

West Langton Market Harborough, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results





**WEST LANGTON, MARKET HARBOROUGH,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out archaeological recording and post-excavation analysis on an archaeological evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team' on land (centred on NGR 471480 292070) at West Langton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. In the 1970s, small-scale excavations revealed the remains of a poorly-preserved Romano-British villa in the field to the north of the Langton Brook. Anglo-Saxon artefacts, particularly metalwork, have also been found in the area, providing evidence for a possible settlement and cemetery located to the south, on the hilltop above the villa.

Fieldwork consisted of nine machine-excavated trial trenches as well as geophysical, landscape and topographic surveys. The earliest feature discovered was a long sinuous ditch on the hilltop to the south of Langton Brook; its irregular course suggests that it is unrelated to either the Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon activity known in the area, and it is most likely to represent part of an enclosure or other landscape boundary of later prehistoric date.

To the north of the brook, the results of trial trenching in the 1970s were confirmed, establishing the presence of substantial, though poorly preserved, Romano-British structures with stone walls and tessellated floors, and associated field boundaries and garden plots on regular, rectangular alignments. Artefacts suggest that these remains are predominantly of late 3rd or 4th century AD date.

The remains of a badly truncated inhumation burial was also discovered in an area where previous finds had highlighted the possibility of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. This burial was not conclusively dated, although a late 3rd century AD coin may have been found in its immediate vicinity, perhaps suggesting it to be late Romano-British.

The remains of at least seven Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials were found on the hilltop to the south of the brook, as well as a pit which provided evidence for possible cremation-related activities. Bone preservation was poor, although all individuals appeared to be adults and included both males and females. Grave goods, including a large number of beads, brooches, weaponry and pottery vessels, suggest a 6th century date for this cemetery. An L-shaped ditch identified in Trench 3 may have formed part of a small, rectilinear enclosure or perhaps even the remains of a small structure or shrine associated with the funerary rites in this area.

Despite the close association between the concentrations of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon fieldwalking finds in the fields straddling the Langton Brook, no direct evidence for continuity of activity between these periods was revealed by the evaluation.

The results of the evaluation warrant wider dissemination, and some further analysis of the artefactual and environmental evidence is necessary. A summary of the results of the evaluation as presented here, and enhanced by the results of further analyses,

will be prepared for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

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The geophysical survey was completed by GSB Prospection Ltd, the fieldwork undertaken by John Gater, co-ordinated by Emma Wood and Jimmy Adcock. Emma Wood also undertook the surveying.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Tracey Smith, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave and Amelia Fairman, assisted by Jacqueline McKinley (also of Wessex Archaeology) and local archaeologists Vicki Score, Harriet Jacklin, Neil Finn, John Thomas, Gerwyn Richards and Dave Parker. Local metal detectorists John Maloney and Andy Tansley also provided much help and support. The recording, finds co-ordination, processing and on-site identification was undertaken by Rachael Seager Smith and Susan Nelson, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Rachael Seager Smith, with specialist reports prepared by Nicholas Cooke (coins), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Jacqueline McKinley (human bone), Lorraine Mephram (all other finds) and Sarah J. Wyles (palaeo-environmental). Illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and advice provided on site by Peter Liddle, Community Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council Museums Service. Thanks are also due to the landowners, Tom and Barbara Walker, for allowing access to the Site.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out the recording and post-excavation analysis for an archaeological evaluation on land at West Langton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (centred on NGR 471480 292070; Figure 1), undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team'. The fieldwork comprised nine machine-excavated evaluation trenches and was carried out in July 2010 by Time Team and local archaeologists.

1.1.2 This report documents the results of the archaeological investigations undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works. It also includes proposals for the wider dissemination and publication of these results in the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The southern part of the site lies on a hilltop at a height of approximately 90m aOD, and slopes down to the north towards the Langton Brook whose meandering course bisects the site from east to west. The fields on the north side of the brook are flatter and lie at approximately 80m aOD, rising slightly to the north. The underlying geology consists of Boulder Clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1:50,000 sheet 170 Market Harborough) while the soils belong to the Wickham 2 association (Soils of England and Wales Sheet 3, Midlands and Western England). The land is currently used for arable agriculture and, at the time of the fieldwork, all three fields contained crops of oil-seed rape.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 Until recent decades, relatively little has been known of the archaeology in the immediate area. The subsoil is not conducive to aerial reconnaissance or, until recent technological improvements, geophysical survey and, dominated as it is by arable farmland, the region has witnessed little modern development. A strong tradition of fieldwalking survey has developed in Leicestershire (e.g. Liddle 1985 and 1994), and has proved highly successful in pin-pointing the location of numerous foci of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon activity. Evidence for the prehistory of the region has remained more stubbornly invisible, and is still largely limited to individual findspots of struck flints, the friable nature of prehistoric pottery making it unlikely to survive long in the ploughsoil.

1.4 Previous archaeological work

1.4.1 In 1970, a spread of Romano-British pottery and building debris, including roof and flue tiles, covering an extensive area, was found by R.C. Read in a

field to the north of the Langton Brook. Later, in 1974, a magnetic resistivity survey and limited trial trenching were undertaken by the Leicestershire Archaeological Committee, under the direction of R. Sheppard, to establish the plan and state of preservation of the underlying archaeological remains. These excavations revealed the remains of two main buildings, traces of outbuildings and a metalled road, at least 6m wide, probably forming part of a Romano-British villa complex (Sheppard 1975; Wilson 1975). The western structure was 48m long, 20m wide and aligned north to south, while the northern building ran east to west and was at least 46m long and 12m to 33m wide. Although extensively robbed and badly damaged by ploughing, the building materials, which included local limestone walling, sandstone, tufa, Swithland slate and ceramic roof tiles, ceramic bricks and flue tiles, painted and unpainted wall plaster, *opus signinum*, mortar and pebble-and-concrete floors and a quantity of loose *tesserae*, indicated a structure of some refinement and status. Other artefacts were not numerous but included a bronze radiate coin, glass, iron nails and tools as well as pottery sherds, mainly from the subsoil and destruction levels above the floor layers.

- 1.4.2 In 1988, the fields surrounding the villa were fieldwalked during the Langton Hundred Survey, led by Paul Bowman. Significant quantities of Iron Age pottery, Romano-British pottery and tile and early/middle Saxon pottery were found in the field to the north of the brook, within 100m of the villa complex (Bowman n.d., 39, figs. 4, 5 and 7). The Saxon pottery included stamp decorated pieces and an unusual handle (cf Myers 1977, 9), while metal-detector finds from the same area are known to include a small-long brooch, part of a cruciform brooch probably of 5th century AD date, a possible 8th century *sceat* (Liddle 1996, 6) and two 9th century strap ends. This material was considered to relate to a possible settlement and a mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery with its origins in the 5th century, overlying Romano-British structures which perhaps formed part of the wider villa complex, providing evidence of continuous activity in this area (Bowman n.d., 39-40).
- 1.4.3 Concentrations of Iron Age pottery and a triangular loomweight, Romano-British pottery, slag and ceramic building material and early/middle Saxon artefacts were also found while fieldwalking the high ground to the south of the brook (Bowman n.d., figs. 4, 5 and 7). The Saxon pottery sherds included a decorated jar rim which closely parallels a 6th century cremation urn from Thorpe Malsor, Northamptonshire (Myers 1977, 54, fig. 333). Known metal-detector finds from this area included amber beads and cruciform and annular brooch fragments, perhaps indicative of a second Saxon mixed-rite cemetery in this vicinity juxtaposed with earlier, Late Iron Age to middle Romano-British settlement activity (Bowman n.d., 40).
- 1.4.4 The site provides an ideal opportunity to examine the joint themes of transition and continuity/change between these chronological periods, but in the absence of further, focused fieldwork, any direct associations between the villa and the activities represented by the Anglo-Saxon artefacts remain unexplored, while each year the potential of the site is diminished by regular metal-detecting and damaged by the plough. The site was therefore selected for archaeological evaluation and filming following discussions with Peter Liddle, Community Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council Museum Service and Paul Bowman, freelance archaeologist and leader of the Langton Brook Survey (part of the wider Langton Hundred Project).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The 'Time Team' project aimed to carry out a limited programme of non-intrusive topographical and geophysical survey followed by the excavation of a series of targeted evaluation trenches. The site does not enjoy Scheduled Monument status, but the previous fieldwork has indicated that it contains archaeological deposits of sufficiently high quality to address regional and national research questions (e.g. Cooper 2006) about the chronological periods known to be represented and that its potential is being continually eroded by annual ploughing and uncontrolled metal-detector use. The results of the evaluation would thus form a significant resource for the future management of the site and provide a firm basis for any further, more detailed investigations at a future date.

2.1.2 The central aims of the evaluation were to:

- establish the character, extent, date-range and function of the archaeological remains in the two areas of the site;
- assess their state of preservation, with particular emphasis on determining the impact of ploughing on the surviving archaeological features and deposits.

2.1.3 However, from the outset, the sub-surface archaeological remains were expected to be ephemeral, given the nature of Anglo-Saxon sites and particularly as it was anticipated that considerable later plough-damage had occurred. Similarly, it was recognised that the nature of the geology might both inhibit the results of certain types of geophysical survey and result in poor bone preservation.

2.1.4 Two specific areas, both known to have produced high concentrations of pottery and other finds, were therefore defined as the focus for the evaluation. The first of these, Area 1 (200m x 50m), in the field to the north of Langton Brook, incorporated part of the 1988 fieldwalking grid and the known villa complex. Investigations in this area were designed to establish the nature of, and relationships between, the villa, any additional Romano-British structures and deposits as well as the subsequent Anglo-Saxon activity. Area 2 (120m x 80m) was located on the hill to the south of the brook, where significant quantities of Anglo-Saxon pottery and metal finds indicated a possible cemetery. Here, the investigations aimed to identify the nature of any surviving subsurface features from which these finds may have been derived.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Topographical Survey

3.1.1 The topographical survey focused on Areas 1 and 2, and was carried-out according to the guidelines set out by Chapman and Van de Noort (2001), using a Trimble R8 real time kinematic (RTK) differential Global Positioning System (dGPS). The survey accurately recorded the precise locations of the evaluation trenches and the geophysical survey grid.

3.2 Geophysical Survey

- 3.2.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.
- 3.2.2 The geophysical survey also focused on Areas 1 and 2, with three additional areas examining a fieldwalking findspot (Area 4) and a low-lying topographical change (Area 5). Area 3 lay in an area of pasture within the zone of wider archaeological interest and was therefore accessible for survey; the rest of the fields were unavailable because the mature crop had not been harvested.
- 3.2.3 A magnetic survey, using a Bartington Grad 601-2, was carried out in all five areas following the standard guidelines (Jones 2008; Gaffney, Gater and Ovenden 2002). A small part of Area 1 was also subjected to Ground Penetrating Radar, using a Noggin Smartcart Plus with 250 MHz Antennas in 0.5m transects. The results were analysed using a mixture of GSB and commercial software; full details are contained within a separate report prepared by GSB Prospection Ltd (GSB 2010).

3.3 Evaluation Trenches

- 3.3.1 Nine machine trenches were excavated, carefully positioned to examine geophysical anomalies considered to be of archaeological interest (Figure 1). A mechanical excavator (360° tracked or mini-digger) fitted with a toothless bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision, removed the overburden from all the trenches. Machining ceased as soon as significant archaeological deposits were identified. The trenches were cleaned by hand with limited sampling of the underlying archaeological deposits. All spoil arising from the evaluation trenches was scanned by experienced metal detectorists.
- 3.3.2 The archaeological features and deposits were recorded using standard Wessex Archaeology *pro-forma* record sheets. A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered was made, usually at a scale of 1:20; sections were drawn as appropriate. The OD height of all principal strata and features was indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A photographic record of the investigations and individual features was also prepared. All trenches were related to the National Grid/Ordnance Datum by local control.
- 3.3.3 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.
- 3.3.4 The work was carried out between 19–24 July 2010. The archive and all artefacts (project code: 74158; museum accession no. X.A122.2010) were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.4 Copyright

- 3.4.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited

reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Details of individual features and deposits, the full geophysical report (GSB 2010) and details of the artefactual and palaeo-environmental assessments are retained in the archive. Brief context descriptions are presented in **Appendix 1**, and a summary of the results is presented here.

4.2 Geophysical survey

- 4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over an area of approximately 2.7 hectares (**Figures 2 and 3**). A combination of magnetometry (fluxgate gradiometer) and ground penetrating radar (GPR) was employed.
- 4.2.2 The areas predefined for investigation had been harvested, providing good walking conditions. However the remainder of the fields were under a mature rape crop which was inaccessible, thereby preventing any expansion of the survey.
- 4.2.3 Any depths referred to in the interpretation of GPR data *are only ever an approximation*. All GPR interpretations are based on analysis of both the raw and filtered time-slice datasets as well as the original radargrams.

Gradiometer Results

- 4.2.4 Areas 1, 2 and 4 were positioned on the basis of fieldwalking results; Area 3 lies within the zone of wider archaeological interest and covered the location of the cameo; Area 5 was positioned to investigate a possible low lying topographic change.
- 4.2.5 All of the areas contained small scale ferrous anomalies ('iron spikes') that are best illustrated in the XY trace plots included on the Archive CD. These responses are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris scattered in the topsoil and they are normally assigned a modern origin. In this instance, however, given the wider archaeological context, some may represent unstratified ferrous objects of greater antiquity. They are not discussed further unless considered to be particularly relevant.

Area 1

- 4.2.6 The strongest and most coherent response in this block was anomaly [A], indicating a substantial ditch. To the south, weaker anomalies and trends [B] seem likely to represent a continuation of the feature. There appeared to be a break or terminus at the northern end and the possible continuation of the ditch [C] cannot be fully proved due to the limited area available for survey. Overall, the pattern suggests a large enclosure or boundary feature that seems unlikely to relate directly to the Anglo-Saxon period, an interpretation confirmed by excavation; though the prehistoric enclosure may have provided a focus for later activity at the site.

- 4.2.7 A few weaker anomalies and trends extended from the above feature, suggesting fragments of archaeological ditches. Although some form hints of smaller enclosures, no more precise interpretation can be offered as to their function.
- 4.2.8 A short strong linear anomaly [D] may be a ditch of archaeological interest, but since it lies at the limits of survey, no definitive interpretation could be made and it might even represent a more recent drainage feature.
- 4.2.9 The southern half of the grid covered the area of densest fieldwalking finds, thought to indicate the presence of Anglo-Saxon burials. No anomalies of clear archaeological origin were identified, the dominant responses being bands of ferrous and magnetic disturbance associated with field drains. The absence of magnetic, archaeological-type anomalies is not surprising, since Anglo-Saxon sites in general are difficult to identify by gradiometry and burials in particular leave no detectable trace in the magnetic record.
- 4.2.10 Small pit type anomalies were present throughout the survey area. Given the wider context, it is possible that some may represent archaeological pits. However, they could equally reflect natural variations or deeply buried fragments of ferrous debris. As such they are all classified as *Uncertain*.

Area 2

- 4.2.11 Numerous well-defined linear anomalies were recorded throughout this area. Most form rectangular patterns sharing a common alignment, suggesting they belong to the same phase of activity, most probably related to the Roman villa. There was considerable variation in the strength of the anomalies. Those in the north-western half of the strip (around [E]) suggest peripheral features such as land divisions and individual garden plots.
- 4.2.12 The anomalies became stronger in the south-eastern half of the data-set and appeared to lie within two distinct zones of increased magnetic response [F] and [G]. At first glance these appeared to be directly comparable, both suggesting the presence of structural remains and occupation, associated with Roman activity. However, closer examination of the XY trace plots revealed some difference in the two zones. While the magnitude of anomalies within [F] were consistent with core Roman occupation activity, the responses in [G] were marginally weaker and this raised questions about whether there might be some later Anglo-Saxon re-use. To clarify the nature of the features across zone [G] a small target area was investigated with GPR.
- 4.2.13 As with Area 1 above, there were no anomalies that can be confidently attributed to Anglo-Saxon activity (thought to be present at the north-western end of the strip). There were a few anomalies that did not conform entirely to the prevailing alignment, but as these mostly lay at the grid edges, their exact orientation could not be easily determined, and although they are probably archaeological, a more precise interpretation could not be made.

Area 3

- 4.2.14 A well-defined ditch type anomaly [H] crossed this comparatively narrow strip. It was on roughly the same orientation as the anomalies in Area 2 but did not obviously line up with any of these. Because of this, the archaeological interpretation is more cautious.

4.2.15 Two weaker trends appeared to form part of a rectangular enclosure that may be appended to [H]. The interpretation is highly cautious due to the poor definition of the trends.

4.2.16 The southern half of this grid contained broad amorphous responses characteristic of natural deposits, possibly associated with a former watercourse.

Area 4

4.2.17 This small sample block was located away from any known Iron Age or Romano-British activity but where fieldwalking finds suggested the possibility of Anglo-Saxon remains.

4.2.18 The general levels of magnetic response in this data-set were far lower than detected elsewhere across the site indicating a reduction of magnetic enhancement in the soils, possibly reflecting a lack of intensive human activity in the area.

4.2.19 A single ditch type anomaly was identified. The response was, for the most part, very weak and lay at the edge of the survey grid. Consequently, though an archaeological origin is tentatively suggested, no more precise interpretation can be offered.

Area 5

4.2.20 This tiny area was surveyed to investigate the possibility of anthropogenic activity close to an existing watercourse. No anomalies of clear archaeological interest were identified. A few weak trends and pit type anomalies were present, but the survey area was too small to enable a full assessment of their nature. On balance, natural or modern (deeply buried ferrous debris) origins seem more probable than archaeological ones and they were all categorised as *Uncertain*.

GPR Results

4.2.21 A small area of GPR survey was conducted to pinpoint the exact location of the Roman building indicated by a spread of magnetic noise (see Paragraph 1.9). This was necessary to provide a target for excavation in order to determine whether there had been Anglo-Saxon re-use of the Roman structures.

4.2.22 The top 0.3m were dominated by ploughing striations, which unfortunately lay in the same orientation as the archaeology throughout this field. The Roman deposits started to show from around 0.3m (and deeper) and some of the anomalies [1] were clearly substantial reflectors, a fact borne out by the excavation. However, a question remained over whether some of the weaker north-south linear anomalies, for example [2], were parts of the Roman structure or simply deeper ploughing furrows. Compounding the agriculture/archaeology issue was the strong paired responses [3] from tractor ruts (most noticeable in the raw data plots – Archive Figure A7), one of which ran right across the Roman building. The slightly fragmented nature of the responses would suggest that the remains were partially robbed-out or plough-damaged.

Conclusions

- 4.2.23 The gradiometer survey identified a number of well-defined ditch type anomalies likely to be of archaeological origin. These were mostly located in Areas 1 and 2 and related to Iron Age and Romano-British activity across the site. In particular, the responses in Area 2 reflected a combination of land/garden plots and occupation relating to the villa site.
- 4.2.24 None of the magnetic anomalies could be directly linked to Anglo-Saxon activity, but this is arguably unsurprising since the nature of this activity tends to have only marginal effects on the magnetic properties of the soil.
- 4.2.25 The small radar survey revealed the remnants of a plough-damaged, or partially robbed-out, Roman building. The data suggested that substantial elements of this structure remained, but the interpretation of some of the more ephemeral reflections was complicated by responses from agricultural practices.

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

Area 1

- 4.3.1 The geophysical survey recorded numerous well-defined linear anomalies across this whole area. Most of these formed rectangular patterns sharing a common alignment, suggesting that they belonged to a single phase of activity, most probably related to the Roman villa (GSB 2010, 3). Trenches 5 and 8 each examined one of north-south and east-west anomalies in the north-western half of the area, where the magnetic responses were interpreted as representing peripheral features, such as land divisions and garden plots. Trenches 6 and 7 were located within two distinct zones of increased magnetic response, thought to be indicative of structural remains and occupation in the area of the known villa in the south-eastern part of the area.

Trench 5

- 4.3.2 At the western end of the trench, a well-laid cobbled surface (506), perhaps forming part of a yard or roadway, was exposed below c. 0.4m of ploughsoil and subsoil. It was up to 0.4m thick and composed of rounded, water-worn pebbles, flint nodules, ironstone and sandstone lumps as well as pieces of Romano-British ceramic building material (CBM); four copper alloy coins (ONs [Object Numbers] 1402, 1404-1406), all of 4th century AD date, were also found while hand-cleaning. Surface 506 was cut by a substantial north-south aligned ditch (510), up to 3m wide and 0.95m deep, with a wide V-shaped profile, although some disturbance, probably animal burrowing, was noted on its eastern side. Artefacts from the gradually-accumulated silting deposits (502, 503 and 504) filling this feature included late Romano-British pottery, CBM and a copper alloy coin (ON 1400) of the House of Constantine, issued between AD 330 and 345.
- 4.3.3 Part of the profile of a possible post-hole (512), cutting the cobbled surface on the western side of the ditch was also exposed in the machine-excavated section through ditch 510. Although not fully investigated, this feature is also likely to be of late Romano-British or later date.
- 4.3.4 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered on the eastern side of ditch 510.

Trench 6

- 4.3.5 Part of a robbed wall footing was investigated towards the western end of the trench. Foundation 624 was 0.7m wide and aligned north – south. It was constructed from rough, unmortared, stones, up to 0.3m across, set at a c. 40° angle. It had been extensively robbed (robber trench 606) so only one course survived and no facing stones were present. It probably formed the eastern, external wall of a structure, evidenced by a deposit of collapsed mortar (604) on its eastern side suggesting that it was externally rendered. Internally, the foundation may have been associated with a narrow band of occupation debris (610), at least 0.1m deep, which contained a single sherd of Romano-British Nene Valley pottery. The western side of this deposit was cut by construction trench 623, filled with a layer of flat but otherwise undressed sandstone and limestone blocks (622), forming a solid base for a layer of compacted yellow sand and poorly-slaked lime mortar (607), probably originally for a tessellated floor. Although not fully investigated, it appeared that the southerly extension of floor-base layers 622 and 607 were cut away by a robber trench (617), approximately 1m wide and parallel with foundation 624, perhaps excavated to recover the stones used in 622. This was filled with mortar-rich rubble deposits 616 and 625. To the west, a second robber trench, 618, c. 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with irregular but almost vertical sides and a flattish base, highlighted the possibility of a second north-south wall having existed at this point, perhaps forming the western side of an internal corridor within the structure. The rubble (608) filling this trench also included numerous loose tesserae, perhaps originally derived from the floor overlying bedding layer 607. A layer of possible occupation debris (620) was seen in the base of this trench but not further investigated.
- 4.3.6 To the east of foundation 624, gravel layers 602 and 609, up to 0.1m thick, rested on a well-laid cobbled surface (612), itself above bedding layers of compacted silty clay (611 and 615). Together, these layers perhaps formed a path or roadway, approximately 2.3m wide, to the rear of the building. At the extreme eastern end of the trench, soil layers 613 and 614 were exposed beneath the plough- and subsoil (600 and 601) but were not excavated.

Trench 7

- 4.3.7 The removal of the ploughsoil and subsoil, up to 0.4m thick, revealed a 0.15m deep layer of soft, loose demolition debris (702) almost entirely composed of crushed sand and poorly-slaked lime mortar and small stone fragments. At the southern end of the trench, this lay above a probable silting deposit of brown silty loam (706), which itself lay above a cobbled surface (705) and filled a gully curving across this surface. This gully may correspond with a small, curving, linear feature shown by the geophysical survey. There was no evidence to suggest that it was a later feature cut into the cobbled surface, and it may have been deliberately constructed, perhaps as a drain, as the surface was laid.
- 4.3.8 A second cobbled surface (704) was identified in the northern end of the trench, below another silting layer (703). This utilised smaller stones than those of surface 705, but the relationship, if any, between the two was not investigated.

Trench 8

- 4.3.9 The alignment of the geophysical anomaly investigated by this trench was slightly at odds with the majority of others apparent on the survey, perhaps suggesting that it belong to a different phase of activity. This feature was found to be a ditch (803), approximately 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep with steeply-sloping sides and a vertical-sided 'ankle-breaker' in its base. A single sherd of Romano-British Black Burnished ware pottery was found in its lower fill (802), while animal bone and Romano-British CBM fragments were recovered from the upper fill (801). It was cut through a layer of yellow-brown sandy clay (804), but this deposit was not further investigated.
- 4.3.10 Layer 804 was also cut by a badly truncated grave (809). The edges of this grave were not easily discerned; the southern end had been cut away by another possible feature (806) seen only in plan at the southern end of the trench, while the northern end had been destroyed by modern plough damage. However, grave 809 appeared to be at least 0.6m wide. It contained part of the upper torso of a human skeleton (808), aligned approximately north to south. The skeleton was not fully excavated and the bones were left *in situ*. A copper alloy coin (ON 1701), issued c. AD 270 – 296, found while hand-cleaning the trench probably came from the fill (807) of this grave. It may also be relevant that redeposited human bones were found in layer 805, filling feature 806.
- 4.3.11 At the northern end of the trench, layer 810 (compacted silty loam with common rounded pebbles, ceramic building material, pottery and animal bone fragments), may represent the fill of another cut feature extending beyond limits of the trench, but this was not further investigated.

Area 2

- 4.3.12 Three trenches were excavated in this area on the hill to the south of the brook.
- 4.3.13 Trench 1 was located on the edge of the 1988 fieldwalking grid, while Trench 3 was positioned over the possible cemetery suggested by the previously known concentration of Anglo-Saxon pottery and metal finds. The eastern end of this trench also examined the southern part of a sinuous ditch identified by the geophysical survey. Trench 2 examined the possible terminal at the northern end of this ditch.

Trench 1

- 4.3.14 Removal of the plough- and subsoil (up to 0.3m deep) revealed a single small, rectangular feature (106) cutting the natural clay (109). This feature was filled with a gradually-accumulated silting deposit of compacted, grey-brown clay loam (105). Two small flint flakes and a scrap of unworked burnt flint were found within this material, perhaps indicative of a prehistoric date, but the irregular base and sides of the feature suggested that it may result from rooting or an animal burrow rather than being of anthropogenic origin.

Trench 2

- 4.3.15 Removal of the ploughsoil and subsoil (201 and 204, together c. 0.32m deep) revealed the line of the ditch (203), here up to 2.16m wide. It did appear to terminate at this point, but its northern edge had been heavily disturbed by animal burrowing, perhaps disguising its original shape (not all the galleries and tunnels of the burrow were fully excavated). The ditch had

a wide, V-shaped profile and was 0.65m deep. Its single fill consisted of a gradually-accumulated deposit of compacted dark grey loamy clay with rounded gravel and sandstone pieces, early Romano-British pottery, animal bone, worked flint and fragments of possible fuel-ash slag. A small, irregular feature (206), in the north-east corner of the trench probably represents part of the same extensive animal burrow and it was easy to see why these creatures had preferred the softer soils filling the ditch, as the edges of feature 206 were defined by a dense, almost impenetrable layer of 'iron-pan' formed by manganese/haematite fragments within the natural clay (207). To the west of the ditch, modern land drains were visible running slightly diagonally down the slope, and the material in this area (208) probably represents redeposited natural clay.

Trench 3

- 4.3.16 Unusually, no clear subsoil layer was identified in this trench; the ploughsoil, up to 0.3m deep, lay directly above the natural clay (302), which was of highly variable appearance. The most recent features comprised remnants of the medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow system of arable agriculture (310), a modern land drain (307) and three small post-holes (314, 316 and 318). Although these were not excavated, it is likely that they represent part of a fence-line of relatively recent date.
- 4.3.17 At the eastern end of the trench, a badly truncated ditch (312) was identified, probably representing the faint, southerly continuation of the sinuous, later prehistoric ditch shown on the geophysical survey and recorded in Trench 2. This ditch was aligned north-east to south-west, but irregularities of width (0.5m - 0.9m) and depth (up to 0.16m) suggested that only the base of a once much larger feature survived. No artefacts were recovered from its fill (311).
- 4.3.18 Higher up the slope, at the western end of the trench, the removal of the ploughsoil revealed at least six inhumation graves (321, 326, 327, 328, 335 and 340) and a possible cremation-related feature (319), all of Anglo-Saxon date. Graves, by their nature, tend to be cut, the burial made and rapidly backfilled with the material that was excavated out of them, and these graves were no exception. The redeposited nature of their fills, coupled with the highly variable geology in this area and very drying weather conditions prevailing at the time of the evaluation conspired to make the graves very difficult to see, both in plan and during excavation. Although the edges of the graves became temporarily obvious after a thunderstorm, it was not possible to fully excavate all these features within the time available. As expected, bone preservation was extremely poor, with only a few teeth, fragments of skull and long bones surviving in highly degraded condition.
- 4.3.19 All the inhumation graves had been badly truncated by ploughing, surviving to depths of between 0.03m (grave 321) to 0.15m (grave 327). All were of a size suitable for adults (c. 1.2m – 2m+ long; 0.45m – 1.15m wide) and the range of grave goods (predominantly brooches and beads; see below, **Finds**) recovered from three graves (321, 327 and 335) suggests that these may have contained females. Grave 328 was unique amongst the group, not only for its larger size (at least 2m long, 1.15m wide and 0.14m deep) but because surviving teeth and the range of grave goods indicated that it contained two individuals, probably laid supine and extended with their heads to the west. The individual (329) on the north side associated with

small-long brooches (ONs 1223 and 1224), was probably female, whilst the other (330), found with an iron shield boss (ON 1222) and a ferrule (ON 1225), perhaps from a spear, was probably male. A ceramic vessel (ON 1216) had also been placed between the legs of these two individuals. Clearly, all these individuals were part of a wealthy, well provided-for population.

- 4.3.20 A shallow pit (319) containing a possible cremation-related deposit was cut into the top of one of the probable inhumation graves (340). Pit 319 had three post-holes around its southern edge, two approximately 0.2m in diameter and 0.06 – 0.08m deep while the third was smaller, less well-defined and perhaps of different origin. The northern half of the feature was shallower with a more regular, scoop-shaped profile. The fill (320) contained one or two centrally-positioned large sandstone pieces, scraps of cremated human bone, charred and unburnt animal bone, charcoal flecks and charred wood fragments, the latter especially along the eastern edge. This material also filled the post-holes, with post-hole A in particular, being relatively rich in fuel ash.
- 4.3.21 Probable grave (340) was not fully investigated but its eastern side appeared to more or less coincide with that of pit 319. Its northern and western edges were poorly-defined but a circular post-hole, 0.25m in diameter, had been cut into its western edge. Like the other graves, 340 was filled with redeposited natural clay (341), containing a residual flint scraper (ON 1240); a complete pottery vessel (ON 1239), perhaps a grave offering, had been deliberately placed in the post-hole. Fragments from the vault of a human skull (342) were also exposed adjacent to the south-facing section of this feature, but excavation was abandoned at this point so it remains uncertain whether they represent the remains of a complete burial or a stray fragment of skull. The size and thickness of the skull fragments (which were left *in situ* and not seen by the osteoarchaeologist) indicate that it belonged to an adult.
- 4.3.22 Part of an L-shaped ditch (306), was also identified in this trench. Although the gradually-accumulated silting deposit (305) filling this feature was cut by grave 328, pottery sherds and part of a small-long brooch (ON 1006) recovered from it also suggest a Saxon date.

Area 3

Trench 4

- 4.3.23 This trench was deliberately positioned in an area without magnetic anomalies but considered to be of archaeological interest, to provide a safe base for a pyre which formed part of the Time Team programme's cameo. The trench was not excavated to the full depth of the subsoil and no archaeological features or deposits were encountered although Romano-British artefacts (pottery, CBM, animal bone, oyster shell, two late Romano-British copper alloy coins (ONs 1303 and 1304), a copper alloy ring (ON 1301) and two lead waste fragments (ON 1300 and 1302)), probably derived from the villa complex, were recovered from the subsoil (401).

Area 4

Trench 9

- 4.3.24 Fieldwalking finds highlighted the possibility of Anglo-Saxon remains in this vicinity while a single ditch-type anomaly was identified here by the geophysical survey. Evidence for three ditches, each on slightly different but broadly east-west alignments, was discovered. At the northern end of the trench, the southern side of a probable ditch (909) was identified, cutting the natural clay (905). Although seen only in plan, this feature was at least 1.85m wide, continuing beyond the limits of the trench. It was filled with a deposit of grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles, Romano-British ceramic building material fragments and charcoal flecks (903). To the south, ditch 906 was 1.5m wide, at least 0.35m deep with straight, moderately sloping sides and filled with a gradually-accumulated deposit of orange-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks (902). Both these ditches appear to have been cut by a third ditch (908), filled with another gradually-accumulated silting deposit (907) also containing animal bone, ceramic building material fragments and charcoal flecks. Although not fully excavated, this ditch was in the region of 1.7m wide and at least 0.3m deep.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from nine trenches, although quantities from Trenches 1, 4, 7 and 9 were minimal. The assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. Prehistoric artefacts occurred solely as residual finds in later contexts. Romano-British finds came mainly from Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 8, with smaller quantities elsewhere; these included badly disturbed human remains from a grave in Trench 8, tentatively dated as late Romano-British on the presence of a coin. Anglo-Saxon material was largely confined to Trench 3, and consisted of groups of grave goods from five graves (**Table 2**), including personal items, weapons and pottery vessels. Human remains from all grave contexts were recorded *in situ* and not lifted, although some further fragments of bone were subsequently extracted from sieved soil samples taken from grave fills. Medieval and later finds were few, and came mostly from topsoil contexts.

- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by context, and totals by material type and by trench are given in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been subjected at least to a visual scan, in order to ascertain their nature, condition and, where possible, date range. This information has formed the basis for an assessment of the finds assemblage to contribute further to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the Romano-British settlement and Anglo-Saxon funerary activity located here.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes sherds of probable Iron Age, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date, and includes two vessels placed as grave goods in Anglo-Saxon graves. Other sherds appear to represent normal refuse disposal, but high levels of abrasion on some pieces suggest a degree of reworking and redeposition. Excluding the Anglo-Saxon grave goods, mean sherd weight is 4.8g.

- 5.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified within each context by ware type, and the results are summarised in **Table 3**.

Prehistoric

- 5.2.3 One sherd was tentatively dated as Iron Age; this is in a fine sandy fabric, not particularly chronologically distinctive but not obviously matching either the Romano-British or Saxon sandy fabrics. It came from ditch 203, where it was associated with Romano-British sherds.

Romano-British

- 5.2.4 The Romano-British assemblage has been quantified by ware or fabric group; these are broadly correlated with the Leicester type series (e.g. Pollard 1994), although detailed fabric analysis has not been undertaken. In general, the Romano-British sherds were in fair to poor condition, with many showing high levels of surface and edge abrasion, and this is reflected in the relatively low average sherd weight (10.2g).
- 5.2.5 Imported finewares are very scarce, restricted to two sherds of samian, one possibly from a form 18 platter (subsoil/cleaning layer 603) and one from a form 33 cup (gravel surface 609). British finewares are better represented, by 42 sherds of colour coated wares, all from the Lower Nene Valley industry (no Oxfordshire colour coated wares are present). Eleven of these sherds came from a single jar or flagon base (ditch 510); other diagnostic forms include a platter imitating samian form 31, two jars, a flanged bowl and an indented beaker with barbotine decoration. The Lower Nene Valley industry also supplied most of the mortaria from the Site (none, however, in diagnostic forms), with just one example of an Oxfordshire whiteware mortarium.
- 5.2.6 The remainder of the assemblage comprises coarsewares – greywares (GW), south-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1), oxidised wares (OW), calcite-gritted wares (CG), grog-tempered wares (GT) and whitewares (WW). The most common vessel forms are everted rim jars, in greywares and calcite-gritted wares, but there are also two bead rim jars, one with an internally ledged rim (context 202), one convex-sided dish (ditch 803) and a flanged bowl (ditch 510).
- 5.2.7 The small quantities of pottery per context (only one context contained more than 20 sherds), and the scarcity of well dated vessel forms, leaves the dating of this assemblage somewhat ambiguous. Perhaps the earliest group is that from ditch 203 (42 sherds), which includes bead rim jars and a necked jar in greywares, and most of the grog-tempered sherds from the Site; this group must date from the later 1st or early 2nd century AD. The samian platter, if definitely a form 18, belongs to the same period, but is probably residual in its context (subsoil/cleaning layer 603) – fabrics and forms from Trench 6 appear to focus on the period from the early/mid 2nd century onwards. The small group from gravel surface 609, for example (16 sherds), includes one sherd of Black Burnished ware, the samian form 33 cup, but interestingly also includes a higher proportion of calcite-gritted ware (13 sherds) than greywares (two sherds). The Lower Nene Valley industry originated in the 2nd century AD, but at least two of the forms seen here, the imitation samian form 31 (ditch 803), and the indented beaker (occupation debris 610), are of 3rd or 4th century date.

Anglo-Saxon

- 5.2.8 Two vessels were found as grave goods in Anglo-Saxon graves (Graves 327 and 340). Both were fragmented; the vessel from Grave 340 appeared more or less complete, although only approximately half of the vessel from Grave 327 survived. Both are simple convex forms with slightly out-turned rims, and both are in moderately coarse sandy fabrics.
- 5.2.9 Eighteen other sherds of Anglo-Saxon date were recovered, mostly from Trench 3 but with two sherds also from topsoil in Trench 2. None are diagnostic, and most are small and abraded. All are in coarse or moderately coarse sandy fabrics – in all cases the subangular quartz inclusions are visible in hand specimen, and several sherds also contained coarse flakes of mica.
- 5.2.10 These coarse sandy fabrics, and the two identifiable vessel forms, are not particularly chronologically distinctive, but a date range somewhere between the later 5th and 7th centuries can be suggested, and at least one, and probably both grave vessels can be dated as 6th century on the presence of other, more datable grave goods. The micaceous nature of some of the sherds would be in keeping with a relatively local origin within the Mountsorrel granodiorite outcrops of the Charnwood Forest.

Medieval

- 5.2.11 Three sherds were identified as medieval – one of hard-fired Midlands Purple ware found unstratified in Trench 5; one internally glazed sherd in an oolitic fabric from Trench 6 subsoil (601); and a non-distinctive sandy ware from the ploughsoil of Trench 9.

Post-Medieval

- 5.2.12 Post-medieval sherds include coarse redwares (some black-glazed), white salt glaze and Staffordshire-type marbled slipware (spoilheap finds in Trenches 1 and 3, Trench 2 ploughsoil, land drain 307, Trench 9 topsoil).

5.3 Ceramic and Stone Building Material

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 The condition of the CBM assemblage is poor; fragments are relatively small and abraded, and the proportions of completely undiagnostic fragments, and fragments of flat tiles unassignable to specific types, are consequently high. In terms of fabric, most fragments were in moderately fine, relatively soft-fired fabrics in the mid orange to brick red colour range. There are a few exceptions in shelly fabrics, notably a small group of five flat tile fragments from context 702, one flat fragment from 601, and two *tegula* fragments from, respectively, Trench 5 spoilheap finds and subsoil/cleaning layer 601. Two of the undiagnostic flat fragments were in coarse fabrics with prominent clay pellets, both from Trench 9 (ploughsoil and ditch 906).
- 5.3.2 The two major types of roof tile, *tegula* and *imbrex*, are both represented. Flange height was measurable in only a few tegulae (5 examples), and ranged from 15mm to 30mm. One cut-away of type 5 was identified (ditch 510 upper fill), and one possibly of type 4 (unstratified, Trench 5) (Brodrigg 1987, 16, fig. 7).

- 5.3.3 Box flue tiles (*tubuli*) were identified largely from surface combing, although one possible vent is also present (unstratified, Trench 5).
- 5.3.4 One large group of 85 tesserae was recovered from robber trench 618 (alongside a similarly large group of stone tesserae, see below). The ceramic tesserae measure 20-30mm.
- 5.3.5 Of the undiagnostic flat tiles, most were less than 40mm in thickness, suggesting that they most probably derive from further *tegulae*, *imbrices* or box flue tiles. Four showed finger-smear 'signatures' (none were observed on identifiable *tegulae*), and one has a surviving nail hole (ditch 510 upper fill). Only eight fragments were thicker than 40mm, perhaps belonging to brick types such as those used in hypocaust construction, or walling.

Stone Building Material

- 5.3.6 The stone building material consists almost entirely of tesserae; these all average around 15mm square. A large group (608 pieces) came from robber trench 618 (alongside 85 ceramic tesserae, see above), with a few more from other contexts in Trench 6 (subsoil/cleaning layers and 603, gravel surface 609), with two from surface 506. All the tesserae are in the same stone type, a white calcareous mudstone from the Upper Jurassic White Lias formation.
- 5.3.7 Two pieces of roofing slate, of medieval or later date, came from Trenches 7 and 8 respectively.

5.4 Wall Plaster

- 5.4.1 Fragments of wall plaster were recovered from two contexts (robber trench 618, gravel surface 609) in Trench 6. All are monochrome white; one fragment has traces of keying on one surface.

5.5 Worked Flint

- 5.5.1 Thirty-four pieces of worked flint were recovered from 16 contexts, including unstratified material, from six trenches. None of the material is likely to have come from a primary context. The largest collection comprised nine pieces, including an undiagnostic flake core, from cleaning layer 304. Raw material appears to have been available as small nodules of flint, probably derived material from gravel.
- 5.5.2 The material is all unpatinated and several pieces exhibit traces of post depositional edge damage. The technology was primarily based around flake production using hard hammer mode with some preparatory abrasion of the striking platform before the flake was detached. Retouched material included a well-made end scraper, apparently retouched using pressure (ON 1240, possible cremation-related feature 319), a double side scraper or plano-convex knife, made on a cortical flake (unstratified, Trench 1) and a probable chisel arrowhead (cleaning layer 304).
- 5.5.3 The relatively small and thinly spread assemblage of worked flint is nevertheless a significant indicator of activity on the site. The condition, technology, raw material and retouched tool component of the assemblage suggest that the entire collection represents a single phase of activity. The data of the collection is speculative; however the apparent use of pressure

flaking and the presence of a chisel arrowhead suggest that the industry probably dates to the Middle-Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

5.6 Glass and Amber Beads

- 5.6.1 A total of 71 glass and 49 amber beads were recovered from three Anglo-Saxon graves: Grave 321 (8 glass beads); Grave 327 (6 amber beads); and Grave 335 (43 amber and 63 glass beads). **Table 4** summarises the bead types in each of the three graves.

Glass beads

- 5.6.2 The glass beads have been classified using Brugmann's typology of Anglo-Saxon glass beads (2004). Of the 63 glass beads from Grave 335, 52 are of similar form and colour, monochrome blue annular (BrugmanBlue), with diameters ranging from 7mm to 11mm (but mostly around 8-9mm). There are three other monochrome forms represented: opaque blue-white disc (2 examples); transparent pale blue sub-melon (2); and transparent pale blue cylinder (1). The remaining six beads from Grave 335 are polychrome, all disc forms. Five are variations on the double crossing wave and row of spots (Dot 34), two as blue on opaque blue-white, and three as blue and opaque red on opaque blue-white. The sixth bead has an irregular ?blue trail with a trace of opaque red on an opaque blue-white ground.
- 5.6.3 Of the eight glass beads from 321, five are monochrome and three polychrome. All of the monochrome beads are blue; four are irregular annular forms while the fifth is an irregular coiled variant. The polychrome beads all feature blue motifs on opaque blue-white grounds – two with double crossing waves (Koch 34 Blue) and one with a single spiral.

Amber beads

- 5.6.4 All but six of the amber beads could be assigned to an overall form, using the typology developed by Evison for the Dover Buckland cemetery (Evison 1987); the other six were too fragmented. The smaller group, from Grave 327, was in worse condition; four of the six beads were heavily fragmented. The other two were also fragmentary, but could be identified as rough cylindrical forms (irregular variants of Evison's A03).
- 5.6.5 The 39 beads from Grave 335 survived in better condition. Nearly all of these beads are of similar form, flattish and roughly disc-shaped (Evison's form A04), with diameters ranging from 9mm to 22mm, peaking at 11-12mm. Some beads are borderline A04/A10; there is one example of a cylindrical form (A03).
- 5.6.6 Amber necklaces are regarded as a type fossil of the 6th century, although the beads do occur in small numbers in some later graves.

5.7 Coins

- 5.7.1 Eleven Roman coins were recovered (**Table 5**). All date to the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD. In general, their condition is good, although a small number show signs of post-depositional corrosion, whilst many also show signs of pre-depositional wear. Despite these factors, ten of the 11 coins could be identified to period. The single exception (ON 1404) is almost certainly a 4th century *nummus* judging from its size.

- 5.7.2 The earliest coin from the site is an irregular radiate *antoninianus*, probably struck between c. AD 270 and the reform of coinage instigated by Diocletian in AD 296 (ON 1701). These contemporary copies of 'official' coinage, also known as 'Barbarous Radiates' were probably struck in the late 3rd century AD to compensate for gaps in supply of coinage to Britain, supplying sufficient small change for the province's needs. It is unclear whether these copies were officially sanctioned, if at all, but they are common site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins. A second late 3rd century coin (ON 1303) is likely to be an 'official' issue struck by Carausius or Allectus (the obverse is too worn and corroded to be certain) between AD 286 and 296.
- 5.7.3 The remaining nine coins from the site are all *nummi* struck in the 4th century AD. These include an illegible *nummus* (ON 1404) and a corroded commemorative issue of Constantine I, probably struck between AD 306 and AD 324 (ON 1406). The rest all date to the middle third of the 4th century AD, and include a number of contemporary copies or probable copies (ONs 1304, 1400, 1402 and 1411) as well as 'official' issues (ONs 1405, 1407 and 1410). Like the earlier 'Barbarous Radiates', these 4th century copies appear to have been struck as a response to gaps in the supply of small coinage to the province, and may have been officially sanctioned, or at least tolerated. The absence of later coins, in particular those of the House of Valentinian (c. AD 364 – 378), is interesting. These coins are common in 4th century coin assemblages, and their absence from the West Langton assemblage might indicate that the site was no longer in use by this time. Some discretion must be exercised here, however, given the small size of the assemblage.
- 5.7.4 The small assemblage of coins recovered from the site is dominated by coins of the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD. This is a pattern common to British sites, and reflects the vagaries of coin supply and use within the province. Given the small size of the assemblage, it can tell us little about coin use or loss on the site itself, other than that coins were used on site throughout the late 3rd and first half of the 4th century AD. The absence of any later coins (in particular issues of the House of Valentinian) might indicate that the site went out of use late in the AD 350s or early 360s, but the size of the assemblage recovered makes such an interpretation tentative.

5.8 Metalwork

- 5.8.1 Of the 196 metal objects recovered, 12 were found as grave goods in Anglo-Saxon graves, or other incidental grave finds (see **Table 5**), and these are discussed first, within functional groups.

Objects found as grave goods

Personal items

- 5.8.2 Personal items comprise eight brooches, two buckles, a pair of tweezers, and a small fragment of decorated strip, possibly belonging to a girdle-hanger.
- 5.8.3 The brooches occurred in three graves (**Table 5**), but the types differed between graves. The single brooch from grave 321 is a highly decorated equal-arm form (ON 1208); the two from grave 328 are small-long brooches

(ONs 1223, 1224), while all five from grave 335 are cruciform brooches (ONs 1235, 1236, 1237, 1364, 1365).

- 5.8.4 The equal-arm brooch is a 5th century type, while the cruciform and small-long brooches belong to the 6th century. The two small-long brooches from grave 328 are a pair, both trefoil-headed, a form recognised as essentially a simplified cruciform brooch. Brooches 1237 and 1364 from grave 335 are of similar form, having winged headplates, half-round knobs, scrolled lappets and nostrils, and an expanded noseplate with a slightly curved edge. Brooch 1365 is of very similar form, also with scrolled lappets and nostrils, but with a smaller, curved noseplate. This brooch has been repaired - one side knob has been broken off, and a separate knob is a later repair; there is a repair patch on the rear of the headplate, and the three rivets holding this on are visible on the front of the brooch. Brooches 1235 and 1236 are smaller, simpler forms, again with winged headplates and half-round knobs, but lacking lappets.

Weapons

- 5.8.5 Weapons were found in one grave (328), and comprise a very fragmentary shield boss and a ferrule from the base of a spear shaft (the spearhead did not survive). The shield boss profile cannot be completely reconstructed (the wall profile is missing), and it can be identified only broadly as falling within Dickinson and Härke's Groups 1 or 2 (low height and straight cone), with a potential date range of late 5th to 6th century (Dickinson and Härke 1992).

Other objects

- 5.8.6 Other objects from graves comprise two sheet fragments of unknown function from grave 327; and a group of small iron fragments, also of unknown function, from grave 328.

Other metalwork

- 5.8.7 A further 12 objects of copper alloy, all from Trench 3 and found either unstratified or within the topsoil, are also likely to represent Saxon grave goods from other, previously disturbed graves. These comprise fragments of a maximum of seven brooches, all small-long forms, a small fragment of decorated strip possibly from a girdle-hanger, a square decorative mount or fitting with traces of white metal plating and a central (empty) setting and a small moulded knobbed fitting of uncertain function.
- 5.8.8 Other copper alloy objects comprise a short length of thin wire (unstratified, Trench 1), a small rod fragment (possible cremation-related feature 319), a ring (diameter 35mm, Trench 4 subsoil), a probable weight, roughly disc-shaped with an off-centre perforation (ditch 510 upper fill), a sheet fragment (surface 506), and a pin (unstratified). None of these are datable on morphological grounds, apart from the pin, which is a small dressmaking pin of post-medieval date.
- 5.8.9 Iron objects include nails (9 identifiable examples) and hobnails (19 from ditch 510); the remainder are unidentified.
- 5.8.10 The lead consists almost entirely of small waste fragments and offcuts. The exception is a small, circular object from Trench 9 ploughsoil, with a central perforation, possibly a weight. Again, none of the lead is datable, except by association with other objects.

5.9 Human Bone

- 5.9.1 Human remains were recorded in two parts of the site; Trench 8 in Area 1, located in the low-lying region to the north of the Langton Brook adjacent to the Romano-British villa, and Trench 3 in Area 2, situated towards the brow of the hill to the south of the brook.
- 5.9.2 Most of the (adult) bone from the single context in Area 1 was left *in situ*, a small sample being retained for possible radiocarbon analysis of this essentially undated - but probably Late or post-Romano-British - context. Unburnt and cremated bone was recovered from five contexts in Area 2. Four relate to the remains of the dual inhumation burial made within grave 328, which formed one of at least six Early Anglo-Saxon graves exposed within the cemetery situated towards the top of the low spur rising south-west from the Langton Brook. The remaining context, recovered from an enigmatic but possibly cremation-related deposit also situated within the sphere of the cemetery, contained fragments of cremated human bone, as did the backfill of inhumation grave 328. Two other inhumation graves investigated within the cemetery were devoid of surviving human remains.
- 5.9.3 The unburnt bone from Area 1 is in very poor condition (that from Area 2 being well preserved). With the exception of a small, heavily degraded, scrap of long bone from grave 328, only the tooth crowns survived, occasionally with part of the tooth roots. The acidic nature of the soil (silty clay), location of the graves and their heavily truncated state had conspired to the total degradation of the rest of the bone.
- 5.9.4 The tooth crowns (total 43) in grave 328, whilst forming adjacent semi-discrete groups towards the west end of the grave, lay only c. 0.36m apart, and some of those from the individual laid on the south side of the grave (330) had become mixed with those of the individual to the north (329). Slight variations in tooth wear patterns enabled the two sets to be distinguished, however. Both represent the remains of adults; 329 was the older of the two at c. 25-35 years of age, and 330 at c. 18-28 years. It was not possible to ascertain the biological sex of either individual.
- 5.9.5 The only dental pathology observed comprised slight dental hypoplasia in one mandibular canine from 330, suggestive of short periods of arrested growth - linked to childhood illness or periods of malnutrition - at c. 5-7 years of age. Slight dental calculus (calcified plaque) was observed in parts of both dentitions.
- 5.9.6 Small quantities of cremated human bone were recovered from the backfill of grave 328 (1.1g subadult/adult bone (>15 yrs. age)) and from feature 320 (0.9g). Despite the very small quantities, the presence of this bone demonstrates the rite was being practiced in the area probably at least prior to the use of the inhumation rite. Although its incorporation in the grave fill was probably accidental, deliberate inclusion of such material in such settings is known and cannot be discounted (e.g. McKinley forthcoming).
- 5.9.7 The nature of the deposit (320) in feature 319 remains enigmatic. The incorporation of some cremated bone in its fill together with charcoal/fuel ash suggests some link to the cremation rite, but the material could have been redeposited within an otherwise unrelated feature.

5.10 Animal Bone

Introduction

- 5.10.1 The assemblage comprises 231 fragments (or 3.013kg) of hand-recovered animal bone. Bone was recovered from trenches 2, and 4 to 9 of the evaluation. Most of the material is from Romano-British contexts, specifically ditches **510** and **803**; smaller amounts of bone were recovered from medieval, post-medieval and modern contexts.

Methods

- 5.10.2 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Condition of material

- 5.10.3 Bone preservation is extremely good and only a small proportion of fragments were recorded with gnaw-marks. This suggests that bone waste was disposed of rapidly out of the reach of scavenging carnivores.

Romano-British

- 5.10.4 Animal bone was recovered from 13 separate contexts of Romano-British date; this includes several layers, surfaces, a robber trench **606**, and ditches **510** and **803**. Most of the identified bones belong to cattle (61%), less common species includes sheep/goat, pig, horse and ?plover.
- 5.10.5 The limited age information suggests that adult cattle were selected for slaughter, which implies that cattle were primarily managed for secondary products and/or valued as traction animals. By way of contrast most of the sheep and pig bones are from immature animals, and this implies that they were primarily managed for meat. The occurrence of ?plover in the assemblage suggests that wildfowling was practiced, adding the occasional bit of variety to the diet.

Medieval, post-medieval, modern and undated

- 5.10.6 The majority (77%) of bone fragments from later contexts are unidentifiable to either species or element. Identified bones include cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse and dog. A few of the cattle bones from topsoil layers are from large improved breeds of stock, and a few of the bones display signs of pathology that are generally linked to traction, this includes splayed distal condyles on metapodials and enlarged muscle attachments.

5.11 Marine Shell

- 5.11.1 All of the marine shell comprises oyster, and includes both right and left valves, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste. Fragments came from Trenches 4, 6 and 7.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of 10 bulk samples were taken from Trenches 3 and 5 and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

6.1.2 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

Sample Provenance Summary

Phase	No. samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Romano-British	1	25	ditch
Saxon	9	143	Cremation related deposits, grave
Totals	9	168	

6.1.3 Bulk samples were processed using standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 6**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.1.4 The flots varied in size with moderate to high numbers of roots and modern seeds that can be indicative of stratigraphic movement and hence the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material survived in varying degrees of preservation.

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

6.2.1 The Romano-British ditch 510 in Trench 5 contained a small number of charred plant remains. The cereal remains included possible grain fragments and glume bases of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and the weed seeds those of oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* spp.).

6.2.2 Only low levels of charred remains were observed in the Saxon cremation-related deposit 319 and grave 328 in Trench 3. The cereal remains comprised indeterminate grain fragments and a single glume base. The other charred remains include hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments and seeds of cleavers (*Galium* sp.).

6.2.3 These assemblages are too small to provide much information on the nature of this site but can be compared with those recovered from the nearby 'Time Team' evaluation at Knave Hill, Stonton Wyville (Wessex Archaeology 2008). A very much richer plant remain assemblage was recorded from a probable Romano-British pit at Knave Hill than that seen in ditch 510 at West Langton. Despite the samples of Saxon date at Knave Hill coming from more settlement type features, they still only contained small quantities of charred plant remains in no greater quantity than those recovered from the

possible cremation-related deposits and graves at West Langton. Given the low quantities of charred material and their association with non-domestic contexts, it is possible that all of the material recovered from these grave and cremation deposits may be potentially be re-worked or intrusive.

6.3 Wood Charcoal

- 6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 6**. Moderate quantities of wood charcoal fragments were retrieved from the Saxon cremation-related deposit 319 in Trench 3.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The earliest feature discovered by the evaluation was the long sinuous ditch identified by the geophysical survey and examined in Trenches 2 and 3 on the hilltop to the south of Langton Brook. The irregular course of this feature suggests that it is unrelated to either the Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon activity known in the area (although it may well have provided a focus for it) and it is most likely to represent part of an enclosure or other landscape boundary of later prehistoric date. Early Romano-British pottery from its northern terminal indicates that it was out of use and silting-up by this point in time.
- 7.1.2 In Area 1 to the north of the brook, the geophysical survey and evaluation Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8 confirmed the results of the 1970s trial trenching, establishing the presence of substantial Romano-British structures with stone walls and tessellated floors, cobbled surfaces and/or roads and associated peripheral features such as field boundaries and garden plots on regular, rectangular alignments. Coins and other artefacts from these trenches suggest that these remains are predominantly of late 3rd or 4th century AD date. The structural remains were found to be extensively robbed and to have suffered considerable plough-damage but currently, enough still survives to recover something of the groundplan, appearance and developmental sequence of this probable villa complex should further fieldwork be undertaken in the area.
- 7.1.3 Although badly truncated, the remains of one inhumation burial was also discovered in the north-western part of Area 1 (Trench 8), where previous fieldwalking finds had highlighted the possibility of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. This burial was not conclusively dated, although a late 3rd century AD coin may have been found in its immediate vicinity, perhaps suggesting it to be late Romano-British. Despite the earlier fieldwalking finds, the evaluation did not encounter any definitively-dated Saxon features or other evidence for Saxon activity in this area.
- 7.1.4 Although not conclusively dated, it is probable that the three ditches identified in Trench 9 may represent successive phases of a continuation of the peripheral field system associated with the Romano-British villa complex. The geophysical survey detected far lower levels of magnetic response in this area than elsewhere across the Site (GSB 2010, 4), reflecting its greater distance from the villa and lack of intensive human activity.
- 7.1.5 No features or deposits of Romano-British date were discovered on the hilltop to the south of the brook (Area 2) but at least six Anglo-Saxon

inhumation graves were found in the western end of Trench 3, with feature 319 providing additional evidence for possible cremation-related activities. It is probable that this cemetery extends beyond the limits of Trench 3, but graves in particular tend to be difficult to define and locate within the magnetic record and are therefore not apparent on the geophysical survey. As predicted at the outset of the project, bone preservation was very poor, limiting the comments that can be made about the individuals themselves, although all appeared to be adults and to included both men and women. In common with standard Anglo-Saxon practice, they appear to have been sent to their graves fully clothed (Crawford 2004, 90), and thus the rich array of beads and brooches, weaponry, pots and other artefacts buried with them were effectively lost to the rural, agricultural community that produced them. These grave goods suggest a 6th century AD for this cemetery. The burial of these items must have resulted in a significant diminution in the wealth and resources of the community involved, but, by necessity, this must have been considered appropriate and affordable and may have served as a marker of status and standing within their wider social milieu.

- 7.1.6 The L-shaped ditch (306) identified in Trench 3 may have formed part of a small, rectilinear enclosure or perhaps even the remains of a small structure or shrine associated with the funerary rites in this area. Such structures have been recorded on Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites over wide tracts of eastern England, from Sussex to Yorkshire, Norfolk to Hampshire (Wilson 1992, 48-50).
- 7.1.7 Despite the close association between the concentrations of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon fieldwalking finds in the fields straddling the Langton Brook (Bowman n.d., figs 4, 5 and 7), no direct evidence for continuity of activity between these periods was revealed by the evaluation. However, in the same way as the later prehistoric enclosure or other land boundary on the hill to the south of the brook may have formed a focus for the later Romano-British farming and settlement activity in the area, the decaying villa complex may have remained a focal point in the landscape for centuries, despite the absence of any direct archaeological evidence for continuity.

8 POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Stratigraphic data

- 8.1.1 The substantial Late Roman structural remains and associated features identified in Area 1 were found to be extensively robbed and plough-damaged; further fieldwork would be required to recover more of the groundplan, appearance and developmental sequence of this probable villa complex.
- 8.1.2 Although the Time Team investigations provided no direct evidence for the Roman/Anglo-Saxon transition, the discovery of the 6th century, potentially mixed-rite, cemetery in Area 2 is of considerable regional significance. Although badly plough-damaged, the identification of this cemetery provides a definitive context for the previously known fieldwalking finds from the area (Bowman nd, 40). This identification provides an important tool in the formulation of any future protection or management plan for the Site as a whole, as well as providing valuable evidence for the wider spatial

distribution of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and their chronologies in the East Midlands.

- 8.1.3 An article of up to c. 7500 words with supporting illustrations, for inclusion in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, is suggested as an adequate level of publication given the results of this project. This will focus on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery and will comprise a brief introduction considering the circumstances of the project, its aims and objectives, a results section detailing and describing the burials, with finds and environmental information integrated into the text as appropriate, and a short discussion. Some further examination of the site records will be required to describe the burials, set them within their cultural and chronological framework and to prepare the necessary illustrations. For all other chronological periods, comments based on the results of this assessment will be included as appropriate.

8.2 Finds

- 8.2.1 The finds of most obvious interest within this assemblage are the Saxon grave goods from Trench 3 (personal items, weaponry, ceramic containers). Further analysis is required in order to confirm the dating and affinities of these objects. This will set this small group of graves in their chronological and cultural framework. Little further comment is possible on the pottery vessels, the glass and amber beads, or the iron weapons in this respect, but the brooches can be discussed within the framework of known typologies with established chronologies and cultural affinities. The position of the objects within the graves, including the use of beads in necklace strings, is also of interest and can provide some evidence of modes of dress. The social standing of the individuals buried here can also be explored through the presence of the various artefact types.
- 8.2.2 Other Saxon artefacts from Trench 3 may also have derived originally from further graves in this area. Some comment is also necessary on the more diagnostic of these objects (brooches, decorative mount), and discussion within the context of the funerary activity in this area.
- 8.2.3 No further analysis is proposed for the Romano-British finds (pottery, CBM in Trenches 5 & 6, stone tesserae in Trench 6, wall plaster, metalwork). Recommendations are made here for targeted discard of the ceramic and stone building materials.
- 8.2.4 Prehistoric finds, and medieval and later finds, occurred in insufficient quantities to warrant further analysis. Prehistoric finds occurred residually, while medieval and later finds came largely from topsoil or otherwise poorly stratified contexts; neither category contributes greatly to an understanding of the Site beyond an indication of some activity in the vicinity at these periods.

Grave Goods

- 8.2.5 The Saxon grave goods from Trench 3 (metal objects, amber and glass beads, pottery containers) will be reported on as part of a report on the small cemetery uncovered here. This will entail some further analysis of the brooches and other more diagnostic objects. Some further X-radiography of selected objects may be necessary to aid identifications. The existing catalogue-style entries for these objects will be enhanced and incorporated

in the grave catalogue; the objects will be discussed by functional group (personal items, weapons, containers) in terms of their chronology, cultural affinities, position within the graves and any implications for an understanding of modes of dress, burial practices, and the social context of the burials.

- 8.2.6 All grave goods will be illustrated, with the exception of small, undiagnostic fragments. Probable grave goods from non-grave contexts within Trench 3 will also be discussed and a selection illustrated. In some cases objects may be partially or wholly drawn from X-radiograph.

Other Finds

- 8.2.7 None of the other finds warrant any further analysis; all have been recorded to an appropriate archive level. Information on these finds may be incorporated in the publication report as appropriate, to support any discussion of chronology and/or site function. No illustration of these finds is anticipated.
- 8.2.8 The ceramic building material is not considered to warrant total retention for long-term curation – the assemblage is relatively small, its condition is poor and it contains little that is closely diagnostic. Those that are identifiable fall into common types. With the exception of one or two pieces of intrinsic interest (e.g. the possible box flue vent), discard of this material is proposed.

8.3 Palaeo-environmental

- 8.3.1 There is no potential for the analysis of the charred plant remains to provide detailed information on the range of species, local crop husbandry and agricultural techniques and the nature of the site due to the paucity of charred remains recovered. No further analysis is proposed on the charred plant remains in these samples.
- 8.3.2 There is the potential for the analysis of the wood charcoal associated with the Saxon cremation related deposit to provide some limited information on the nature, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource and also on the local funerary practices, such as any species selection.
- 8.3.3 The analysis of the wood charcoal from sample 29 from cremation related deposit 319 could be considered.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicester Museums, Arts and Records Service. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **X.A122.2010**. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 Preparation of Archive

- 9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the

standard conditions for the transfer of archaeological archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site accession code, and a full index has been prepared. The archive comprises the following:

- 17 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 1 file/document case of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- 5 A1 graphics

9.3 Conservation

9.3.1 Two soil 'blocks' from Saxon graves 321 and 335 were lifted in the field for subsequent excavation under controlled conditions. This was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's in-house conservator, and resulted in the recovery of 106 objects (3 brooches, 39 amber beads and 64 glass beads).

9.3.2 Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects, glass and amber beads. Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site, 147 objects have been identified as potentially in need of further conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation (see Appendix 2). These were subdivided into two priority blocks, and the four objects considered to be in the most urgent need of treatment have already been dealt with; two others remain a high priority. The remaining objects have been securely packaged in stable conditions, but their cleaning is not considered to be essential for the purposes of either identification or long-term curation.

9.4 Discard Policy

9.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, any further discard could target the ceramic building material, and proposals to that effect are made here (**Section 8.2**).

9.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

9.5 Security Copy

9.5.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be

deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 7	Tr 8	Tr 9	Unstrat	Total
Pottery	1 / 4	56/442 1/16	112/609 -	2/8	50/721	37/286	3/17	23/315	10/144	-	291/2539 1/16
	-	52/402 2/21	2/10 101/546	2/8	49/695	36/261	3/17	23/315	8/78	-	175/1786
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103/567
	-	-	-	-	-	1/25	-	-	1/9	-	2/34
	1 / 4	1/3	9/53	-	1/26	-	-	-	1/57	-	13/143
Ceramic Building Material	2/15	-	1/12	10/1161	109/15059	173/8153	32/1320	27/3111	16/1330	-	370/30,161
Fired Clay	-	1/15	7/36	-	-	1/11	-	-	1/3	-	10/65
Wall Plaster	-	-	-	-	-	15/1247	-	-	-	-	15/1247
Clay Pipe	-	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/1
Stone	1/2	-	-	-	2/33	289/5981	7/166	1/12	-	-	300/6194
Flint	6/24	4/16	21/162	1/3	1/9	-	-	1/4	-	1/3	35/221
Glass	-	-	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71
Objects (number)	-	-	-	-	-	1/8	-	-	-	-	1/8
Other	-	18/62	-	-	4/548	-	-	-	2/224	-	24/834
Slag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metalwork (no. objects)	1	-	136	5	38	6	8	4	8	1	207
	-	-	-	2	8	-	-	1	-	-	11
	1	-	27	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	32
	-	-	108	-	19	4	6	3	4	-	144
	-	-	1	2	9	2	2	-	4	-	20
Amber (no. objects)	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
Leather (no. objects)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Human Bone (no. individuals)	-	-	4 indiv	-	-	-	-	1 indiv	-	-	5 indiv
Animal Bone	-	8/30	-	1/28	141/1880	7/134	12/138	39/692	23/111	-	231/3013
Shell	-	-	-	1/10	-	2/15	2/129	-	-	-	5/154

Table 2: Saxon grave goods

Description	Personal items	Weapons	Containers	Other	Total No. Objs
Grave 321	8 glass beads; 1 brooch (equal-arm)				9
Grave 327	6 amber beads; 1 buckle		pottery vessel	2 cu sheet frags	8+
Grave 328	2 brooches (small-long)	shield boss; spear ferrule		1 cu frag; iron fragments	4+
Grave 335	39 amber beads; 63 glass beads; 5 brooches (cruciform); buckle; tweezers			decorated strip fragment	110
Grave 340			pottery vessel		1

Table 3: Pottery totals by ware type

Date Range	Ware type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
PREHISTORIC	Iron Age sandy ware	1	16
ROMAN	Black Burnished ware (BB1)	4	40
	Fine grey ware (FGW)	9	23
	Greyware (GW)	69	645
	Grog-tempered ware (GT)	18	139
	Lower Nene Valley colour coat (C)	42	474
	Lower Nene Valley whiteware (WW)	5	215
	Oxidised ware (OW)	5	12
	Oxon whiteware mortaria (MO)	1	68
	Samian (SAM)	2	8
	Shelly ware (CG)	18	150
	Whiteware (WW)	2	12
	<i>sub-total Romano-British</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>1786</i>
SAXON	Saxon sandy ware	103	567
MEDIEVAL	Medieval coarseware	2	34
POST-MEDIEVAL	Midlands Purple Ware	1	26
	Post-med redware	2	73
	Post-med black-glazed redware	4	38
	Staffs-type slipware	1	4
	White salt glaze	5	2
	<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>143</i>
		291	2539

Table 4: Glass and amber beads in graves

Grave No.	Amber Beads	Glass beads	
		Monochrome	Polychrome
321	-	4 x BrugmannBlue; 1 irregular coin blue	2 x Dot34; 1 blue spiral
327	2 x A03 (irregular); 4 fragmentary	-	-
335	34 x A04; 2 x A04/A10; 1 x A03; 2 fragmentary	52 BrugmannBlue; 2 opaque blue-white disc; 2 x Brugmann melon; 1 x translucent pale blue cylinder	5 x Dot34; 1 irregular blue trail

Table 5: Coin list

Obj No	Context	Denomination	Issuer	Description	Mint	Issue Date	References
1303	401	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Carausius/ Allectus	Obverse: Engraving on obverse clearly suggests Carausius or Allectus. Reverse: Pax Aug type. Pax standing l, with staff, r arm raised. PA- (X A) -VG	Unknown	AD 286 - 296	
1304	401	Cu Alloy Nummus	House of Constantine	Obverse: Corroded and illegible Reverse: Fel Temp Reparatio type. Soldier spearing a fallen horseman. Stylised engraving	Unknown	AD 350 - 360	Copy as LRBC II, 25
1400	502	Cu Alloy Nummus	House of Constantine	Obverse: Urbs Roma type. Helmeted bust l. Reverse: Wolf and Twins. stars above. Urbs Roma type. V stylised.	Unknown	AD 330 - 345	Copy as LRBC I, 51
1402	505	Cu Alloy Nummus	House of Constantine	Obverse: V worn. Bust r Reverse: Gloria Exercitus type. 2 soldiers, 1 standard.	Unknown	AD 335 - 345	?copy as LRBC I, 87
1404	505	Cu Alloy Nummus	Unknown Emperor	Corroded. Illegible on both obverse and reverse.	Unknown	C4	
1405	505	Cu Alloy Nummus	Constantians/ Constantius II	Obverse: Worn: Bust r, pearl diadem Reverse: Victoriae dauggnn type. 2 facing victories Mint Mark: E/-RP	Trier	AD 341 - 348	As LRBC I, 151
1406	505	Cu Alloy Nummus	Constantine I	Obverse: Bust r, pearl diadem. -TI NVSPF- Reverse: Wreath containing VOT/X-/	Unknown	AD 306 - 324	
1407	500	Cu Alloy Nummus	Constantine I	Obverse: Bust r, laureate. -INVS MAX AVG Reverse: (GLOR IAEXERC) ITVS. 2 soldiers, 2 standards. Mint Mark: TRP.	Trier	AD 331	As LRBC I, 53
1410	500	Cu Alloy Nummus	Constantians/Constantius II	Obverse: Bust r, pearl diadem. CONSTA- Reverse: Victoriae dauggnn type. 2 facing victories with wreaths.	Unknown	AD 341 - 348	As LRBC I, 137
1411	500	Cu Alloy Nummus	House of Constantine	Obverse: Bust r Reverse: Fel Temp Reparatio type. Soldier spearing a fallen horseman.	Unknown	AD 350 - 360	Copy as LRBC II, 25
1701	804	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Radiate copy	Obverse: Bust r, radiate. V stylised engraving Reverse: Illegible	Unknown	AD 270 - 296	

Key: LRBC – Late Roman Bronze Coinage, Vols I and II
 RIC – Roman Imperial Coinage Vols I – X

Table 6: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature Number	Context	Sample	Info	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal >4/2mm
Trench 5 - Romano-British												
Ditch												
510	504	41		25	100	20	B	C	?Hulled wheat and Indet. grain frags, glume bases	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	4/10 ml
Trench 3 - Saxon												
Possible cremation-related deposit												
319	320	23	SE quad	15	50	60	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	2/5 ml
319	320	24	SW quad	10	30	60	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	1/5 ml
319	320	25	3rd S quad upper spit	10	30	65	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/3 ml
319	320	26	3rd S quad lower spit	7	20	65	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	1/2 ml
319	320	29	N quad	23	100	50	-	-	-	C	<i>Galium</i>	10/25 ml
Grave												
?328	333	21	Head end	5	30	75	C	C	Indet. grain, glume frag	-	-	2/1 ml
328	329/330	33	under pot	0.5	3	35	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/1 ml
328	330	34	Bead/brooch group	6	30	65	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/2 ml
340	341	42	Vessel fill 1239	1.5	8	35	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5

APPENDIX 1: Trench summaries

TRENCH 1			
Dimensions : 20m x 5.5m x 0.45m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
100	-	Metal-detector finds from the ploughsoil over the northern half of the trench	-
101	-	Finds from hand-cleaning (derived from 107 and 108)	-
102	-	Finds recovered from the spoil-heap (derived from 107 and 108)	-
103	-	NOT USED	
104	-	NOT USED	
105	Layer	Fill of feature 106; compacted, mid grey-brown clay loam with rare flint gravel and manganese grits; two small worked flint flakes and a scrap of burnt flint	0.08m
106	Cut	Shallow, rectangular feature with irregular base and sides; 0.6m x 0.3m x 0.08m. Not certainly of anthropogenic origin; it could be the result of rooting or an animal burrow. Cuts 109; filled with 105	-
107	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; soft, crumbly mid brown clay loam with rare to sparse rounded gravel pieces, generally up to 50mm across but occasionally up to 0.15m across.	0.18m
108	Subsoil	Subsoil; orange-brown clay with charcoal flecks and rare rounded gravel pieces up to 50mm across	0.1m
109	Natural	Natural clay; very hard, orange clay with rare rounded gravel pieces up to 0.15m across and moderate manganese flecks. Cut by feature 106	0.17m min.

TRENCH 2			
Dimensions : 5m x 4.8m x 0.35m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
200	-	Finds manually recovered from the spoil-heap (derived from 107 and 108)	-
201	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; soft, crumbly dark brown clay loam with rare to sparse rounded gravel pieces, generally up to 50mm across but occasionally up to 0.15m across.	0.1m
202	Layer	Fill of ditch 203; compacted dark grey loamy clay with sparse rounded gravel and occasional pieces of sandstone up to 0.15m across. Gradually accumulated silting deposit	0.65m
203	Cut	Ditch terminal; appears to be butt-ended with a bowl-shaped terminal but its northern edge was been heavily disturbed by animal burrowing (not all the galleries and tunnels were fully excavated). 2.16m wide; 0.70m deep, with a wide V-shaped profile. Filled with 202	-
204	Subsoil	Subsoil; compacted dark yellow-brown loamy clay with sparse rounded gravel up to 0.1m across.	0.22m
205	Layer	Fill of animal burrow 206; brownish-grey loamy clay with rare rounded gravel pebbles up to 0.1m across, common pea-grits and manganese flecks close to the base and sides of the feature	0.25m
206	Cut	Animal burrow; continues to the north beyond the limits of the trench. Exposed area was roughly oval with straight, steeply sloping sides and an irregular base;	-

		0.5m long, 0.44m wide, 0.25m deep. Cuts 207; filled with 205	
207	Natural	Natural clay – north-east corner of trench; very hard, orange clay with moderate rounded gravel pieces up to 0.1m across. Manganese pieces and staining formed a distinct iron-pan, defining the edges of animal burrow 206. Cut by ditch 203 and burrow 206	-
208	Layer	Redeposited natural clay – western part of trench; orange-brown sandy clay with moderate rounded pebbles and rare angular flints up to 50mm across and rare sandstone lumps up to 0.1m across. When freshly machined, two probable mole-drains could be seen running slightly diagonally (south-west to north-east) down the slope (but by the time the trench was recorded, these had dried to invisibility). It is however, likely that this material is up-cast from these modern features	0.25m min (seen in edge of ditch 203)

TRENCH 3			
Dimensions: 19.5 x 6.5m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
300	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; soft, crumbly mid brown clay loam with rare to sparse rounded gravel pieces up to 60mm across and occasional larger flints and sandstone pieces up to 0.15m across nb. no clear subsoil layer was apparent in this trench	0.3m
301	-	NOT USED	
302	Natural	Natural clay; surface only exposed but highly variable across the trench. Colour varied from yellow-brown to orange and some patches were more sandy- or clay-rich than others. Coarse components comprised rounded gravel pebbles up to 0.1m across, manganese staining and flecks in quantities varying from very rare to moderate	-
303	-	Finds recovered from the spoil-heap (most will be from the ploughsoil 300)	-
304	-	Finds from hand-cleaning (most will be from the ploughsoil 300)	-
305	Layer	Fill of linear 306; compacted, grey-brown loamy clay with very rare rounded pebbles less than 60mm across. Cut by grave 328 (in the dampest conditions, this ditch was vaguely visible in the base of grave 328, but beyond this, the line of any western continuation could not be traced) and land drain 307	0.45m
306	Cut	L-shaped ditch; 0.7m wide and 0.45m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Possibly forms part of a small enclosure. Cuts the natural clay 302; filled with 305	-
307	Cut	Modern land drain crossing trench from south-west to north-east; 0.3m wide, 0.08m deep. One of the volunteers working on the site put these drains in during the 1970's. Cuts 331; filled with 308	-
308	Layer	Fill of land drain 307; grey-brown loamy clay with sparse to moderate rounded pebbles. Below 300	0.08m
309/310	Layer	Ridge forming part of medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow system of agriculture; c. 0.9m wide band of	0.08m

		pale yellow-brown loamy clay with sparse rounded gravel pieces up to 50mm across, running east-west across the whole trench. Below 300; cuts 302, 312, graves etc	
311	Layer	Fill of ditch 312; dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across. Cut by ridge 309/310	0.06m – 0.16m
312	Cut	Ditch, shallow, u-shaped profile 0.5m – 0.9m wide and up to 0.16m deep. Slightly meandering but predominantly north-east to south-west aligned; irregularities of width and depth suggest considerable truncation. Cuts 302; filled with 311; cut by 309/310	-
313	Layer	Fill of feature 314; mid grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles to 50mm across. Surface only exposed; not excavated	-
314	Cut	Small oval (0.3m x 0.18m) feature; unexcavated but likely to be a post-hole. Located c. 1.2m east of feature 316 and possibly associated with it. Cuts 302; filled with 313	-
315	Layer	Fill of feature 316; mid grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles to 50mm across. Surface only exposed; not excavated	-
316	Cut	Small oval (0.3m x 0.2m) feature; unexcavated but likely to be a post-hole. Located c. 1.2m west of feature 314 and possibly associated with it. Cuts 302; filled with 315	-
317	Layer	Fill of feature 318; mid grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles to 50mm across and two larger stones (0.15m across) on the surface. Not excavated	-
318	Cut	Subcircular feature, 0.3m in diameter; unexcavated but likely to be a post-hole, perhaps associated with 314 and 316. Cuts 302; filled with 317	-
319	Cut	Shallow pit containing possible cremation-related deposit(s); southern and eastern margins were well-defined but the northern and western edges were harder to follow as it cut through the upper fill (341) of an earlier feature (340) but pit 319 appeared to be subrectangular (1.15m x 0.6m) with straight, steeply sloping sides and a concave base with three post-holes around its southern edge: post-hole A: well-defined, 0.2m diameter and 0.06m deep post-hole B: less-well defined, 0.1m diameter, 0.05m deep; perhaps of different origin to A and C post-hole C: well-defined, 0.18m diameter and 0.08m deep The northern half of the features was shallower (0.05m deep) and more bowl-shaped in profile; no other post-holes were noted but archaeological visibility was again poor. Cuts 341; filled with 320	-
320	Layer	Possible cremation-related deposit filling feature 319; compacted, dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles and manganese flecks as well as one or two large sandstone pieces up to 0.3m across, rare cremated bone, charcoal flecks and charred wood (samples 22 and 28) fragments (the latter especially along the eastern edge). This material also filled post-holes A-C, and in post-hole A, in particular, was	0.05m – 0.18m

		relatively rich in cremated bone and fuel ash. Northern half of the feature was excavated as a single unit (sample 29); the southern half was excavated in two quadrants (samples 23 and 24)	
321	Cut	Grave; shallow, ephemeral feature, roughly oval in plan (1.3m x 0.45m and only 0.03m deep) badly truncated by ploughing and may originally have been considerably larger. Cuts 302; filled with 322	-
322	Layer	Fill of grave 321; light grey silty clay with rounded pebbles up to 30mm across, especially at southern end. Location of grave goods ON 1208 (equal-armed brooch) and ON 1209 (bead) on the very western edge of the feature suggest that they may have been moved by the plough. No bone preserved	0.03m
323	Layer	Fill of possible grave 327; compacted, light grey silty clay with rounded pebbles up to 30mm across, largely consisting of redeposited natural. No bone was preserved but amber beads (On's: 1210, 1211, 1215, 1228, 1229 and possibly 1234) and brooch fragments (On's 1230 and 1232) have been interpreted as possible grave goods	0.15m
324	-	NOT USED	
325	Layer	Fill of possible grave 326; compacted, grey-brown clay loam with rare rounded pebbles up to 30mm across, manganese staining and flecks, largely consisting of redeposited natural. Not fully excavated; no metal-detector signals were recorded and excavation was abandoned at a depth of c. 0.06m.	0.06m (min)
326	Cut	Probably grave; edges were poorly-defined but this feature appeared to be roughly rectangular in plan, aligned north-west to south-east. No metal-detector signals were recorded and excavation was abandoned at a depth of 0.06m, but the shape and general location of this feature, adjacent to other graves, suggest that it may have been another grave	-
327	Cut	Possible grave; very irregular feature 1.9m long, 1.7m wide and 0.15m deep, but the ends and the central part of the base were not fully excavated. The artefacts recovered from its fill (323) suggest that this may be the badly truncated remains of a grave – but it looks more like a tree-throw! Cuts 302, filled with 323	-
328	Cut	Double inhumation grave; eastern end not fully excavated (edges could not be established in this area) but appears to be subrectangular, east-west aligned and at least 2m long, 1.15m wide and 0.14m deep. Human teeth and bone fragments indicate the remains of two individuals, heads to the west, with the range of grave-goods suggesting one male and one female. Cuts 305; filled with 329, 330, 331 and 332	-
329	Burial remains	Burial remains on north side of grave 328; represented by a few teeth fragments only (On's 1217, 1219 and 1226) while associated brooches (On's 1223 and 1224) suggest that this individual may have been a female	-
330	Burial remains	Burial remains on south side of grave 328; represented by a few teeth fragments only (On's 1220 and 1227) while associated grave goods including an iron shield boss (On 1222) and a ferrule (On 1225) indicate that	

		this individual may have been a male	
331	Layer	Upper fill of grave 328; grey-brown silty clay with rare small rounded pebbles up to 40mm across. Not fully excavated; relationship with land drain 307 not proven but likely to have been cut by it	0.05m
332	Layer	Fill of grave 328; dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across, manganese staining and flecks. Sherds from a pottery vessel (On 1216) placed between the legs of Skeletons 329 and 330 have been assigned to this layer	0.09m
333	-	NOT USED	
334	-	NOT USED	
335	Cut	Grave; not fully excavated – edges at north-east end could not be established and excavation concentrated on recovery of numerous grave-goods. The position of these suggested that the grave was originally aligned north-east to south-west, probably with the head to the west. No traces of bone survived. Cuts 305; filled with 336	-
336	Layer	Fill of grave 335; compacted dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across, manganese staining and flecks. Only the area around the grave goods was excavated	0.18m
337	-	NOT USED	
338	-	NOT USED	
339	-	NOT USED	
340	Cut	Probable grave - but not fully investigated; eastern edge appears to more or less coincide with that of feature 319, the northern and western edges were not well-defined. Only the southern half was excavated (and even this may not have been bottomed). Overall, it appears to have been subrectangular with straight, almost vertical sides, at least 1.2m long, 0.88m wide and at least 0.13m deep. Like 319, a circular post-hole (0.25m in diameter) was cut into its western edge. Filled with 341 and 342	-
341	Layer	Fill of probable grave 340; compacted orange-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across, charcoal flecks, a residual flint scraper (On 1240) and pottery vessel (On 1239) the latter found in the post-hole cut into the western edge of this feature and possibly a grave offering accompanying ?skeleton 342. Cut by feature 319	0.13m min.
342	Human bone	Fragments from the vault of a human skull (size and thickness indicate an adult) found adjacent to the south-facing section of feature 340. Excavation abandoned at this point so it is uncertain whether they represent the remains of a complete burial or a stray skull/fragments	-

TRENCH 4			
Dimensions : 4.8m x 4.7m x 0.4m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
400	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; loose, crumbly dark grey-brown loam with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across	0.3m
401	Subsoil	Subsoil; orange-brown loamy clay with rare to sparse	0.1m min.

		rounded pebbles, charcoal flecks, Romano-British ceramic building material, lead and copper alloy fragments. Full depth not investigated	
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TRENCH 5			
Dimensions: 21.7 x 3.8m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
500	-	Finds from the spoil-heap	
501	-	Finds from hand-cleaning	
502	Layer	Upper fill of ditch 510; dark grey-brown silty clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Excavated by machine, the spoil scanned for artefacts by hand and using a metal-detector. Above 503	0.28m
503	Layer	Fill of ditch 510; brown, slightly mottled silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Excavated by machine, the spoil scanned for artefacts by hand and using a metal-detector. Above 504 – but not easily distinguished from it; some mixing seems to have occurred especially on the east side, perhaps animal burrowing	0.4m
504	Layer	Fill of ditch 510; grey- brown silty clay with moderate rounded pebbles up to 0.5m across. On east side, mixed with 503 above. Excavated by machine, the spoil scanned for artefacts by hand and using a metal-detector.	0.38m
505	-	Finds from hand-cleaning surface 506	
506	Surface	Cobbled surface; very compacted and well-laid, composed of small rounded pebbles, larger water-worn cobbles, flint nodules, angular fragments of ironstone and pale-coloured limestone as well as Romano-British ceramic building material fragments. Same as 507; above 514; not fully investigated	0.4m
507	Surface	Cobbled surface; light grey-brown loamy clay with very common rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across and rare larger rounded cobbles, ironstone and sandstone lumps, Romano-British ceramic building material fragments and charcoal flecks. Same as 506 – ditch 510 was machine-excavated and, as a result, partially overcut, so although most of surface 506 was left <i>in situ</i> , part of it (507) was machined out, leaving it visible only in section. Above 514; cut by ditch 510	0.4m
508	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; loose, very dark grey-brown silty loam with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across	0.3m
509	Subsoil	Subsoil; grey-brown slightly mottled loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across	0.12m
510	Cut	Ditch; north-south aligned, up to 3m wide, 0.95m deep. Wide V-shaped profile; western side was straight and moderately sloping, the east side was irregular and probably disturbed by animal burrowing. Machine-excavated so slightly overcut, especially on the western side. Cuts 506/507; filled with 502, 503 and 504	-
511	Layer	Fill of feature 512; dark grey-brown loamy clay with moderate large pebbles up to 0.15m across; not excavated. Below 509	0.4m
512	Cut	Possible post-hole; sub-circular (0.5m in diameter) with	-

		vertical sides and a flat base. Not excavated but profile partially exposed by the machine over-cut of ditch 510. Cuts surface 506/507; filled with 511	
513	Layer	Machined surface at eastern end of trench; dark orange-brown loamy clay with common small, rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Not fully cleaned; remnants of subsoil 509 left in places. Interface between top of the natural clay (514) and the subsoil (509). Not excavated	-
514	Natural	Natural clay; compacted orange clay with rare to sparse rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across, manganese flecks and staining. Cut by 510	-

TRENCH 6			
Dimensions : 8m x 1.9m x 0.4m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
600	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; loose, very dark grey-brown silty loam with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across	0.1m
601	Subsoil	Subsoil and finds from hand-cleaning over the eastern part of the trench; yellow-brown loamy clay with rare to sparse rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across	0.3m
602	Surface	Metalled surface; brown loamy clay with abundant small rounded pebbles up to 50mm across and occasional ceramic brick/tile fragments. Reasonably well-laid; survives in a small area to the east of wall foundation 624. Probably forms part of layer 609 but partially overlies a degraded mortar deposit 604	-
603	Subsoil	Subsoil and finds from hand-cleaning over the western part of the trench; yellow-brown loamy clay with rare to sparse rounded pebbles up to 0.1m	0.3m
604	Layer	Degraded mortar deposit on east side of wall footing 624; pale yellow sand and poorly-slaked lime mortar with rare stone grits. Probably represents plaster or mortar collapsed from the external face of wall footing 624. Below 602; above 612 but not fully investigated.	-
605	Layer	Fill of feature 606; very mixed, dark brown loamy clay and crushed mortar and occasional ceramic building material fragments. Striations apparent in surface appearance of this layer probably result from plough-damage	0.06m deep
606	Cut	Robber trench; shallow, c. 0.8m wide trench cut to removed the stones used in wall foundation 624; only the base of this feature survives. Cuts wall foundation 6224; filled with 605	-
607	Layer	Fill of 623; floor (probably originally tessellated) bedding layer; compacted, yellow sand and poorly-slaked lime mortar. Surface only exposed; not fully excavated. Overlies 622; cut by 617 and 618	-
608	Layer	Fill of robber trench 618; very mixed demolition/robbing debris – lenses of pale yellow, yellow-brown sandy silt (perhaps derived from crushed mortar) with small rounded pebbles and common loose tessera (perhaps originally from floor overlying bedding layer 607). Overlies 620	c. 0.3m
609	Surface	Gravel surface; mid brown sandy silt with abundant small rounded pebbles and other stone fragments, rare	0.1m

		ceramic building material pieces and charcoal flecks. Metalled surface 602 probably just represents a variable patch or possibly a repair within this layer. Overlies cobbles 612	
610	Layer	Occupation debris built up against wall foundation 624; moderately compact, very dark brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles up to 50mm across, rare fired clay and pottery fragments and charcoal flecks Cut by 623. Not fully excavated	0.1m min.
611	Layer	Layer; moderately compacted dark grey-brown silty clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across and charcoal flecks. Below 613 and 612 - it may have provided a firm bedding layer for these cobbles. Surface only exposed; not fully investigated	-
612	Surface	Cobbled surface; c. 2.3m wide roughly north/south aligned band of large, rounded stones up to 0.25m across. Above 611; under 602/609. Not fully excavated but may have formed a narrow path or roadway outside building represented by wall foundation 624	0.12m min.
613	Layer	Layer; moderately compact, brown sandy silt with rare chalk, up to 50mm across, and crushed mortar fragments; probably derived from silting. Overlies 611 and 614 in north-eastern corner of the trench. Not fully excavated	-
614	Layer	Layer; yellow-brown sandy silt with common chalk and mortar flecks; probably derived from silting. Under 613 in north-eastern corner of the trench; surface only exposed; not fully excavated	-
615	Layer	Layer; compacted mid grey-brown sandy silt with abundant mortar, and rare ceramic building material fragments. Probably demolition/collapse/robbing debris. Under 602/609	0.12m
616	Layer	Fill of robber trench 617; mixed mid brown silty clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across, and abundant crushed mortar fragments. Above 625 and similar to it, but contains far more mortar fragments	0.08m
617	Cut	Probable robber trench; 1m wide with straight, almost vertical sides but it was not bottomed. On west side of and parallel with wall foundation 624 but probably dug to remove stone from 622. Filled with 616 and 625	-
618	Cut	Robber trench; c. 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with irregular but almost vertical sides and a flattish base; deepest close to the south-facing section, perhaps where a large stone was removed. Filled with 608	-
619	Layer	Soil accumulation layer; moderately compact, yellow-brown sandy silt; more or less stone-free very rare rounded flint pebbles and occasional crushed mortar fragments. Surface only exposed; not fully investigated	-
620	Layer	Layer, possible occupation debris; moderately compact, brown silty clay with common charcoal flecks and fired clay fragments. Not fully investigated; surface only exposed in the base of robber trench 618	-
621	-	NOT USED	
622	Layer	Fill of 623; undressed sandstone and limestone blocks up to 0.3m across, set flat, defining and perhaps forming a solid base for floor bedding layer 607. Not fully excavated	0.1m
623	Cut	Construction trench for floor sequence 622 and 607;	0.1m min

		almost vertical eastern side only visible – cuts occupation layer 610 but full width/depth was not explored	
624	Wall	Wall foundation; 0.7m wide, aligned north – south; constructed from rough, unmortared, stones, up to 0.3m across, set at a c. 40° angle. Only one course was exposed; no facing stones were present. Probably forms the eastern, external wall of this structure; evidence from a deposit of collapsed mortar (604) on its eastern side suggests that it was externally rendered. Perhaps associated with occupation debris 610 on its western, internal, side	-
625	Layer	Fill of robber trench 617; dark grey-brown silty clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across, and sparse crushed mortar fragments. Similar to 616 but contains far fewer mortar fragments. Not fully excavated; surface only exposed	-

TRENCH 7			
Dimensions : 7.3m x 1.9m x 0.7m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
700	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; crumbly dark grey-brown silty loam with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Above 701	0.3m
701	Subsoil	Subsoil; grey-brown silty loam with moderate rounded pebbles, up to 0.1m across, and crushed mortar fragments. Below 700; above 702	0.1m
702	Layer	Demolition debris; soft, fairly loose material almost entirely composed of crushed light yellow-brown sand and poorly-slaked lime mortar, with occasional pieces of undressed stone up to 0.15m across and ceramic building material fragments.	0.15m max
703	Layer	Layer; grey-brown silty loam with very rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Probably represents a gradual accumulation of silt but not fully investigated or understood. Over 704; below 701, 702	0.12m min
704	Surface	Cobbled surface at northern end of trench; common small to medium rounded pebbles and angular pea-grits set with a dark grey-brown silty loam. Stones smaller than those used for surface 705 at southern end of trench and relationship, if any, between the two was not investigated. Below 703	0.1m min
705	Surface	Cobbled surface; abundant medium to large rounded pebbles and angular pea-grits set with a dark grey-brown silty loam. Forms a relatively flat surface although a gully (filled with 706) curves across the surface towards the southern end of the trench. There was no evidence to suggest that this was a later feature cut through the cobbled surface and it may have been deliberately constructed, perhaps as a drain, as the surface was laid. Not fully excavated but similar stones forming the base of the gully suggest that surface 705 is at least 0.2m deep	0.2m min
706	Layer	Layer; brown silty loam with moderate rounded pebbles and occasional large stones. Overlies cobbled surface 705 and fills the gully in its surface, probably representing a gradual accumulation of silt	0.3m

TRENCH 8			
Dimensions : 6.7m x 1.9m x 0.45m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
800	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; loose, very dark grey-brown silty loam with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across	0.4m
801	Layer	Fill of ditch 803; compacted, dark grey-brown silty loam with common rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across, and rare ceramic building material, pottery, animal bone and tessera. Gradually accumulated material. Above 802; under 801	0.45m
802	Layer	Fill of ditch 803; yellow-brown silty loam with common rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across, rare ceramic building material and pottery fragments. Probably derived from the weathering of the ditch sides. Below 801	0.2m
803	Cut	Ditch; aligned east-west; 1.7m wide, 0.6m deep with straight, moderately sloping sides and a steep-sided 'ankle-breaker' (0.3m wide) in the base. Cuts 804; filled with 801 and 802	-
804	Layer	Layer; yellow-brown sandy clay with patches of common rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Cut by ditch 803 and grave 808 but not fully investigated; surface only exposed	-
805	Layer	Fill of feature 806; brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Redeposited human bone included a calcaneum or patella and part of an arm (radius or ulna). Not fully investigated; surface only exposed	-
806	Cut	Possible feature; only part of one straight edge located with the trench. Not fully investigated but appears to cut skeleton 808; filled with 805	-
807	Layer	Fill of grave; brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across and copper alloy coin 1701; redeposited 804 mixed with contemporary top/subsoil. Not fully investigated; surface only exposed	-
808	Burial remains	Burial remains; badly truncated - part of upper torso (clavicles, some ribs, humerus, thoracic vertebrae) survives. Aligned approximately north to south. Head cut away by Feature 806. Not fully investigated; bones left <i>in situ</i>	-
809	Cut	Grave; edges not easily discerned – southern end destroyed by feature 806, the northern by modern plough damage but appears to have been at least 0.6m wide. Not excavated. Filled with 807 and 808	-
810	Layer	Layer; compacted, dark grey-brown silty loam with common rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across, ceramic building material, pottery and animal bone fragments. Possibly the fill of another cut feature extending beyond limits of the trench but not fully investigated; surface only exposed	-

TRENCH 9			
Dimensions : 5.9m x 1.9m x 1.5m			
Context No.		Description	Thickness
900		Ploughsoil; crumbly dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Above 901	0.18m
901		Subsoil; compacted, dark orange-brown loamy clay with very rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across. Above 907; below 900	0.38m
902		Fill of ditch 906, orange-brown loamy clay with very rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across and rare charcoal flecks. Gradually-accumulated silting fill. Not fully excavated. Cut by ditch 908	0.35m min
903		Fill of probable ditch 909; grey-brown with rare rounded pebbles up to 60mm across, ceramic building material fragments and charcoal flecks. Not excavated; surface only exposed but may have been cut by ditch 908	-
904		Layer located in the base of the deeper, machine-excavated sondage in the centre of the trench. Orange-brown loamy clay rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across. Edges were poorly-defined and it is possible that this material is actually the same as 902 (just not as well cleaned) although it could be the fill of a pit or other cut feature. Not excavated; surface only exposed	-
905		Natural clay; very hard and compacted orange clay with rare rounded pebbles up to 0.1m across, occasional manganese flecks and staining. Surface only exposed	-
906		Ditch; east-west aligned, c. 1m wide and at least 0.35m deep with straight, moderately sloping sides. Not fully excavated but broadly parallel with ditch 908 and may have been cut by it. Filled with 902.	-
907		Fill of ditch 908; compacted dark grey-brown loamy clay with very rare rounded pebbles up to 50mm across, rare animal bone and ceramic building material fragments and charcoal flecks. Not fully investigated	0.3m min
908		Probable ditch; c. 1.6-1.8m wide and at least 0.3m deep; part of straight, moderately sloping south side only exposed in the machine-excavated sondage in the centre of the trench. Probably aligned east – west but not fully investigated. In section, it appears to cut ditch 906; in plan it cuts ditch 909 but these relationships are tenuous at best. Filled with 907	-
909		Probable ditch; at least. 1.85m wide, aligned north-west – south-east-east at the northern end of the trench. Not excavated. Filled with 903	-



Area 1



Areas 2, 3, 4 and 5

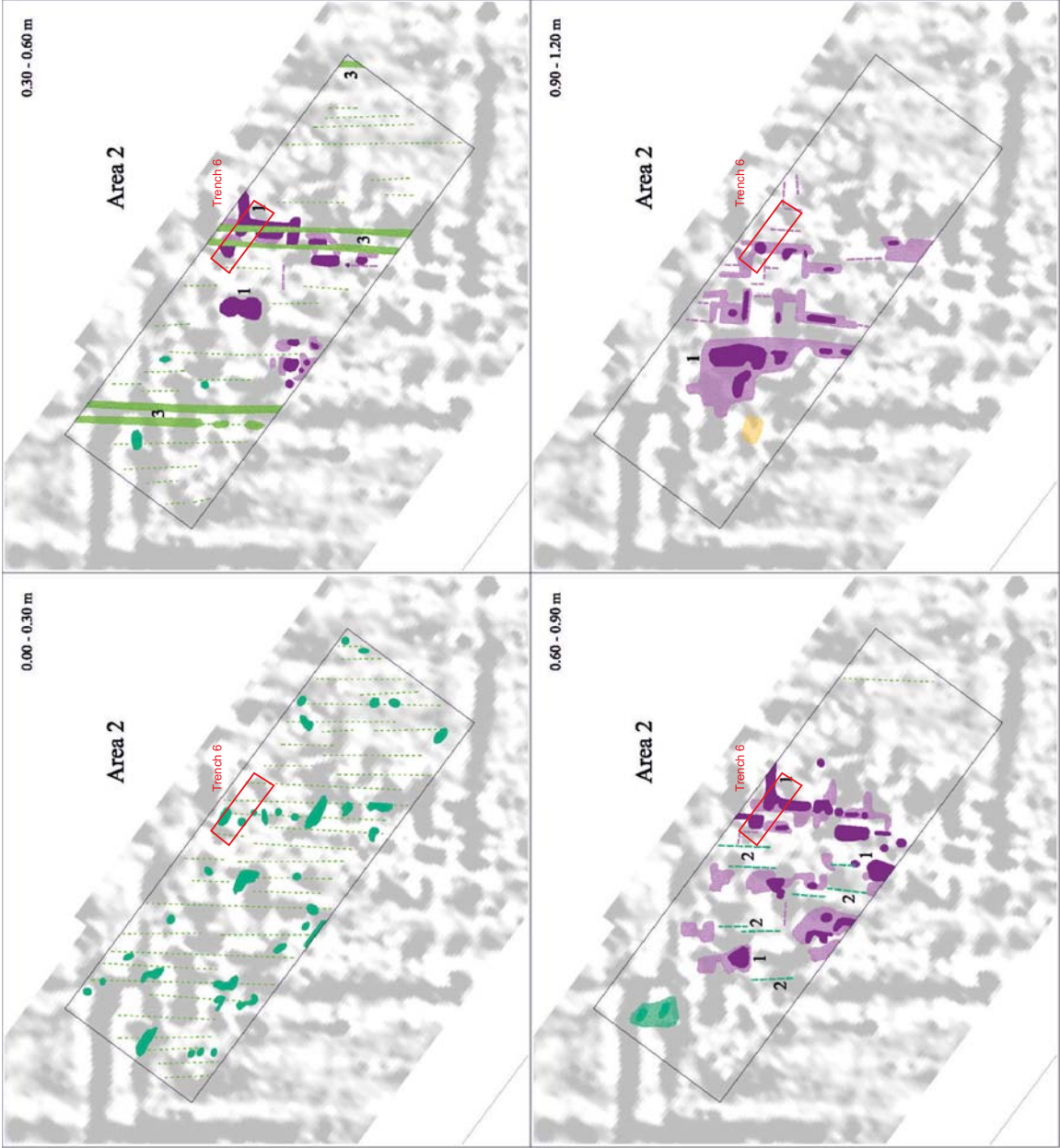
- Archaeology
- Negative - ?archaeology
- Area of increased magnetic response
- ?Archaeology

- ?Natural
- Negative - uncertain
- Uncertain
- Ferrous
- Magnetic disturbance



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Scale:	1:2000 at A3	Layout:	KL
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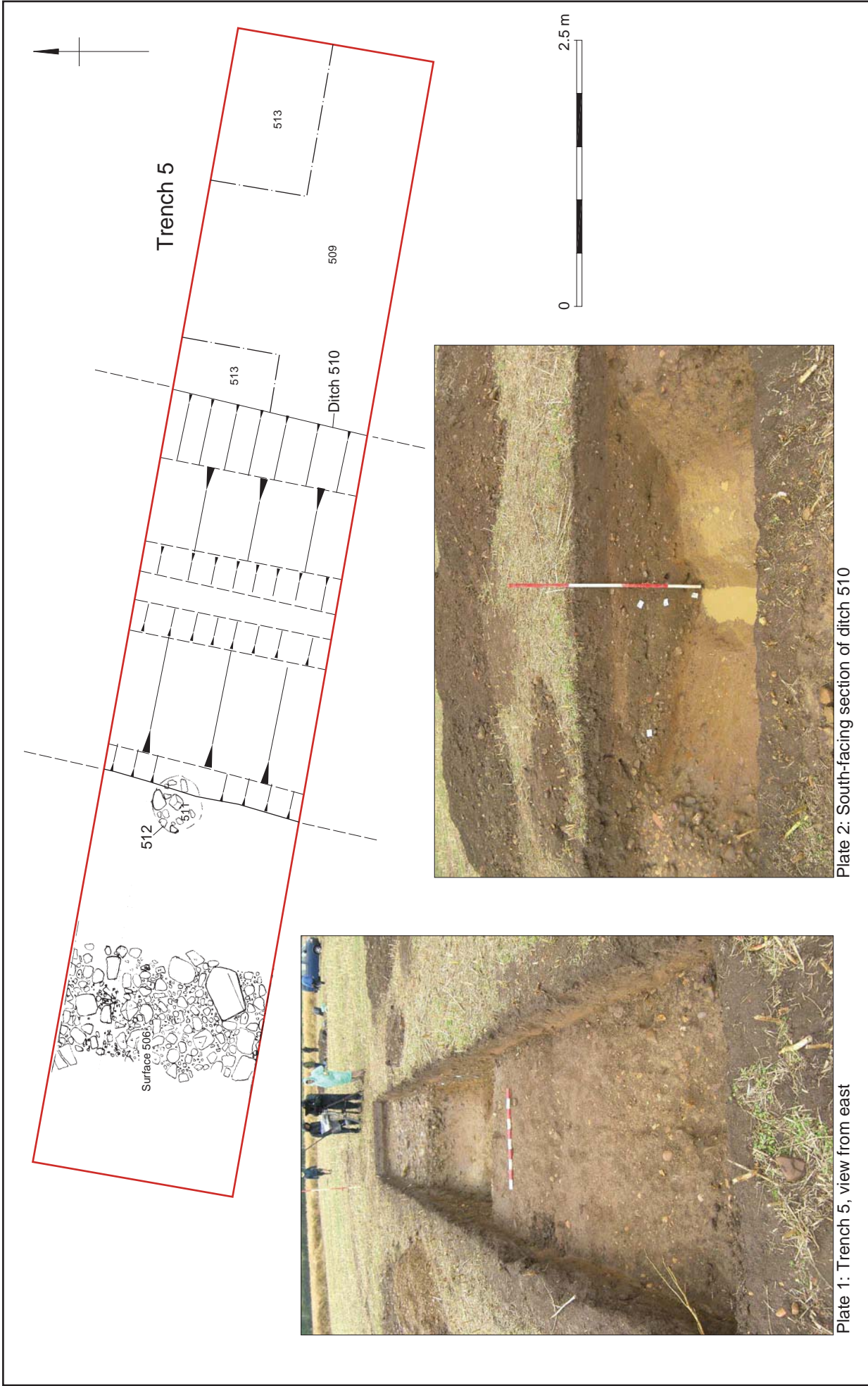
- Archaeology (?Roman) - High amplitude / increased response / trend
- Uncertain origin - High amplitude / increased response / trend
- Agricultural - High amplitude / trend
- External interference



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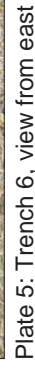
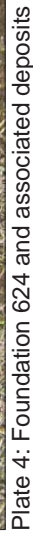
Evaluation trench

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		Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\74158TT\DO\Report Figs\eval12_08\74158_f4.dwg		

Trench 5: plan and photographs Figure 4



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Trench 6: plan and photographs

Figure 5



Plate 6: Trench 7, view from south-west



Plate 7: Trench 7, view from north-west



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			Path: Y:\PROJECTS\74158TT\DO\Report Figs\eval12_08\74158_f4.dwg	



Plate 8: Trench 8, view from north



Plate 10: Trench 8, view from south

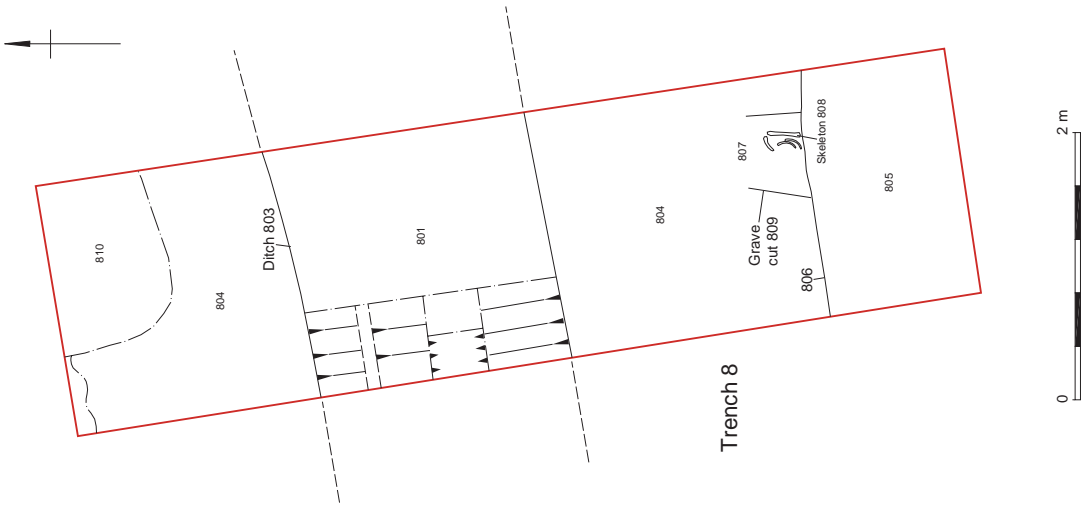


Plate 9: East-facing section of ditch 803



Plate 10: Skeleton 808

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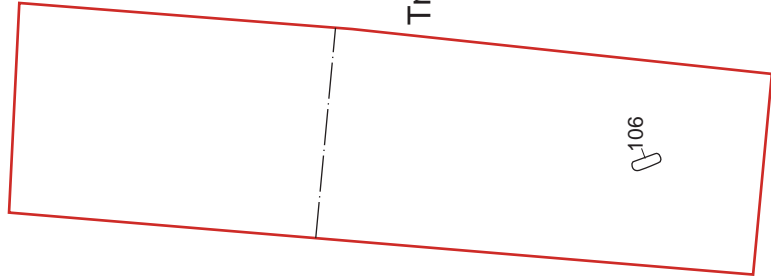
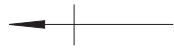


Plate 12: Trench 1, view from south

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				 Evaluation trench		
				Date: 07/08/12		
Scale: Plan 1:200						
			Illustrator: KL			
			Path: Y:\PROJECTS\74158TT\DO\Report Figs\eval12_08\74158_f4.dwg			

Trench 1: plan and photograph

Figure 8



Plate 13: Trench 2, view from south

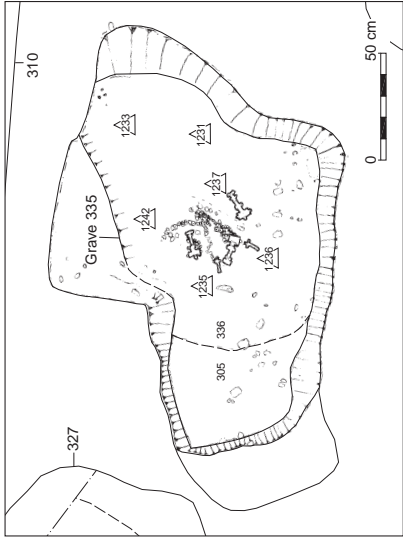


Plate 14: North-facing section of ditch 203

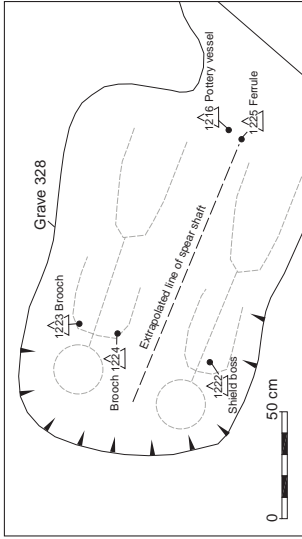


Plate 15: South-facing section of feature 206

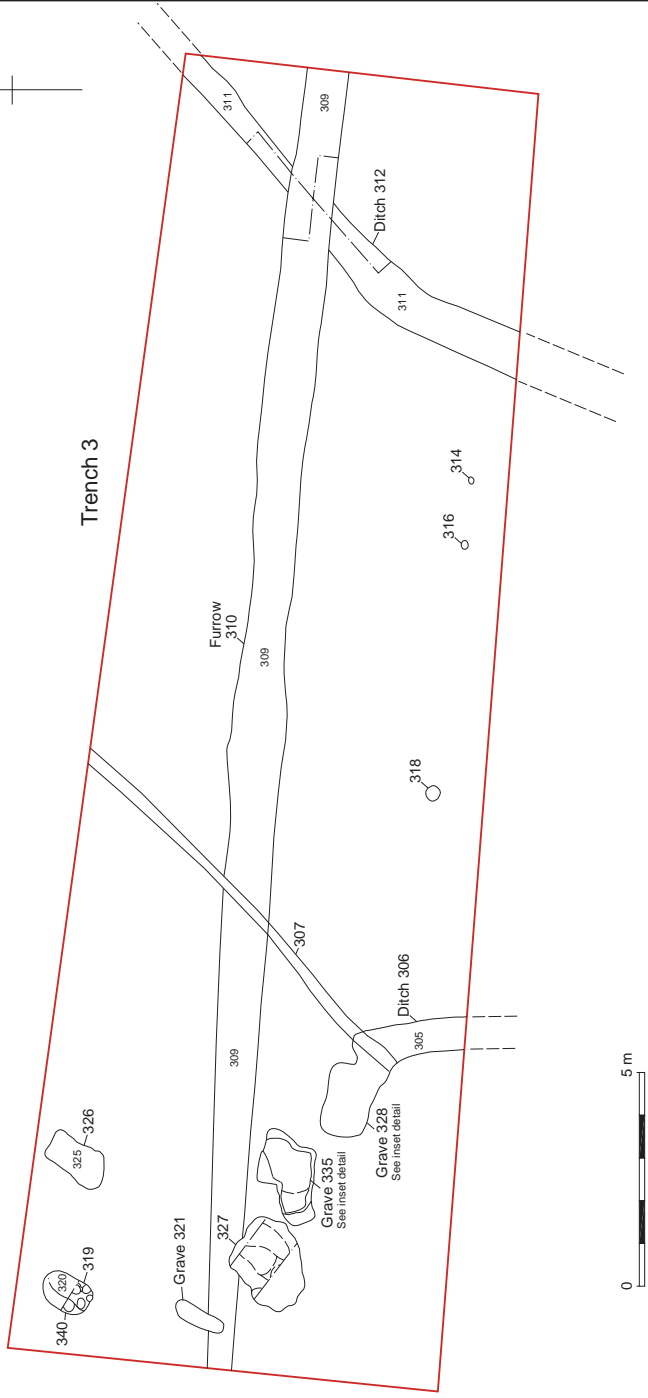
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Detail of grave 335



Detail of grave 328



Trench 3



Plate 16: Trench 3, view from east



Plate 17: Intersection between furrow 309/310 and ditch 312

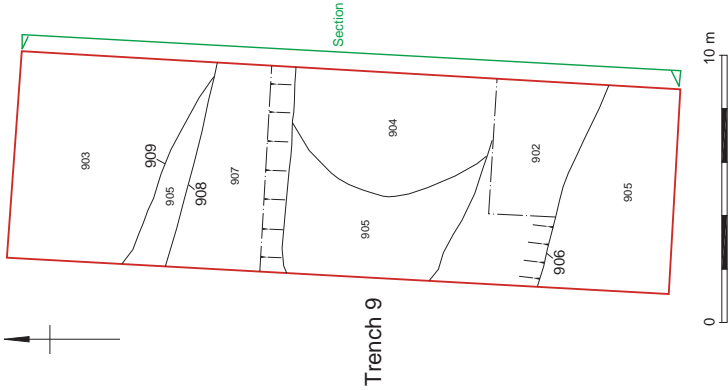


Plate 18: Watering feature 319/340 to enhance visibility



Plate 19: Grave 328 during excavation

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	Object number		Scale: Plan 1:80 & Insets 1:25	Illustrator: KL
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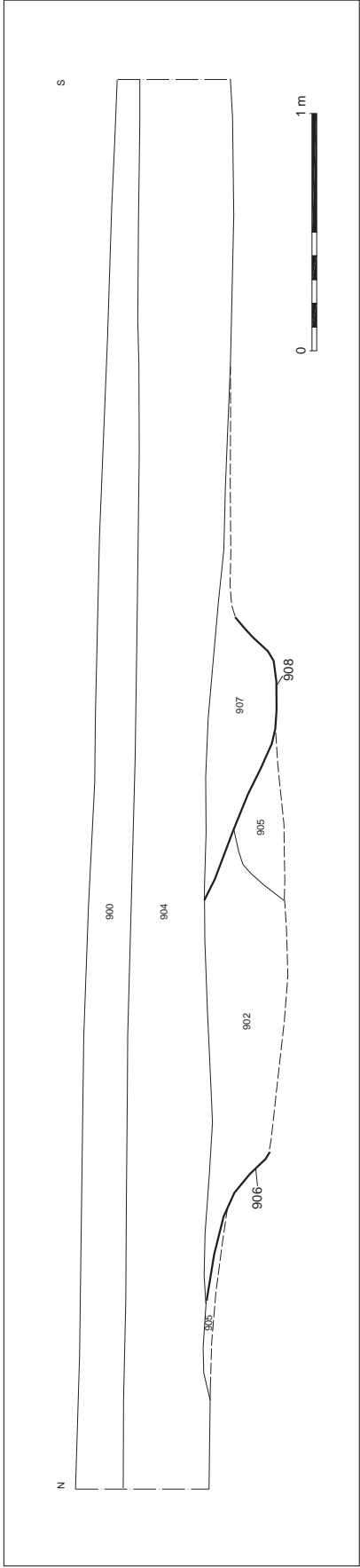
Trench 9



Plate 20: Trench 9, view from south



Plate 21: Trench 9, view from north



East-facing section of Trench 9

	<div> <div></div> <div>Evaluation trench</div> </div>			<div> <div>Date:</div> <div>07/12/12</div> </div>	<div> <div>Revision Number:</div> <div>0</div> </div>
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				<div> <div>Path:</div> <div>Y:\PROJECTS\74158TTDO\Report Figs\eval12_08\74158_14.dwg</div> </div>	



Plate 22: Trench 4, view from south



Plate 23: Trench 4, cameo pyre


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Plate 24: Excavating pottery vessel (Object 1239)



Plate 25: Grave 335, *in situ* beads and brooches



Plate 26: Grave 335, beads and brooches prior to conservation



Plate 27: Grave 335, glass and amber beads after conservation



Plate 28: Grave 335, glass beads after conservation



Plate 29: Grave 335, cruciform brooch (Object 1364)

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