy fill. The fill was sampled and showed small amounts of wheat grains with some spelt and barley. There were no pottery finds. (See Figs 54 and 55).

Figure 53: Pit [80] in Trench 38

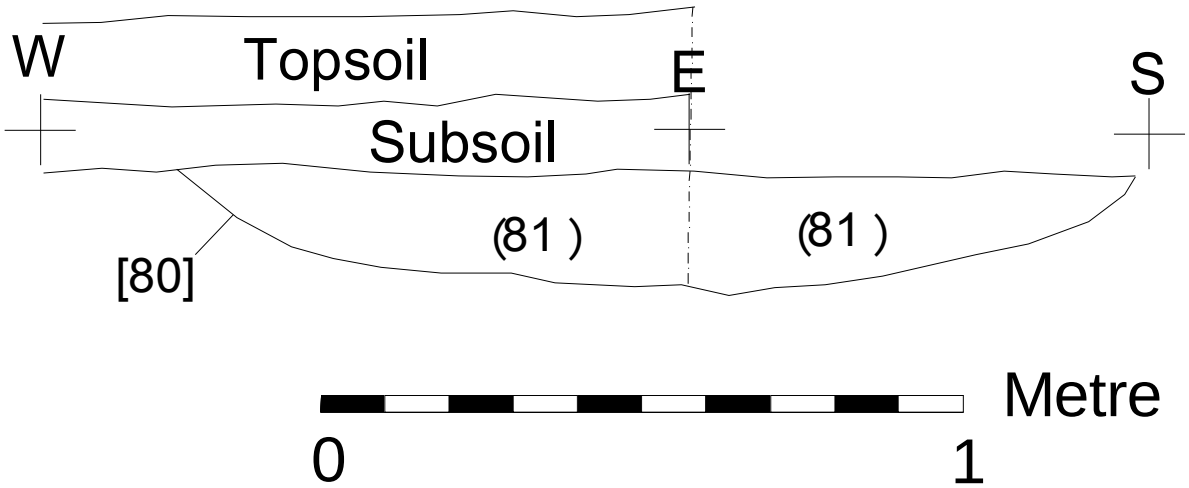

Figure 54: Section of pit [80] in Trench 38

There was a further linear feature [82] running east/west that was unexcavated.

Trench 34 investigated linear features [148], [88] and [62], one of which [62] was excavated and produced 1st / 2nd century AD pottery.

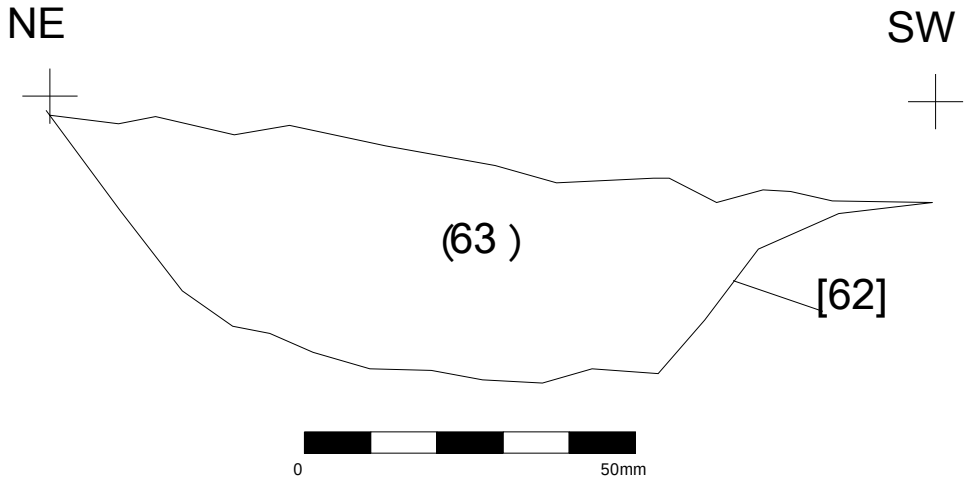

Figure 55: Gully [62] in Trench 62

Trenches 35 and 36 targeted features in the south east of Area 2 which produced pottery of the latest date on the site, indicating a 3rd and 4th century timespan, perhaps indicating the south eastern corner of Area 2 is just catching the western edge of a later Roman settlement that might continue to the east of the site along the ridgeway.

Trench 35 contained a linear feature, [102], unexcavated, and two gullies, [60] and [64]. Gully [60] was a gully shallow, flat bottomed terminus (0.15m deep and 0.28m in width) and as well as late Roman pottery contained a charcoal-rich fill which, when sampled, contained small amounts of wheat and spelt grains (See Figs 57 and 58).

Figure 56: Gully terminus [60] in Trench 35

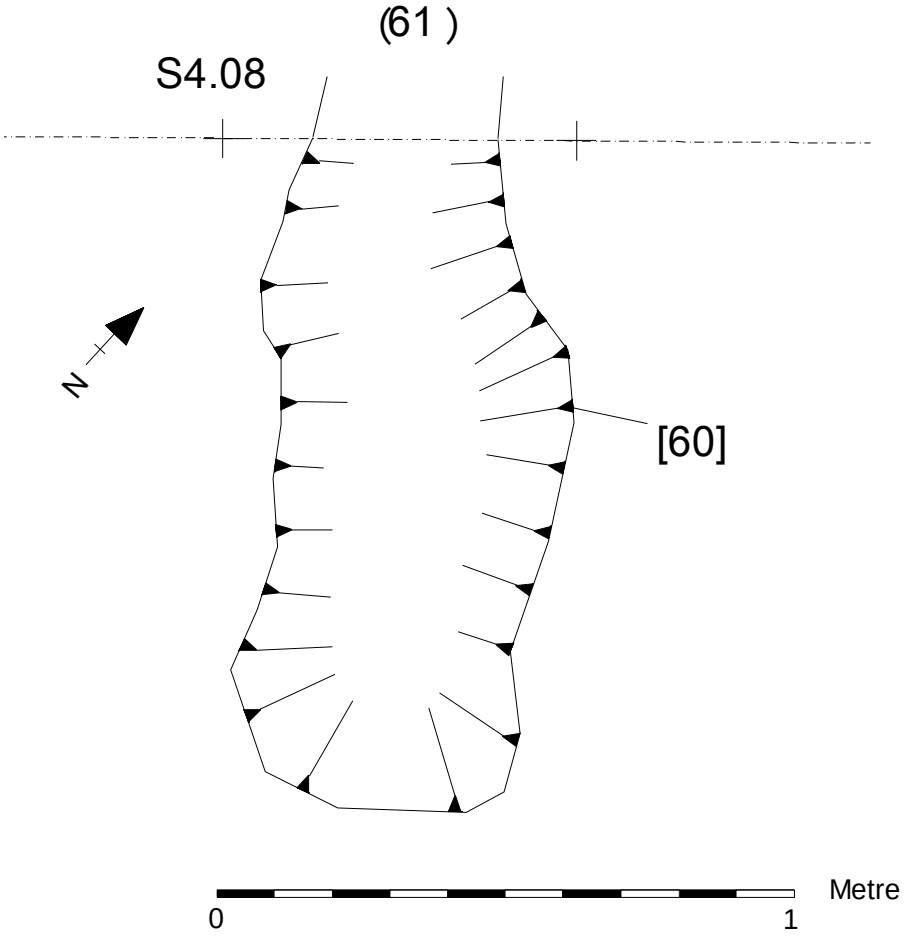

Figure 57: Plan of gully terminus [60] in Trench 35

Gully [64] contained mid-late 1st century pottery and animal bone. A sondage in the unexcavated linear feature [86] also in **Trench 35** produced Romano-British pottery from the later 3rd or 4th century.

Trench 36

This trench to the north west of **Trench 35** (Fig. 59) in the south eastern section of Area 2 contained two intersecting ditches [142] and [144] placed over a strong geophysical feature running roughly east/west within the Roman settlement area, each containing animal bone, ceramic building material and 2nd century Roman pottery (Figs 60 and 61). As shown in the section, [144] cuts [142] so would appear to be later in date.

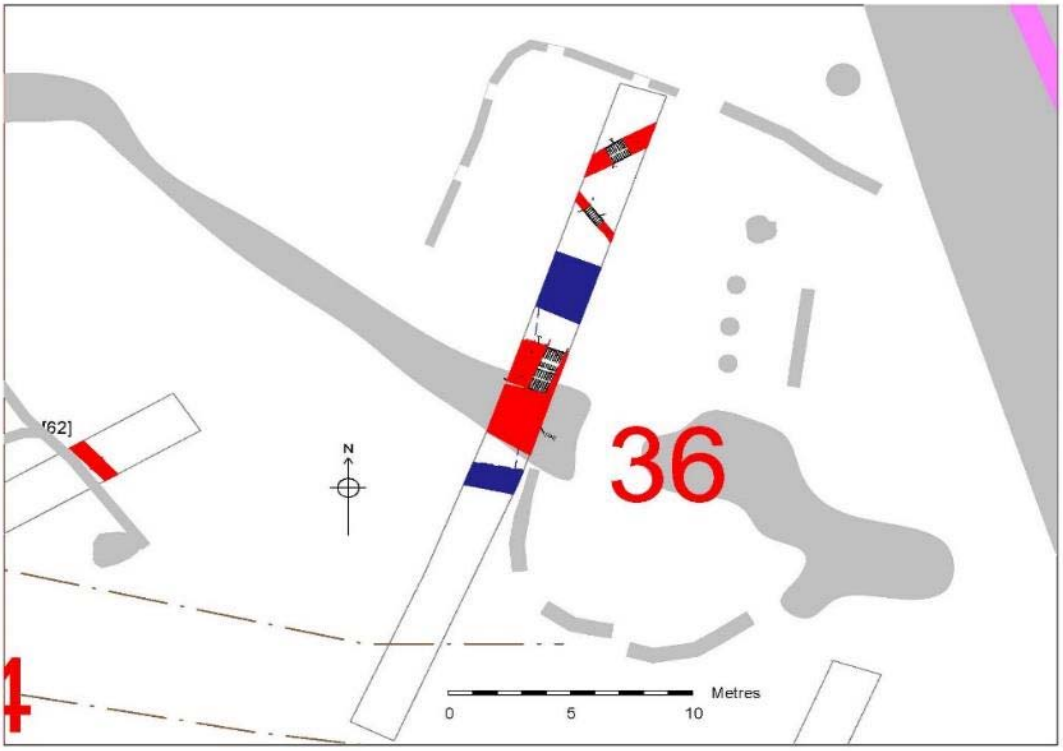

Figure 58: Trench 36

Figure 59: Ditches [142] and [144] in Trench 36

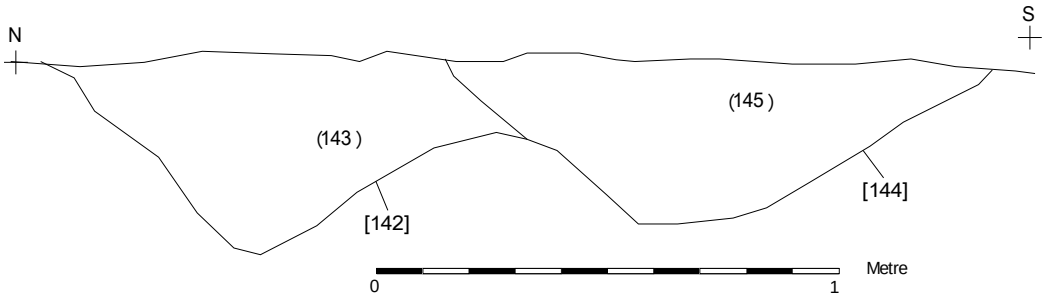

Figure 60: Sections of ditches [142] and [144] showing [144] cutting [142], in Trench 36

Two gullies [66] and [68] to the north of the ditches were probable drainage gullies and contained 1st to 2nd century pottery and animal bone. Gully [66] was shallow (0.20m) and 0.70m in width, while Gully [68] was 0.1m in depth and 0.40m in width (Figs 59, and 62).

Figure 61: Gullies [66] and [68] in Trench 36

The Pottery - Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage Size and Condition

An assemblage comprising 115 sherds of Roman and Iron Age pottery weighing 1.032kg with an EVEs value of 0.83, was retrieved from the evaluation excavations. Most of the pottery is Roman (91 sherds, 961g, 0.83 EVEs), with 24 sherds (71g) of mid-late Iron Age pottery completing the assemblage. The Iron Age pottery is generally fragmentary and abraded, whilst the Roman material is in better condition. This is reflected in the average sherd weights of 3g and 10.5g respectively.

Methodology

The pottery was examined in hand specimen using a binocular microscope at x15 magnification and classified using the Leicestershire fabric series for Prehistoric and Roman pottery as summarised below (Pollard 1994; Marsden 2011), with reference to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) where appropriate.

Table 1: Summarised Iron Age and Roman pottery fabric series.

Iron Age Fabrics				
S1	Shell-tempered; moderate to very common shell or platey voids (1-5mm).			
S2	Sandy fabric with shell; as S1, but common to very common sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25-1mm).			
G1	Grog with shell and sand; similar to S2 with common sub-angular grog (0.5-2mm).			
G2	Grog with sand; similar to Q1 with common sub-angular grog (0.5-2mm).			
Roman Fabrics				
CG	Shell-tempered wares.		OW	Oxidised sandy wares.
MG	Mixed-gritted wares.		WW	White sandy wares.
GT	Grog-tempered wares.		BB1	Black Burnished wares.
SW	Sandy wares.		Sam	Gaulish samian wares.
GW	Grey sandy wares.		C	Colour-coated wares.

Quantification was by sherd count, weight (grams) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rim values). Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Museums form series and other published typologies. The dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

Trenches 8, 11 and 13

All the pottery from these trenches dates to the mid-late Iron Age. One small, abraded sherd (4g) from an S1 shell-tempered ware jar was recovered from ditch [5] (12) within Trench 8. Seven sherds (20g) were recovered from two features in Trench 11. Two small sherds (2g) were found in ditch [1] (2), comprising an S1 shell-tempered jar or bowl and an abraded G2 grog-tempered jar or bowl. A further five sherds (18g) were retrieved from a linear feature [3] (4), comprising S1 and S2 shell-tempered jars and two G1 grog-tempered jars. All the sherds are very small and undiagnostic body sherds. One small sherd (6g) from a G2 grog-tempered jar or bowl was recovered from a linear feature [96] (97) within Trench 13.

Trenches 17, 21 and 24

Very small quantities of pottery were recovered from these three trenches situated to the east of Trenches 8, 11 and 13. Three sherds (17g) of pottery were recovered from

a ditch [30] (31) within Trench 17. Two vessels are represented; a fine sandy ware s-shaped Belgic-style necked jar or bowl and a shell-tempered ware jar. Both vessels are Early Roman, dating to the mid- or mid-late 1st century. Only one sherd of pottery was retrieved from a linear feature [132] (133) in Trench 21. The sherd is small (8g) and abraded, and is from a fine mixed-gritted ware jar base dating to the mid- or mid-late 1st century. Trench 24, located just to the south of Trench 17, revealed only mid-late Iron Age pottery from ditch [36] (37). The six sherds (7g) comprise grog-tempered and shell-tempered ware jars or bowls. All the sherds are small and abraded.

Trenches 28, 29 and 30

Trenches 28, 29 and 30 were situated in the north-east corner of the excavation area, in the adjacent field to the east of Trenches 17, 21 and 24. Nine sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery were retrieved from a ditch [138] (139) within Trench 28, comprising S1 shell-tempered and G1 grog-tempered jars or bowls. The sherds are small and abraded. A linear feature [84] (85) in Trench 29 revealed a single sherd (3g) of Roman pottery. The sherd is a fine grey ware necked and cordoned jar dating to the late 1st-2nd century. The surfaces are severely abraded.

Trench 30 revealed the largest concentration of pottery from the site, with a group of 47 sherds weighing 290g recovered from three features. A single, abraded sherd (3g) of shell-tempered ware was recovered from a pit [42] (43), dating to the mid-late 1st century. Two sherds (4g) were retrieved from a linear feature [100] (101), comprising a very small, abraded shell-tempered ware jar or bowl and a coarse sandy white ware jar or bowl. The shell-tempered ware dates from the mid-late 1st century into the 2nd century, whilst the white ware dates to the late 1st-2nd century.

The ditch [46] (47) revealed the largest group of material from one feature, with 44 sherds (283g) recovered encompassing a much wider range of fabrics than that seen in the features considered so far. The earliest vessels comprise two grog-tempered ware jars, a fine sandy ware s-shaped necked jar, a fine mixed-gritted ware cordoned jar and two coarse mixed-gritted ware jars, including a combed storage jar. These fabrics and vessel types are often known as “transitional” wares and date to the mid-late 1st century (Pollard 1994, 74-75). The shell-tempered ware sherds are small and abraded, and also most likely date within the 1st century.

Grey sandy ware jars and bowls account for approximately two thirds of the group (29 sherds). The identifiable forms present include a lid seated jar dating from the later 1st to the mid-2nd century, along with a rounded and slightly everted rimmed jar dating to the late 1st-2nd century. The body sherds include evidence of a cordoned and carinated vessel. Whilst most of the grey wares are probably fairly local in origin, four vessels are comparable to grey wares from Northamptonshire sources such as the Upper Nene Valley, as described by Marney’s MK14 fabric (Marney 1989, 179-180). One vessel is cordoned and one has roulette decoration, suggesting a 2nd century date.

The two most closely datable vessels comprise an imported samian ware dish and two sandy grog-tempered ware jars from Northamptonshire. The samian ware dish is a Drag.18/31 form, produced during the first half of the 2nd century in Central Gaul. The fabric is comparable to products from the industry at Les Martres-de-Veyre, which suggests a date from *c*.AD100-120 (Webster 1996, 3; 35). The two sandy grog-tempered ware jars (Leics. fabric WW1) include a neckless lid seated rim typical of jars

made in this fabric. This type of vessel was produced in Northamptonshire and the South Midlands from the end of the 1st century to around the middle of the 2nd century (Timby 2009, 155-156).

Trenches 31, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38

The eastern field containing Trenches 28-38 was divided by a water pipe running diagonally north-west to south-east along its length. Trenches 31 to 38 were located south of this pipe, separated from Trenches 28, 29 and 30 in the north-east corner of the excavation area.

Trenches 31, 34, 37 and 38

Small quantities of pottery were recovered from Trenches 31, 34 and 37. Seven sherds (50g) were retrieved from two features within Trench 31. One very small, abraded sherd (1g) from a grog-tempered ware jar or bowl dating to the mid-late 1st century was found within pit [38] (39). The remaining six sherds from this trench were retrieved from a ditch [70] (71), and comprise undiagnostic oxidised and grey ware jars or bowls, most likely dating to the late 1st-2nd century, but not closely datable. Three sherds (29g) were recovered from two features within Trench 34, comprising a shell-tempered ware jar from ditch [62] (63) and a grey ware jar base from gully [148] (149). Both vessels most likely date to the late 1st-2nd century. A single sherd (37g) from a grey ware jar was found in a linear feature [110] (111) within Trench 37. The vessel dates to the late 1st-2nd century and the surfaces are abraded.

Trench 38 revealed a pit [40] (41), from which 10 sherds of pottery (307g) were recovered comprising shell-tempered, grog-tempered and grey sandy wares. The earliest vessel is a grog-tempered ware cordoned jar with a zone of incised zigzag lines between two girth grooves dating to the mid-late 1st century, whilst a shell-tempered ware jar base dates to the 1st or 2nd century. The remaining vessels are all grey ware jars. Two rims are present, a rounded out-curved rim and an everted recurved rim, and one vessel is probably carinated. Overall a date within the 2nd century is most likely.

Trenches 35 and 36

Trenches 35 and 36 produced the latest datable pottery from the site, albeit a small quantity. Four sherds (30g) were recovered from three features in Trench 35. An abraded grey ware necked jar dating from the late 1st-2nd century onwards was retrieved from a gully terminus [60] (61); whilst a very small sherd from a shell-tempered ware jar dating to the 1st or 2nd century was found in gully [64] (65). The linear feature [86] (87) contained a Black Burnished ware bowl or dish base and a Nene Valley colour-coated ware plain rim dish. The Black Burnished ware can only be dated from *c*.AD120 onwards as no diagnostic elements are present, however the colour-coated ware dish is later Roman, dating to the later 3rd or 4th century (Howe *et al* 1980, 24; Perrin 1999, 101).

Fourteen sherds (194g) of pottery were recovered from three features in Trench 36. Ditch [66] (67) produced four small body sherds (15g) of grey ware, each representing an individual vessel (most likely jars). The sherds are plain and two have abraded surfaces. A date from the late 1st-2nd century onwards is all that can be given. Eight sherds (81g) were recovered from ditch [142] (143), comprising a mix of grog-tempered, shell-tempered and grey wares along with Black Burnished ware and a mortarium. The grey ware jars include a slightly rounded everted rim suggesting a 2nd

century date, as does the Black Burnished ware jar (*c.*AD120-200) (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 95-105). The mortarium is a Nene Valley product, which would not date before the middle of the 2nd century. The grog-tempered jar or bowl is earlier, dating to the mid-late 1st century, however, the sherd is small and abraded and could be residual in this group. Similarly, the shell-tempered ware sherd is very small and could date to the 2nd century, or could be residual. Finally, two sherds (98g) were retrieved from ditch [144] (145), comprising a shell-tempered ware jar and a soft pink grogged ware jar. Soft pink grogged ware (PNK GT) (Tomber and Dore 1998) was produced around the Milton Keynes/Towcester area, and its distribution does not appear to reach as far north as Leicestershire until at least the 3rd century (Marney 1989, 64-67; Taylor 2004, 60-66).

Discussion

Although the assemblage is not large and the Iron Age pottery in particular is not in good condition, it is possible to detect a pattern of movement across the site as a whole, with evidence of activity from the mid-late Iron Age through to the later Roman period.

The Iron Age pottery is locally made and is comparable to that from the nearby site at Waterfield Place, where shell and grog-tempered wares were also the dominant fabric groups. The majority of the Roman pottery is also most likely locally made, however the sandy grogged-tempered wares are regional imports from Northamptonshire. This is also a likely source for the white ware and some of the grey wares, particularly those from Trench 30 which are comparable to grey wares found at Waterfield Place and Mawsley in Northamptonshire (Johnson 2012, 2015). There are many kiln sites in Northamptonshire producing grey wares from the later 1st century onwards, such as Ecton, Mears Ashby, Weston Favell and Little Billing (Johnston 1969), and any could be the source. This suggests pottery was available from sources in Northamptonshire to the south as well as local Leicestershire sources during the 2nd century, before the dominance of regional pottery industries such as those of the Lower Nene Valley. Given the proximity of Market Harborough to the (modern) border with Northamptonshire, this is not surprising. The other regional wares present are found throughout Leicestershire and comprise Black Burnished ware, mortaria and colour-coated ware from the Lower Nene Valley, and soft pink grogged ware from the South Midlands/Milton Keynes area. One sherd of samian ware is also present, an import from Central Gaul. The overall character of the assemblage suggests an occupation site.

The Iron Age pottery is concentrated in the western part of the excavation area, particularly in Trenches 8, 11 and 13 which appear to represent some form of enclosure. There is also evidence for early Roman activity during the second half of the 1st century in the area to the east of this enclosure, but still within the western field. Most of the Roman activity is found in the eastern part of the excavation area, with pottery dating from the mid-late 1st century through to the later 3rd and 4th centuries. Early Roman transitional wares (grog-tempered, mixed-gritted, sandy wares and some shell-tempered wares) do appear alongside later pottery in the eastern half of the site, suggesting the movement from west to east could have taken place during the late Iron Age to early Roman transition around middle of the 1st century AD. Most of the Roman pottery dates within the 2nd century, with the concentration in Trench 30 possibly no later than the first half of the 2nd century. The clear evidence for activity from the mid-2nd century onwards comes from Trenches 35 and 36 in the form of Black Burnished

ware, Nene Valley mortaria and colour-coated wares and soft pink grogged ware. These trenches are located in the south-east corner of the excavation area and may indicate another shift in occupation during the Roman period, perhaps during the second half of the 2nd century or a little later.

The site lies on an area known as the Ridgeway in Market Harborough, and evidence for Roman activity along the Ridgeway in the form of pottery and metal work has been gathered over a period of years, suggesting a sizeable settlement spanning the whole of the Roman period up to and including the 4th century AD (Historic Environment Record, Leicestershire County Council). The predominantly Iron Age site at nearby Waterfield Place appears to have been abandoned by the end of the 1st century or very early 2nd century, probably as a result of the establishment of settlement along the Ridgeway. The evidence at Burnmill Road also suggests a shift in activity from the end of the Iron Age into the Roman period, most likely for the same reason. The Roman site on the Ridgeway is believed to have grown into a small town (*Ibid*), which could explain the presence of pottery such as soft pink grogged ware. North Northamptonshire and Leicestershire are towards the outer reaches of its distribution, and it is thought the large storage jars produced in this fabric were used as transportation vessels; the contents being the important element (Taylor 2004, 63-65). Transportation to a market in a small town therefore makes sense. In this respect, the site at Burnmill Road is in keeping with other evidence from the Ridgeway, showing occupation throughout the Roman period and access to a range of regional pottery types. An opportunity to further investigate the settlement along the Ridgeway would be a valuable addition to the archaeological record.

Summarised Pottery Catalogue

Tr	Cut	Cont	Fabric	Form	Shds	Wgt (g)	Diam (cm)	EVEs	Dating
11	1	2	S1	Jar/bowl	1	1			mid-late IA
11	1	2	G2	Jar/bowl	1	1			mid-late IA
11	3	4	S1	Jar	1	5			mid-late IA
11	3	4	S2	Jar	2	6			mid-late IA
11	3	4	G1	Jar	1	1			mid-late IA
11	3	4	G1	Jar	1	6			mid-late IA
8	5	12	S1	Jar	1	4			mid-late IA
17	30	31		Jar	1	11			mid1stC
17	30	31	SW	Jar/bowl	2	6	18	0.055	mid1stC
24	36	37	G1	Jar/bowl	1	1			mid-late IA
24	36	37	S2	Jar/bowl	1	2			mid-late IA
24	36	37	S1	Jar/bowl	4	4			mid-late IA
31	38	39	GT	Jar/bowl	1	1			mid-late1stC
38	40	41	CG	Jar	1	40			mid/late1st-2ndC
38	40	41	GW	Jar	3	177			late1st-2ndC+
38	40	41	GW	Jar	1	44	20	0.13	late1st-2ndC+
38	40	41	GW	Jar	1	12			late1st-2ndC
38	40	41	GW	Jar	1	6			late1st-2ndC
38	40	41	GT	Jar	1	19			mid-late1stC
38	40	41	GW	Jar	2	9			late1st-2ndC+
30	42	43	CG	Jar	1	3			mid-late1stC
30	46	47	WW	Jar	5	36	14	0.06	late1st-mid2ndC
30	46	47	WW	Jar	2	26			late1st-mid2ndC
30	46	47	Sam	Dish	1	8	17	0.075	early-mid2ndC
30	46	47	GW	Jar	2	28	18	0.1	late1st-mid2ndC
30	46	47	GW		1	13	11	0.14	late1st-2ndC+
30	46	47	GW	Jar/bowl	7	33			late1st-2ndC
30	46	47	GW	Jar	4	15			late1st-2ndC+
30	46	47	GW	Jar	2	9			late1st-2ndC+
30	46	47	GW	Jar/bowl	1	1			2ndC+
30	46	47	GW	Jar	2	14			late1st-2ndC
30	46	47	GW	Jar/beaker	1	2			2ndC
30	46	47	GW	Jar/bowl	1	2			late1st-2ndC+
30	46	47	SW	Jar	1	6	14	0.075	mid-late1stC
30	46	47	CG	Jar	5	14			mid-late1stC
30	46	47	MG	Jar	1	6			mid-late1stC
30	46	47	GT	Jar	1	4			mid-late1stC
30	46	47	GT	Jar	2	12			mid-late1stC
30	46	47	MG	Jar	4	51			mid-late1stC
30	46	47	GW	Jar/bowl	1	3			late1st-2ndC+
35	60	61	GW	Jar	1	10			late1st-2ndC+
34	62	63	CG	Jar	2	4			mid/late1st-2ndC
35	64	65	CG	Jar	1	4			mid/late1st-2ndC
36	66	67	GW	Jar	2	9			late1st-2ndC+
36	66	67	GW	Jar	2	6			late1st-2ndC+
31	70	71	GW	Jar	4	41			late1st-2ndC+
31	70	71	GW	Jar/bowl	1	2			late1st-2ndC+

Tr	Cut	Cont	Fabric	Form	Shds	Wgt (g)	Diam (cm)	EVEs	Dating
31	70	71	OW	Jar/bowl	1	6			late1st-2ndC+
35	86	87	C	Dish	1	6	16	0.055	late3rd-4thC
35	86	87	BB1	Bowl/dish	1	6			mid2ndC+
29	84	85	GW	Jar	1	3			late1st-2ndC
13	96	97	G2	Jar/bowl	1	6			mid-late IA
30	100	101	CG	Jar/bowl	1	1			mid/late1st-2ndC
30	100	101	WW	Jar/bowl	1	3			late1st-2ndC
37	110	111	GW	Jar	1	37			late1st-2ndC+
21	132	133	MG	Jar	1	8			mid-late1stC
28	138	139	S1	Jar/bowl	5	19			mid-late IA
28	138	139	G1	Jar/bowl	4	15			mid-late IA
36	142	143	MO	Mortarium	1	29			mid2ndC+
36	142	143	CG	Jar	1	3			mid/late1st-2ndC
36	142	143	GT	Jar/bowl	1	7			mid-late1stC
36	142	143	GW	Jar	1	16	18	0.09	late1st-2ndC+
36	142	143	GW	Jar	2	8			late1st-2ndC+
36	142	143	GW	Jar	1	10			late1st-2ndC+
36	142	143	BB1	Jar	1	8	16	0.05	mid2ndC+
36	144	145	CG	Jar	1	18			2ndC+
36	144	145	GT	Jar	1	80			3rdC+ (PNKGT)
34	148	149	GW	Jar	1	25			late1st-2ndC+

The animal bones- William Johnson

Introduction

A moderate animal bone assemblage (374 fragments) was collected by hand during excavation at Burnmill Road. Animal bones were recovered from 24 contexts including 17 ditch fills, 3 gully fills, 3 pit fills and a posthole. The contexts were dated to a mix of mid-late Iron Age and Roman phases with a large number of undated contexts also present. Five contexts were of Iron Age date, nine were Roman and ten undated.

Method

The bones were identified by comparison to reference material held at the University of Leicester and recorded in a catalogue (tables 1-3). Condition was scored using Harland et al.'s (2003) scale.

Results

Taphonomic alterations of the assemblage

The assemblage as a whole was fairly fragmentary with only 98 fragments (26%) identifiable to species. Of the identifiable bones cattle was the most abundant species across the whole assemblage (62%), followed by sheep/goat (20%). Other species present included pig (5%), horse (8%) and dog (4%).

The majority of the bones were described as 'good' with very minimal flaking. However, preservation was variable within the contexts with several bones showing flaking on up to 49% of their surfaces, described as 'fair'. No differences in preservation between the phases was noted. There was also no variation noted in preservation between feature types.

Root etching was present on many of the specimens, potentially resulting in higher levels of fragmentation. Gnawing was not observed on any specimens. None of the bones recovered had any pathologies. Butchery and burning were noted and are discussed by phase below along with more detailed descriptions of the specimens present.

Mid-Late Iron Age

The mid-late Iron Age assemblage was recovered from (2), (4), (12), (37) and (139). This comprised 155 fragments, 50 of which could be identified to species (32%). Several of the fragments from (4) and (137) could be reassembled as many of the breakages were modern.

The majority of the identified species were cattle (58%) followed by sheep/goat (32%) which were present in all contexts except (2). A high proportion of the assemblage was comprised of skull, mandible and teeth fragments with long bones also well represented. Other species present were represented by very few bones including dog, represented by a maxilla and cervical vertebra recovered from (139), horse, represented by a calcaneum from (139) and a pig incisor was recovered from (37). The majority of elements were fused (75%) with a single unfused sheep/goat metacarpal recovered.

Nine of the tooth fragments from (37) showed signs of burning and all were identified as mandibular cattle. A large mammal pelvis and a fragment of long bone from (37) had chop marks, probably representative of carcass disarticulation.

Roman

The Roman assemblage contained nine contexts dating to the mid-1st to 2nd century split into three ranges; mid-late 1st century, (31), (39), mid-1st to 2nd century, (41), (47), (65), (143), and late-1st to 2nd century, (71), (67), and one context dated to the 2nd-3rd century, (145).

The combined Roman assemblage comprised 103 fragments of which 24 could be identified to species (23%). Again cattle was the most abundant taxon present in all contexts (75% of identified fragments). Representation of other species was poor with only sheep/goat and pig also identified. Three sheep/goat bones were recovered; a molar from (31) and an ulna and humerus fragment from (143) and three pig bones were recovered; a mandible and incisor from (39) and a metacarpal from (142). Bones from across the skeleton were represented, with no discernible trends towards certain elements. Fusion was observable on a single element; a fused cattle radius from (67).
Two cattle phalanges from (31), a distal and intermediate, showed signs of burning and had been split along the middle. This splitting was most likely a result of heating, additionally a fragment of medium mammal long bone from (31) had been calcined. No butchery was identified in the Roman assemblage.

Undated

Bone was recovered from 10 contexts from which no dating evidence was available from associated pottery. These were (15), (19), (21), (23), (27), (33), (49), (55), (57) and (75). This comprised 116 fragments of which 24 were identifiable to species (21%). This assemblage was the most fragmentary with 51% of bone recovered being indeterminate fragments, notably higher than both the Iron Age (28%) and Roman assemblage (34%) which were similar.

Cattle was the most abundant taxon (58%) followed by horse (24%) represented by 4 associated tibia fragments from (21) and a further tibia fragment from (23). Other species represented included pig (4%), sheep/goat (4%) and dog (4%).
The only butchery observed was a chop mark on a distal cattle femur from (21), probably the result of carcass disarticulation. No burning was noted on any of the bones.

Discussion
The Iron Age bones likely contain a mixture of food waste including cattle, sheep/goat and pig, this is supported by burning and butchery marks. It also includes the remains of a small number of working animals, horse and dog. The fusion evidence suggests the exploitation of older animals.

The Roman assemblage is likely formed of food waste including cattle, sheep/goat and pig. The poor species representation can likely be explained by the relatively smaller assemblage than present for the Iron Age and the higher levels of fragmentation. Too little fusion data was recovered to indicate exploitation though it is likely that again older animals were present.

In both Iron Age and Roman assemblages the wide range of elements present potentially indicates the use of whole animals at the site. The proportion of cattle increases from the Iron Age to Roman contexts as does pig. Sheep/goat falls and there

is a disappearance of dog and horse bones but this could be due to the small assemblage size.

The undated bones potentially contain a mixture of both Iron Age and Roman material. As such their interpretive value is minimal.

Statement of Potential

A more detailed study of the assemblage could be carried out including, ageing, sexing and measuring the remains, however, this was not deemed necessary at assessment level.

Should further work be carried out on the site analysis of recovered animal bone is recommended. The bones are fairly fragmented and this has resulted in a low proportion of bones identifiable to species across both Iron Age and Roman assemblages. However, due to the high number of fragments recovered and the 'good' preservation the bone still has some potential for the interpretation of animal husbandry strategies and diet across multiple periods.

Catalogue of hand collected animal bone from Iron Age contexts presented by specimen

Context	Cut	Feature	Date	Element	Taxon	Fragments	Comment
2	1	Ditch fill	M-L IA	Long bone	Large mammal	1	Fragment
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Calcaneum	Cattle	1	Complete
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Mandible	Cattle	3	M1 and M2 present
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Maxilliary
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Femur	Sheep/goat	1	Shaft fragment
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Metatarsal	Sheep/goat	2	Proximal shaft, split
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Metatarsal	Sheep/goat	1	Shaft fragment
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Rib	Large mammal	1	Fragment
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Skull	Large mammal	1	Fragment
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Skull	Medium mammal	1	Fragment
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Long bone	Medium mammal	2	Fragments
4	3	ditch fill	M-L IA	Indet	Medium mammal	2	Fragments
12	5	ditch fill	M-L IA	Astragalus	Cattle	1	Complete
12	5	ditch fill	M-L IA	Tibia	Cattle	1	Shaft fragment
12	5	ditch fill	M-L IA	Tibia	Sheep/goat	1	Shaft fragment
12	5	ditch fill	M-L IA	Pelvis	Large mammal	3	Ilium fragment
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Mandibular, burned
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Mandibular
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	P2	Cattle	1	Mandibular, burned
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	P1	Cattle	1	Maxilliary
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	P1	Cattle	1	Mandibular, burned
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Premolar	Cattle	4	Fragments, burned
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	M1/M2	Sheep/goat	1	Mandibular
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	M1/M2	Sheep/goat	1	Mandibular
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Mandible	Sheep/goat	1	P2, P3, P4 present

37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Radius	Sheep/goat	2	Shaft
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Radius	Sheep/goat	2	Shaft
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Metacarpal	Sheep/goat	1	Complete, unfused
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Incisor	Pig	1	Complete
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Long bones	Large mammal	13	Shaft fragments, 1 burned, 1 chopped
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Pelvis	Large mammal	1	Fragment, 2 chops
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Rib	Large mammal	2	Fragment
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Mandible	Large mammal	3	Condyle and neck
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Long bone	Large mammal	3	Shaft fragment
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Humerus	Medium mammal	2	Shaft fragment
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Tibia	Medium mammal	2	Shaft fragment
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Rib	Medium mammal	2	Fragments
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Indet teeth		8	Fragments, 2 burned
37	36	ditch fill	M-L IA	Indet		16	Fragments
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Radius	Cattle	3	Proximal and shaft, fused
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Radius	Cattle	1	Proximal, fused
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Ulna	Cattle	1	Trochlear notch
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Humerus	Cattle	1	Shaft fragment
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Pelvis	Cattle	2	Acetabulum
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Phalanx 1	Cattle	1	Complete
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Navicular-cuboid	Cattle	1	Complete
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Maxilliary
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	P1/P2	Cattle	1	Maxilliary
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	DP4	Cattle	1	Mandibular
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	M1/M2	Sheep/goat	1	Mandibular
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Tibia	Sheep/goat	1	Shaft fragment
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Radius	Sheep/goat	1	Proximal, fused
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Maxilla	Dog	2	P4, M1 and M2 present
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Cervical vertebra	Dog	1	Body
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Calcaneum	Horse	1	Complete
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Skull	Large mammal	4	Fragments
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Long bones		18	Fragments
139	138	ditch fill	M-L IA	Indet		20	Fragments
					Total	155	

Catalogue of hand collected animal bone from Roman contexts presented by specimen

Context	Cut	Feature	Date	Element	Taxon	Fragments	Comment
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Mandibular
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	Phalanx 2	Cattle	1	Burned, split in half
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	Phalanx 3	Cattle	1	Burned, split in half
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	M1/M2	Sheep/goat	1	Mandibular
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	Rib	Large mammal	2	Fragment
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	Scapula	Large mammal	1	Blade fragment
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	Long bone	Large mammal	3	Shaft fragment
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	Long bone	Medium mammal	1	Shaft fragment, calcined

31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	Incisor	Medium mammal	1	Mandibular
31	30	ditch fill	M-L 1st C	Indet		13	Fragments
39	38	pit fill	M-L 1st C	Mandible	Pig	1	P4 and M1 present
39	38	pit fill	M-L 1st C	Incisor	Pig	1	Complete
39	38	pit fill	M-L 1st C	Skull	Medium mammal	1	Fragment
39	38	pit fill	M-L 1st C	Indet		3	Fragments
41	40	pit fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Ulna	Cattle	2	Trochlear notch
47	46	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Calcaneum	Cattle	1	Complete
47	46	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Ulna	Cattle	1	Trochlear notch
47	46	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Cervical vertebra	Cattle	1	Neural arch fragment
47	46	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Pelvis	Large mammal	1	Fragment
47	46	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Long bone	Medium mammal	3	Fragments
47	46	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Indet		3	Fragments
65	64	gully fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Indet		3	
67	66	ditch fill	Late 1-2nd C	Radius	Cattle	1	Proximal, fused
67	66	ditch fill	Late 1-2nd C	Rib	Large mammal	7	Fragment
71	70	ditch fill	Late 1-2nd C	Phalanx 3	Cattle	1	Complete
71	70	ditch fill	Late 1-2nd C	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Mandibular
71	70	ditch fill	Late 1-2nd C	Skull	Medium mammal	2	Fragments
71	70	ditch fill	Late 1-2nd C	Indet		7	Fragments
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Humers	Cattle	5	Shaft fragment
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Maxilliary
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Humerus	Sheep/goat	1	Shaft fragment
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Ulna	Sheep/goat	1	Trochlear notch
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Metacarpal	Pig	1	Complete
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Rib	Large mammal	1	Fragment
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Ribs	Medium mammal	11	Fragments
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Skull	Medium mammal	1	Fragment
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Thoracic vertebrae	Medium mammal	2	Spinous processes
143	142	ditch fill	Mid 1-2nd C	Indet		5	Fragments
145	144	ditch fill	2nd-3rd C	Phalanx 1	Cattle	1	Complete
145	144	ditch fill	2nd-3rd C	Cervical vertebra	Large mammal	1	Fragment of neural arch
145	144	ditch fill	2nd-3rd C	Skull	Large mammal	1	Skull fragment
145	144	ditch fill	2nd-3rd C	Long bone	Large mammal	4	Shaft fragment
145	144	ditch fill	2nd-3rd C	Rib	Medium mammal	1	Fragment
145	144	ditch fill	2nd-3rd C	Indet		1	Fragment
					Total	103	

Catalogue of hand collected animal bone from undated contexts presented by specimen

Context	Cut	Feature	Date	Element	Taxon	Fragments	Comment
12	5	ditch fill		Pelvis	Large mammal	3	Ilium fragment
15	14	ditch fill		Metacarpal	Cattle	6	Proximal
15	14	ditch fill		Mandible	Pig	1	M2 and M3 present

15	14	ditch fill		Mandible	Dog	1	P1 and P2 present
15	14	ditch fill		Mandible	Medium mammal	1	No dentition
15	14	ditch fill		Indet		3	Fragments
19	18	pit fill		M1/M2	Cattle	1	Mandibular
19	18	pit fill		Indet	Medium mammal	1	Fragment
21	20	ditch fill		Pelvis	Cattle	1	Ilium fragment
21	20	ditch fill		Femur	Cattle	2	Distal, fused, Chopped
21	20	ditch fill		Tibia	Horse	4	Distal, fused
21	20	ditch fill		Tibia	Large mammal	1	Shaft fragment
21	20	ditch fill		Femur	Large mammal	2	Shaft fragment
21	20	ditch fill		Long bone	Large mammal	3	Shaft fragment
21	20	ditch fill		Long bone	Large mammal	1	Fragment
21	20	ditch fill		Skull	Large mammal	4	Fragments
21	20	ditch fill		Humerus	Medium mammal	1	Shaft fragment
21	20	ditch fill		Vertebra	Medium mammal	1	Body only, fused
21	20	ditch fill		Indet		17	Fragments
23	22	ditch fill		Tibia	Horse	1	Distal, fused
23	22	ditch fill		Mandible	Large mammal	2	Condyle
23	22	ditch fill		Pelvis	Large mammal	1	Fragment
23	22	ditch fill		Vertebra	Large mammal	1	Neural arch
23	22	ditch fill		Rib	Large mammal	1	Fragment
23	22	ditch fill		Mandible	Medium mammal	1	No dentition
23	22	ditch fill		Indet		10	Fragments
27	26	gully fill		Mandible	Sheep/goat	1	M2 and M3 present
27	26	gully fill		Femur	Large mammal	6	Shaft fragment
27	26	gully fill		Pelvis	Large mammal	1	Fragment
27	26	gully fill		Indet		7	Fragments
33	32	ditch fill		Long bone	Large mammal	2	Shaft fragment
49	48	ditch fill		Lumbar vertebra	Cattle	4	Body and neural arch, fused
49	48	ditch fill		Calcaneum	Horse	2	Complete
49	48	ditch fill		Rib	Large mammal	1	Fragment
49	48	ditch fill		Skull	Large mammal	2	Fragments
49	48	ditch fill		Indet		14	Fragments
55	54	gully fill		Indet		2	
57	56	post hole		Indet		3	
75	74	ditch fill		Indet		3	Fragments
					Total	116	

The charred plant remains - Adam Santer and Rachel Small

Introduction

During an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at this site, five samples were processed for the analysis of charred plant remains. Sample 1 was from the fill (39) of a pit [38], sample 2 was from the fill (61) of a slot [60], sample 3 was from the fill (41) of a ditch [40], sample 4 was from the fill (81) of a pit [80] and sample 5 was from the tertiary fill (140) of a ditch [138]. The analysis of the charred plant remains recovered from this sample is presented here, together with a discussion of what this can potentially tell us about the diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site through time.

Methodology

All of the samples consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay and were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were sorted in their entirety for plant remains and other artefacts under a x10-40 stereo microscope. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991).

Samples 1-4 contained high concentrations of chaff (glume bases), most of which were too fragmentary to identify their species. The sheer quantity of glume base fragments present in the samples meant that estimate numbers were given. For this reason, the resulting total number of items found and items found per litre for samples 1-4 are an approximation. Large amounts of wheat glume bases (*Triticum sp.*) could be identified in samples 1 and 3 while small amounts could be identified in samples 2 and 4. Small amounts of spelt wheat glume bases (*Triticum spelta L.*) were found in samples 1-4.

Cereal grains were present in all samples, but their poor preservation and fragmentary nature hindered the identification process. For this reason, most of the cereal grains found in the samples were identified as while indeterminate or fragmentary indeterminate grains. Small amounts of glume wheat grains (*Triticum sp.*) were found in samples 1, 2 and 5, while they were abundant in sample 3. Barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare L.*) were found in small quantities in sample 3-5.

Wild seeds were present in all of the samples. Goosefoots (*Chenopodium sp.*) were present in samples 1, 3 and 4, dock seeds (*Rumex sp.*) were present in samples 1, 2, 3 and 5, stinking chamomile seeds (*Anthemis cotula*) were found in samples 1-4, one ribgrass seed (*Plantago lanceolata*) was found in sample 2, Mayweed seeds (*Triplospermum sp.*) were found in samples 3 and 4, vetch (*Vicia sp.*) were found in samples 1 and 3, small grass seeds were found in samples 3 (including one *Phleum sp.*) and 5, large grass seeds were found in samples 3-5 and indeterminate seeds were found in samples 3 and 4.

Modern rootlets were abundant in all of the samples suggesting disturbances to the contexts. Mollusc shells were abundant in sample 3 suggesting disturbance to context (41) in particular.

Sample	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Context	**39**	**61**	**41**	**81**	**140**
Cut	**38**	**60**	**40**	**80**	**138**
Feature description	**Pit**	**Slot**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Ditch**
Chaff					
*Triticum sp.*glume base	c. 100	3	c. 400	19	Wheat glume base
Triticum spelta L. glume base	17	7	11	9	Spelt wheat glume base
Chaff fragments	c. 700	c. 3400	c. 3700	c. 1500	Indeterminate
Grains					
Triticum sp.	3	22	121	20	Glume wheat
Triticum sp. (rounded)		19		Wheat (rounded)	
Hordeum vulgare L.	5	2	5		Barley
Whole indet.	20	16	61	40	1	Indeterminate
Fragments	27	7	c. 300	96	3	Indeterminate
Wild seeds					
Chenopodium sp.	9	7	8		Goosefoots
Rumex sp.	1	4	34	3	Dock
Athemis cotula	3	4	21	3	Stinking chamomile
Plantago lanceolata		1		Ribgrass	
Triplospermum sp.	2		2		Mayweed
Phleum sp.		1		Grass	
Vicia sp.	1		4		Vetch
Small grass seed	6		1		Generic small grass
Large grass seed	40	7	1		Generic large grass
Indet. wild seed	11		2		Indeterminate
Total	c. 900	c. 3500	c. 9600	c. 1,750	14
Volume (L)	10	10	10	8	9
Items per litre	c. 90	c. 350	c. 960	c. 218.75	1.5

Discussion and Conclusion

There is evidence of activity on this part of the Ridgeway from the Middle Iron Age in Area 1 through to the late 3rd century Roman period in the south east of Area 2, as suggested by the pottery assemblage. This timespan, and the character of the archaeology, resembles the nearby site of Waterfield farm further to the east, although was rather longer lasting. The Ridgeway itself has produced Roman pottery from back gardens that dates from later 1st to 4th century as recorded in the Historic Environment Records. This land adjacent to Burnmill Road therefore forms part of this wider area of settlement activity, that ceases in the 4th century with no further occupation or visible use of the land until medieval farming produces the characteristic ridge and furrow earthworks that run across this site.

The trenches in Area 1 and Area 2 closely matched the geophysical survey and provided evidence of mid Iron age to mid Roman activity, moving east across the site, with the latest dateable pottery coming from the south east corner of Area 2.

Area 1 contains a series of enclosure ditches with evidence of the by-products of metal working on site as well as small amounts of abraded mid to late Iron Age pottery and animal bone. The lack of pottery suggests these features were associated with stock rearing, containment and management rather than human settlement. The pottery itself is shell and grog tempered, handmade and locally made, perhaps nearby, and is comparable to that found at Waterfield place of the same date.

The animal bone in Area 1 was predominantly cattle (58% cattle compared to 32 % Sheep/Goats) with little evidence of butchery but evidence of use of whole animals on site, since the fragmentary nature of the assemblage is consistent with food waste. This is consistent with the picture of the area used for stock rearing.

No samples were taken in Area 1 as none of the features contained organic or charcoal-rich fills. This reinforces the picture of this area being used through the mid-late Iron Age for animal husbandry The large quantities of slag from metal working that came from the semi-circular enclosure ditch suggests some industrial activity in this area.

Area 2 to the north produced both Iron Age pottery and early Roman pottery and moving south through this part of the site, the pottery is increasingly later in date until the Trenches at the south east of Area 2 were producing 3rd to 4th century pottery. The geophysical results and subsequent excavated features suggest a Roman ladder settlement with a boundary ditch running diagonally north east to south west marking the western boundary of the settlement. The quantity and quality of pottery, together with types such as Mortaria, Samian table ware and cooking pots are indicative of human settlement activity on or very near Area 2. That very little high status pottery or 4th or 5th century pottery was found suggests occupation by a rural farming community, who abandoned the area sometime before the 5th century. The Roman pottery itself from both areas was also locally made although some white ware, grey and sandy ware was from kiln sites in Northamptonshire to the south. The piece of Samian ware is the only imported pottery and was from Central Gaul.

The animal bone in this area is largely early to mid 1st and 2nd centuries and demonstrates an increase in cattle bones (75%) and pig, while Sheep and goat decreases

as a proportion of the animal assemblage . This suggests that cattle rearing is even more important to the later community.

The samples taken from 5 features in Area 2 reveal that significant quantities of grain were being processed on site– and likely grown locally for beer and/or bread. This is in contrast to Area 1 and suggests occupation rather than livestock rearing in this area.

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Appendix 1: OASIS Data Entry

PROJECT DETAILS	**OASIS Number**			
	Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation on land off Burnmill Road, Market Harborough		
	Start/end dates of field work	6/10/2018 -29/11/2018		
	Previous/Future Work	Yes		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Cultivated Land –Minimal Cultivation		
	Monument Type/Period	Iron Age-Roman		
	Significant Finds/Period	Iron Age/Roman, pottery and animal bone		
	Development Type	Residential development		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.			
PROJECT LOCATION	**Site Address/Postcode**	land off Burnmill Road, Market Harborough		
	Study Area	6.5 ha		
	Site Coordinates	**SP 73019 88637**		
	Height OD			
PROJECT CREATORS	**Organisation**	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Roger Kipling		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Avant Homes Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		**Physical**	**Digital**	**Paper**
	Recipient	ULAS	ULAS	ULAS
	ID (Acc. No.)			
	Contents	Pottery Animal Bone	Photos	Site records Field notes Plans
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	**Type**	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land off Burnmill Road, Market Harborough		
	Author	Brown, C. L . J		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-008		
	Date	19/1/2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

Appendix 2: Trench details

Trench No.	Orientation	Min. depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)	Archaeology
1	NE/SW	0.38	0.45	Ridge and Furrow
2	E/W	0.33	0.38	No archaeology present
3	NW/SE	0.30	0.50	Linear feature [124] (unex)
4	NE/SW	0.30	0.45	Ditch, excavated [32] and 2 linear features [120] and [122]
5	N/S	0.40	0.60	Gully, excavated [9] and ? furrow, excavated, [16]
6	E/W	0.45	0.80	No archaeology present
7	E/W	0.53	0.85	No archaeology present
8	SW/NE	0.35	0.70	Ditches, excavated [5] and [7]
9	NE/SW	0.32	0.50	Ditch, excavated, [14]
10	NE/SW	0.33	0.45	Two Ditches, excavated, [20] and [22]
11	N/W	0.25	0.42	Two Ditches, excavated, [3] and [1] and furrow (unex)
12	E/W	0.33	0.45	No archaeology present
13	NW/SE	0.30	0.45	Three linear features, unex [96] [94]and [92]
14	W/E	0.35	0.40	Pit [18] excavated
15	N/S	0.25	0.45	No archaeology present
16	NW/SE	0.33	0.48	Ditch, excavated [34], containing post med field drain and Linear feature [118], unex.
17	E/W	0.40	0.45	Ditch, excavated, [30] and linear feature, [116] probable ridge and furrow.
18	N/S	0.33	0.45	Ridge and furrow x 2 ([33] and [32] and linear feature, unex, [126]
19	NE/SW	0.33	0.45	Two linear features, [128] and [130] unex.
20	NE/SW	0.55	0.76	No archaeology present
21	E/W	0.40	0.58	Linear feature [132] Unex.
22	E/W	0.40	0.75	Linear feature, [90] unex,
23	NW/SE	0.50	0.80	Three ditches, excavated, [26], [28], [48] and one linear, [134] unex. archaeology present
24	SW/NE	0.40	0.55	Ditch, [36] excavated
25	N/S	0.36	0.42	Four furrows and two unexcavated linear features, [136] and [106]
26	N/S	0.32	0.42	Five furrows present, no other archaeology.
27	E/W	0.30	0.50	Ditch, [58], excavated.
28	NE/SW	0.45	0.50	Gully, [146] and ditch, [138] excavated, and furrow, unex.

29	NW/SE	0.38	0.58	Two ditches, [76] and [74], excavated, one post hole, [56] excavated and two linear features, unex. logy present
30	N/S	0.30	0.45	Pit, [42], two gullies, [50] and [54], two ditches, [46] and [52], all excavated. Linear feature, [101] and two furrows, unex.
31	N/S	0.30	0.44	One pit [38] and ditch [70] excavated, one linear feature [114] and 3 furrows, unex.
32	SE/NW	0.3	0.40	Three furrows and one linear, unex.
33	N/S	0.30	0.45	Three furrows and one linear, unex.
34	NE/SW	0.28	0.38	Ditch, [62] excavated. Two linears [148] and [88] and two furrows, unex.
35	NE/SW	0.30	0.45	Two gully terminuses, [64] and 102] excavated, and 4 furrows, unex.
36	NE/SW	0.32	0.38	Three ditches, [142], [144] and [68], one gully, [66] excavated, Three furrows, unex.
37	N/S	0.20	0.45	One linear, [110] and three furrows, unex.
38	NE/SW	0.25	0.38	One pit, [80] and one ditch, [40] excavated, and one linear, [82], unex.

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