Land at Bicker Fen, Boston/ South Holland, Lincolnshire:

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

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AOC Archaeology Group

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation of ten fields carried out by AOC Archaeology prior to the installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station at Bicker Fen, Boston/ South Holland, Lincolnshire.

The subsurface archaeological remains within Fields 1-5 and 7 were minimal and are of limited significance. Within Fields 6 and 8, three areas have been defined as isolated zones of archaeological activity, dating to the 2nd – 3rd century AD. Within this zone were ditches and a pit within Trenches 54 and 55; potential evidence of salterns within Trench 68; and further ditches and pits within Trenches 74 and 76. Within Fields 9 and 10, one modern pit and one modern ditch were present, whilst six other ditches were undated, and are likely to represent drainage channels in the wet fenlands. Overall, the site has very low archaeological potential. Future mitigation should focus on the three isolated areas of archaeological activity in Fields 6 and 8.

Roddons were identified in all fields, being dried upriver courses. The location of ditches recorded across the site bore no relation to the location of the roddons. The roddon deposits recorded are believed to be part of the natural fenland environment featuring meandering channels with dry silts as high ground, with lower areas caused by shrinkage of wet fenland deposits outside of the former streams, most likely exacerbated by the construction of the Hammond Beck.

An OASIS form (OASIS ID: aocarcha1-526819) has been compiled and an electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The Site archive will be prepared for deposition at a local museum (under Site Code: LCNCC : 2023.2) in accordance with local and national guidance at the end of the project.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology prior to the installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station at Bicker Fen, Boston/ South Holland, Lincolnshire (henceforth 'the site'). The site is located across the boundary between Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): 520641 338018 (Figure 1).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken across ten fields (Figure 1 & 2) as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2023); 125 of a planned 128 trenches were excavated across these fields. The evaluation was completed between January and June 2024.

1.3 The works were conducted by AOC Archaeology in accordance with current best practice, standards and guidelines, including the professional standards issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), specifically the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2020b). The works were monitored by the Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site measures 97.3ha, of which approximately 90ha was available for trenching. It is located within agricultural land c.1.5km to the west of Bicker, and c.1.2km to the north of Donington. The north-eastern extent of the site is bounded by the route of Cowbridge Road, the northern extent is bounded by a wetland field boundary and the north-eastern and central western extent is bounded by the course of Hammond Beck (drain) and associated public footpath. The central eastern extent of the site is bounded to the north by the route of Ing Road and to the south by North Fen Drove. The southern extent of the site lies to the west of Hammond Beck and is separated by the route of Middle Fen Drove. The southern boundary of the site lies adjacent to North Ing Drove and Northorpe Farm.

2.2 The site lies on a bedrock geology of Oxford Clay Formation, which formed during the Jurassic Period c.157 to 166 million years ago. This deposit formed when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas (BGS 2023). The superficial geology of the site comprises tidal flat deposits, which formed from c.2 million years ago. They were likely laid down until just before the process of reclamation during the postmedieval period, as shallow shore-line sediments (BGS 2023).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The archaeological background below is extracted from the previous WSI produced by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2023). All references in Section 4 below can be found in that document, which is referenced in the bibliography of this report.

Prehistoric

3.2 The earliest evidence for activity within the area surrounding the site is a single discoidal flint scraper dated to the Neolithic period recovered during borehole ground investigation works (NAA 2005). It is likely that the fenland environment rendered the site unsuitable for settlement during much of the earlier prehistoric period.

3.3 During the Iron Age the area of modern-day Lincolnshire was occupied by the *Corieltauvi* tribe, with one of several key settlements located at Sleaford, *c*.15km to the north-west of the Site,

which contained a mint during this period. During the prehistoric period, the eastern portion of Lincolnshire was formed of marsh and fens. There is evidence that, during the Iron Age, wooden causeways were constructed to cross some of the fenland (e.g. at Fiskerton, c.50km to the west of the site). Due to the presence of Roman period activity within the area (discussed below), it is likely that the site lies within a landscape that was also in use during the later prehistoric period. However, the landscape was likely sensitive to fluctuating climatic conditions and prone to flooding. Furthermore, any slight increases in sea levels would render landscapes inaccessible (Redding and Nunns 2017).

Late Prehistoric and Early Roman

3.4 The geophysical survey carried out within the site (AOC 2022) identified anomalies indicative of later prehistoric or, possibly, Roman period activity (see below). These anomalies comprise the remains of a series of small square-type enclosures suggestive of possible industrial salt-working (AOC 2022), a type of activity which is considered common in these tidal and fen landscapes.

3.5 It is suggested that the anomalies of likely later prehistoric origin identified within the site represent a continuation of activity identified during an earlier programme of geophysical survey immediately to the west (Headland 2017a), which identified a dense cluster of enclosures, possible trackways and associated features.

3.6 Within the wider landscape there is abundant evidence of Roman period activity that broadly concentrates along a possible roddon (although it is only a slight difference in elevation from the surrounding land). Roddons are the remains of dried out and raised river channels that were formed by/ of silting within an area of peat. As the peat dried out and decreased in height the silted river channel remained at its original level, providing a slightly raised area of ground. It has been suggested (Godwin 1938) that roddons in this area predominantly formed during the Roman period. However, there is evidence that some settlement activity occurred within the lower areas of land to the north and south of the roddon, suggesting the landscape was generally dryer during this period.

3.7 This suggests that whilst the majority of any pre-medieval activity was concentrated along the roddons there is nonetheless some potential, evidenced by the geophysical survey results, for occupation/ settlement-related activity to have occurred on lower ground, which was likely drier during the late prehistoric and Roman periods owing to a fall in sea levels.

Roman

3.8 During this period the wider region was still defined by wet, marsh conditions. Within the fens, there were areas of high land/islands, which would have provided land for settlement. The Romans utilised Lincoln as an inland port and relied on the course of the River Witham to traverse the region.

3.9 The geophysical survey of the Site (AOC 2022) identified anomalies interpreted as a possible Roman villa or bath-house. The anomalies are sited on slightly raised ground (remains of a roddon) and comprise a rectilinear plan with evidence of interior partitions. The rectilinear plan measures approximate maximum dimensions of 140m x 90m orientated broadly north to south. Due to its magnetic response, it had been interpreted as the remains of a stone-built structure however the works undertaken for this evaluation, indicate that this interpretation is no longer valid.

3.10 The previous archaeological investigations within the area have identified an abundance of Roman period activity, predominantly dated to the 2nd – 4th centuries AD (Royal Haskoning DHV 2020).

3.11 The main area of Roman period activity is focussed on an area c.455m to the west of the site, which was identified due to the density of geophysical survey anomalies (Headland 2017a). Subsequent excavation revealed the remains of ditches that formed a series of enclosures and boundary ditches, which contained sherds of 2nd to 4th century pottery. It should be noted that no evidence of structural remains was identified, with the exception of a single posthole (which contained two Roman roof tiles possibly used as post-packing). The environmental evidence identified from the evaluation (Headland 2017b) suggests that the local environment was marshy and waterlogged, and only a few cereal grains were identified. Assemblages of animal bone, comprising cattle, horse and sheep/goat were also identified. Analysis of these bones suggested that only some of the animals had been butchered, suggesting that the community during this period relied on an animal rearing economy and may have imported grain instead.

3.12 Approximately 470m to the south of the site, further remains comprising a boundary ditch and pit were dated to the Roman period. Towards the end of the Roman period, the landscape experienced substantial flooding due to environmental changes, which resulted in the decrease in use and abandonment of settlements. The landscape remained predominately unused during the post-Roman period (Trent & Peak 2017).

Early medieval and medieval

3.13 Due to the increase in fluvial activity (Trent & Peak 2017), there is no evidence of habitation or activity dated to the early medieval period within the Site and surrounding area.

3.14 Both Bicker and Donington (nearby settlements to the site) are recorded within the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Powell-Smith 2021). Bicker, c.1.5km to the east of the site, is recorded as under the ownership of the Archbishop of St Peter's, York and included one salthouse with a substantially sized settlement. The records suggest that Bicker was waste land prior to its reacquisition in 1066 (ibid.). Donington, c.1.4km to the south of the site, is recorded as containing 62 salthouses, under the ownership of three individuals, suggesting its great wealth at the time (ibid.). The presence of the salthouses suggests this formed part of a significant part of the settlement's economy.

3.15 Evidence of medieval activity has also been recorded within the surrounding area; c.735m to the west of the Site are the remains of ditches dated to the 14th – 15th century (later medieval period; Viking Link 2017). To the north of Donington and c.600m to the south of the site are cropmarks interpreted as the remains of ridge and furrow and a trackway. The presence of ridge and furrow systems to the west and south suggest that the dryland edge would have been located to the south of the site, with the site itself located within the fenland environment.

Post-Medieval and Modern

3.16 The site formed part of a fenland landscape during the early post-medieval period. The early 17th century saw the first attempt to drain this area (known as the Black Sluice Area). However, it was not until the Enclosure Act of 1766 that the site (along with several hundreds of acres) was formerly drained and maintained (Wheeler 1868, 98). The site formed part of the land maintained by the Black Sluice and South Forty Foot Drainage system, c.1.3km to the west of the site.

Although until the 19th century, the Black Sluice Drainage area was almost continually flooded by the River Witham, until the river banks were straightened/ embanked (Wheeler 1868, 244).

3.17 No remains dated to the post-medieval are recorded within the site. Adjacent to the site and located throughout the study area, are historic farmsteads (predominantly dated to the post-medieval period and later). These farmsteads suggest the surrounding land (and the site) formed part of a widespread agricultural landscape during this period and suggest a successful process of reclamation. Prior to this, it is likely that any settlement was nucleated around Bicker and Donington, to the east and south of the site respectively.

3.18 The remains of post-medieval flood defence ditches were identified c.310m to the west of the site, which suggests that it was necessary to maintain the land from flooding during this period. On the outskirts of Bicker, c.770m to the south-east of the site, findspot locations of post-medieval coins and tokens are recorded.

3.19 The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1888 depicts the site as parcelled into several arable fields within a substantial agricultural landscape. Evidence of former field boundaries was also identified as anomalies on the geophysical survey within the site (AOC 2022).

3.20 With the exception of the removal of only a few field boundaries, the site and surrounding landscape remained predominantly unaltered until the construction of electricity pylons in the 20th century and Bicker windfarm and substation to the west of the site in 2007.

Geophysical survey (AOC 2022)

3.21 Evidence of probable archaeological occupation was identified, localised within Fields 3 and 5, at the centre of the Site. These probable archaeological responses took the form of regular distinctive negative anomalies suggestive of a Romano-British type building (in Field 3), situated to benefit from the natural topography/ higher ground within the Site, which also corresponds with the location of the roddons detailed in the DBA (CA 2022). However due to the works undertaken as part of this evaluation, this interpretation is no longer valid.

3.22 In addition, a collection of anomalies were identified that were also considered to be of possible archaeological in origin, again because they exploit the natural, albeit subtle, topography of the survey area (Field 5). Areas of uncertain origin were also identified; while these might be archaeological in origin, alternatives such as a modern agricultural or geological origin are as likely.

3.23 Former field boundaries were also identified that matched boundaries depicted on historic maps of the area, most prominently in the southwestern field (Field 2) where cartographic evidence shows that the landscape has changed and developed significantly over time.

3.24 Evidence of palaeo-channels and changes in the underlying geology of the area was recorded throughout. These anomalies are quite sinuous in nature and interwoven between fields. Magnetically enhanced anomalies indicative of agricultural activity, including field drainage and modern ploughing regimes, were also revealed. A number of areas of magnetic disturbance, most likely the result of modern activity, were also recorded particularly around the current field boundaries.

4 PROJECT AIMS

4.1 The trenches were targeted at known features (geophysical anomalies, geoarchaeological features, or earthworks), as well as seemingly blank areas where no anomalies or features have been previously detected.

4.2 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were defined; as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the Historic Environment Officers at Heritage Lincolnshire, acting as the archaeological advisor to Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the application, and any possible requirement for further work.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

4.3 The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were defined as being:

- To test the results of the geophysical survey.
- To investigate the potential Roman building and possible salterns as well as other possible archaeological features recorded by the geophysical survey.
- To determine the if results of the evaluation can contribute to the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (2020), Strategic Objective 5H (*Investigate the landscape context of rural settlements*), particularly with regard to research objectives 5.4.4 (the evolution of field and boundary systems), and 5.4.6 (the daily life of settlements and their role in the processing and marketing of agricultural products).

4.4 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted according to the detailed methodology laid out in the approved WSI (AOC 2023).

5.2 The WSI outlined a proposed 128 trial trenches to be excavated across the site. The trenches provide a 2% sample, or 66no. trenches, of areas of higher potential, focused on geophysical targets and roddons (total area c.33ha) and a 1% sample, or 62no. trenches, of the remainder of the Site (total area c.57ha). In total, 125 trenches were excavated during the evaluation, all measuring 50m by 1.80m. Three trenches (Trenches 26, 27 and 99) were removed from the scope of works; Trench 99 could not be excavated due to the presence of agricultural materials; Trenches 26 and 27 could not be excavated due to the presence of woodland.

5.3 Trenches were distributed across the ten fields as follows:

- Field 1: Trenches 1-9
- Field 2: Trenches 10-15
- Field 3: Trenches 16-24.
- Field 4:Trenches 28-35
- Field 5: Trenches 36-43
- Field 6: Trenches 52-63
- Field 7: Trenches 44-51
- Field 8: Trenches 64-81.
- Field 9: Trenches 82-106
- Field 10: Trenches 107-128

5.4 Sondages were placed in various trenches across Fields 6 and 8 to establish the accuracy of the assumed presence of roddons as indicated in the WSI and the BGS. These were monitored by a Geoarchaeological specialist. Sondages were placed in Trenches 52, 53, 54, 55, 73, 78 and 79. At the request of the LPA, an additional two sondages were placed in Trench 75 due to variations in the colour of the natural horizon encountered in the trench.

5.5 The trenches were positioned to an accuracy of ± 100mm of the specified trench location using survey-grade Trimble DGPS. Prior to excavation the trench area was surveyed using a CAT 4+.

5.6 The evaluation trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a suitably qualified and competent member of AOC staff. Excavation occurred in successive spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or natural substratum, whichever was encountered first. Archaeological features were cleaned, sample excavated, and recorded by way of measured section drawing, photograph written record, and plan form recorded using a DGPS survey kit.

5.7 The trial trenches were not backfilled until permission was given by the Historic Environment Officer at LCC. The trial trenches were backfilled by machine under appropriate conditions and with direct archaeological supervision. Arisings were returned strictly in the correct sequence.

5.8 An accession number (LCNCC : 2023.2) was issued by the Lincoln Museum (the Project Archive Repository) and used as a Site code.

6 RESULTS

Introduction

6.1 A range of confirmed and potential archaeological features were encountered in five out of the ten fields during the trial trench evaluation. The results of each area are discussed in turn, with those trenches containing archaeological features described in full. A full list of contexts is provided in Appendix A. Deposits are enclosed in (parentheses) and cut features in [square brackets]. Levels are provided in metres above Ordnance Datum (m aOD). The dimensions (length, width, depth) of excavated features are provided in the ensuing text and Appendix A. Photographs presented in this section feature a 1m photographic scale, unless stated otherwise in the plate caption.

6.2 The majority of trenches were excavated at the standard dimension of 50m length by 1.8m width, and as such dimensions are not listed below unless they deviate from this standard measurement. An area overview and detailed trench plans are illustrated (Figures 2 - 3), along with associated section drawings of features and representative trench sections (Figure 4.1-4.6).

Field 1

6.3 Nine trenches were excavated in Field 1, (Figure 3.1) numbered 1-9, and all bar two (Trenches 6 and 7) were devoid of archaeological features. The naturally-lain deposits consisted of clays, varying from sandy yellowish-brown clay (Trenches 1, 4 and 6) to reddish bluish grey clay (Trenches 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9). A ditch was present in Trench 6 and a pit in Trench 7, both of which were cut into the underlying natural. The field had an undulating topography with high points of 1.90m aOD in Trench 1 and 1.80m aOD in Trench 6, with a possible dried channel through Trenches 3, 4 and 5 to a minimum height of 1.10m aOD, and a hollow at the north end of Trench 9 dropping to 0.90m aOD. None of the trenches contained deposits of subsoil, and all had greyish brown clay ploughsoil, varying in depth from 0.35m to 0.40m.

Field 1 Positive Trenches

Trench 6 (Figure 3.7 & 4.1)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(600)	0.40m	2.25m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil.
(601)	N/A	1.85m	mid yellowish brown sandy clay naturally-lain deposit.

6.4 Trench 6 was oriented northwest to southeast. The naturally-lain deposits in Trench 6 comprised of yellowish-brown sandy clay (601) which lay at 1.90m aOD in the northwest of the trench, falling gently to 1.76m aOD in the southeast. A ditch [604], was present in the northwest end of the trench, which cut through these naturally-lain deposits. The ditch was oriented northeast to southwest with steep sides and a flat base, measuring 1.00m wide and 0.6m deep (Plate 1). A single fill was present comprising of compact brown clay (605). No finds or dating evidence was recovered and the ditch remains undated.



Plate 3: Ditch [604]

6.5 The uppermost deposit in the trench was ploughsoil, measuring 0.40m deep and comprised of mid greyish brown clay. This lay at 2.30m aOD at the northwest of the trench, dropping only slightly to 2.26m aOD at the southeast end.

Trench 7 (Figure 3.8 & 4.1)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (OD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(700)	0.40m	1.93m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil.
(701)	NFE	1.57m	Firm, mid bluish reddish grey clay naturally-lain deposit.

6.6 Trench 7 was oriented northwest to southeast. The naturally-lain deposits in Trench 7 comprised of bluish reddish grey clay (701) which lay at 1.58m aOD in the northwest of the trench, falling gently to 1.55m aOD in the southeast. The naturally-lain clay was cut by a sub-rectangular pit [704], with its northeast corner present near the northwest end of the trench (Plate 2). The pit measured 0.29m deep, with steep sides and a flat base and continued westwards beyond the confines of the trench. The fill was loosely compacted yellowish brown sandy clay (703), with inclusions of fragments of plastic indicating that the pit is either of modern date, or has been disturbed in modern times, with the plastic being intrusive.

6.7 The uppermost deposit in the trench was the ploughsoil, which comprised a compact greyish brown clay up to 0.40m deep, lying at 1.95m aOD in the southwest, falling almost imperceptibly to the northwest to 1.91m aOD.



Plate 4: Sub-rectangular modern pit [704]

Field 2

6.8 Field 2 lay directly south of Field 1 and contained six trenches, numbered 10-15 (Figure 3.9). No archaeological features were present. The naturally-lain clays varied from reddish bluish grey clay (Trenches 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14) to reddish brown clay (Trench 15). The topography of the naturally-lain clays indicated a ridge of high land at c.1.80m aOD near the south of the field, meandering east to Trenches 15 and 14, and on towards Trench 13 and eventually to Trench 8 in Field 1. This corresponds with an area defined as a roddon, prior to excavation.

6.9 No subsoil was present in any of the trenches, suggesting heavy plough truncation down to atleast 0.40m. The ploughsoil in the field, typically between 0.35m and 0.40m deep showed the same topography as the underlying geology, with high points of 2.25m aOD at Trench 13 and 2.05m aOD in Trenches 14 and 15, falling notably to 1.20m aOD through Trench 12 down to Trench 10.

Field 3

6.10 Field 3 lay directly east of Field 2 (Figure 3.14) and contained ten trenches (Trenches 16-24). In common with the rest of the site, the naturally-lain deposits were clay, varying from brownish red to reddish grey in colour. Trenches 22 and 24 were located on the edge of a slight ridge of slightly higher ground at 1.72m aOD, where a roddon was identified.

6.11 No subsoil was present in any of the trenches, again suggesting heavy plough truncation down to at least 0.40m. Ploughsoil in all trenches was 0.35m to 0.40m deep and comprised of greyish brown clay, lying at 0.96m aOD at the north of the field in Trench 16, rising to 2.00m aOD at the south of the field in Trench 22.

Field 4

6.12 Field 4 lay directly east of Field 3, (Figure 3.14) with eight evaluation trenches excavated (Trenches 28-35). Six different deposits of naturally lain silts and clay were identified across the trenches and may be the result of different strata at different levels exposed by erosion and shrinkage. The naturally-lain deposit in Trench 29 was greyish brown silt at 1.33m aOD. In Trench 28, the naturally-lain deposit was bluish brown clay, lying at 1.35m aOD. Trench 35 had brownish blue clay at 1.45m aOD, Trench 34 contained reddish green clay at 1.63m aOD, Trench 32 had reddish brown clay at 1.70m aOD, and Trenches 31 and 33 both had yellowish brown clay at 1.80m aOD. Subsoil was present in Trenches 29 and 35, comprising greyish brown silt.

6.13 No archaeological features were present in any of the trenches.

6.14 Ploughsoil across the field was greyish brown clay, varying from 0.35m to 0.40m in depth, and showing the general downslope trench from high ground at Trench 33 (and the nearby Trench 22 in Field 3) at 2.11m aOD to 1.69m aOD in Trench 28.

Field 5

6.15 Field 5 lay directly east of the northern half of Field 4, (Figure 3.27) and contained eight trenches (Trenches 36-43). In common with the rest of the site, the naturally-lain deposits were clay, varying from brownish red to reddish grey in colour. Trench 37 was located on the edge of a ridge of slightly higher ground at 2.16m aOD, on the northeast most point of the field, where a roddon was present, and the other trenches revealed deposits at slightly lower levels ranging from 1.89m aOD (Trench 38) to 1.44m aOD (Trench 40).

6.16 No archaeological features were present in any of the trenches.

6.17 Ploughsoil in all eight trenches ranged from 0.06m to 0.36mOD deep and comprised of reddish-brown silty clay, to a friable mid orange, brown clayey sand lying at 2.39m aOD at the east of Trench 42, falling southwest at 2.04m aOD to northeast to 1.73m aOD.

Field 6

6.18 Field 6 lay directly east of the Field 7, (Figure 3.32) and contained 12 trenches (Trenches 52-63).

6.19 The naturally lain deposits within Field 6 varied from reddish brown clay and greyish brown clay at the lower levels, and yellowish brown clayey silt at the highest areas

6.20 The field has an undulating topography with high points of 2.27m aOD in Trench 57 and 2.10m aOD in Trench 60, and a linear hollow oriented northeast-southwest from Trench 58 at 1.40m aOD to the west end of Trench 61 at 1.29m aOD. In the west of the field, at trenches 54 and 55, the ground lies fairly level at 1.70-1.80m aOD and it was in this area of the field the archaeological features were recorded in trenches 52, 53, 54 and 55.

6.21 The archaeological features cut through the naturally deposited clays, and were sealed by subsoil comprising greyish brown clay, varying in depth from 0.11m to 0.20m. The subsoil across the field was overlain by a ploughsoil of brownish grey clay, up to 0.33m in depth.

Field 6 Positive Trenches

Trench 52 (Figure 3.33, 3.40 &3.41)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
52001	0.30m	2.42m	Compact, brownish grey clay ploughsoil.
52002	0.15m	2.12m	Compact, greyish brown clay subsoil.
52003	NFE	1.97m	Compact, greyish brown silty clay natural geology

6.22 Trench 52 was located on the western edge of Field 6 and was oriented north-east to south-west. Trench 52 targeted geophysical anomalies present in this area of the site. The natural geology comprised compact, greyish brown silty clay (52003) at a height of 1.97m aOD.

6.23 Two features observed; a ditch or channel [52005], and a tree throw [52011], located towards the centre of the trench.

6.24 Ditch or channel [52005] was orientated north-west to south-east, had steeply sloping undulating sides and a concave base. The cut measured 4.55m wide by 1.20m deep and contained five fill deposits (Plate 3). The basal fill (52013) comprised compact light grey orange mottled clay, 0.38m deep and was interpreted as slumping of the natural deposit on the sides of the cut. This was overlain by a very compact mid green-grey silty clay (52006), 0.24m deep, and looked to be a silting deposit. Three further silting deposits overlay (52006); a moderately compact mid-brown orange silty clay (52008), 0.22m deep; a compact mid green-grey clay (52009), 0.30m deep; and the uppermost deposit being a compact mid brown black clay (52010), 0.16m deep. No datable material was retrieved from any of the fills. The linear feature was interpreted as a naturally cut channel that had silted up by alluvial disposition, however with its well-defined cut, the feature could equally be interpreted as a ditch. The feature does correspond with a geological or natural geophysical anomaly which would support an interpretation of a channel, however within the confines of the trench, the true function of the feature remains unknown.



Plate 3: Linear [52005], looking north-west2

6.25 Towards the centre of the trench, tree throw (52011) measured 0.65m in length, 1.37m wide, and 0.34m deep, was irregular in plan, with diffuse sides and an undulating base (Plate 4). The tree throw was excavated to investigate its potential to have been utilised for deliberate deposition, however no evidence of such activity was recorded with no datable material recovered during the excavation of this feature.



Plate 4: Tree throw (52011), looking north

6.26 The features investigated in the trench were overlain by a compact greyish brown clay subsoil (52002), 0.15m in depth, which in turn was overlain by 0.40m of mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil. This lay at 2.30m aOD at the northwest of the trench, dropping only slightly to 2.26m aOD at the southeast end.

6.27 Trench 52 was also investigated by a geoarchaeologist excavating a sondage to examine the presence of a roddon (Plate 5). Deposit (52003) was noted to reach a depth of 2m before it changed to a mid to dark grey silty sand that was saturated.



Plate 5: Sondage in Trench 52, looking north-west

Trench 53 (Figure 3.42 - 3.43)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
53001	0.25m	1.98m	Compact, brownish grey clay ploughsoil.
53002	0.40m+	1.73m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay subsoil.
53003	1.45m+	1.33m	Compact, orange brown silty clay natural geology.
53004	0.50m+	1.23m	Light grey bluish silty clay
53007	0.18m	-0.12m	Mid to dark grey silty sand.

6.28 Trench 53 was located to the east of Trench 52 on the western side of Field 6 and was oriented north-west to south-east. Trench 53 targeted geophysical anomalies present in this area of the site. The natural geology comprised compact, orange brown silty clay (53003) at a height of 1.55m aOD.

6.29 During the initial excavation of Trench 53, a possible feature (53004), was observed in plan at the western end of the trench. Due to water ingress, an additional trench was excavated to the north and recorded as Trench 53.01. This also contained the possible feature observed in Trench 53. Excavation of the feature, in both trenches 53 and 53.01, indicated that deposit (53004) was not archaeological and is likely part of a naturally infilled channel or alluvial deposits (Plate 6). In places, deposit (53004) appeared above and below (53003), identified as the natural in the base

of the trench (Figure 4.1: section 53.01). This possible suggests the deposits undulated throughout the channel.

6.30 The western end of Trench 53, a geophysical anomaly was targeted that likely represents an old field boundary that is visible on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1888. The orientation however of deposit (53004) does not align with the geophysical survey data and instead is visible on a north-east to south-west alignment. The lack of a defined cut for the deposit in either trench and undulations of the deposit with the natural suggests more strongly that (53008) it is unlikely to represent the field boundary.



Plate 6: Deposit (53004) within Trench 53

6.31 Towards the south-east of the trench, a roughly north to south orientated gully [53005] was investigated (Plate 7). The cut measured 0.56m in width and 0.12m deep, with sharp vertical sides and a flat base. The cut contained a single fill of light grey clay (53006) which contained no datable material.



Plate 7: Gully [53005], looking north-north-west

6.32 The deposit and feature detailed above were overlain by a 0.18m thick compact mid greyish brown clay subsoil (53002). Overlying the subsoil, was a greyish brown clay ploughsoil, 0.25m deep. This lay at 1.98m aOD in the centre of the trench.

6.33 Trench 53 was also investigated by a sondage to investigate the presence of a roddon (Plate 8). Deposit (53003) was noted to reach a depth of 2m before it changed to a mid to dark grey silty sand (53007), that was saturated.



Plate 8: Sondage in Trench 53, looking north-east

Trench 54 (Figure 3.44, 3.45 & 4.2)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
54001	0.23m	2.16m	Compact, brownish grey clay ploughsoil.
54002	0.16m	1.93m	Compact, greyish brown clay subsoil.
54003	NFE	1.77m	Compact, greyish brown silty clay natural geology

6.34 Trench 54 was located to the south of Trench 53 on the western side of Field 6 and was oriented east to west. Trench 54 targeted geophysical anomalies present in this area of the site. The natural geology comprised compact, greyish brown silty clay (54003) at a height of 1.77m aOD.

6.35 Four possible features were observed in the trench, ditch [54004], ditch [54007], possible naturally lain deposit [54009] and channel [54019/21].

6.36 Ditch [54004] was located at the west end of the trench and was oriented north to south (Plate 9). The cut measured 3m wide and 0.80m deep with sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled by multiple deposits; the earliest recorded was a primary fill of mid brown orange silty clay (54029), 0.27m deep which contained pottery dating to the 3rd Century AD. Located at the base of the fill was an overturned, broken urn, containing a possible cremation, which appeared to have been damaged in antiquity, suggesting it may have been moved from its original location and possibly a redeposition within the ditch, as its location within the ditch did not look to have been deliberately placed within the ditch. Due to the evident damage and delicate nature of the material, it was not deemed possible to preserve the potential cremation in situ and therefore, was lifted to be further examined. The cremation urn dated to the 3rd Century AD. The burnt bone fragments were highly fragmented and varied in colour, ranging from unburnt (brown) to charred (black). Unfortunately, due to the fragmentation level and the lack of diagnostic fragments, it was not possible to determine whether the remains were human or animal. It is possible the remains represent food waste discarded in or with the broken vessel deposited within in the ditch, perhaps part of a burial practice (Appendix B).

6.37 Within the ditch, a secondary fill of compact mid brown silty clay, (54028), contained mid 2nd – 3rd Century AD pottery, charcoal and thin lenses of grey blue clay, measuring 0.10m deep. Overlaying (54028) was a compact light orange, brown clay (54015), ranging between 0.03m to 0.18m deep, which contained fragments of pottery dating to the mid 2nd - 3rd Century AD. Sealing the above was a final deposit of friable dark greyish brown silty clay (54014), which measured 0.52m deep and also contained pottery dating to the late 2nd – mid-3rd Century AD as well as macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds. A small deposit of heat affected clay was noted on the surface of (54014) in an isolated area (0.22m wide) which was a compact light brown orange clay (54013), measuring 0.05m deep and containing macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds as well as pottery of a general Roman date. This is likely to represent dumping in the ditch.



Plate 9: Ditch [54004], looking north

6.38 Localised in the centre of the trench were a series of naturally occurring deposits which appear to possibly representing/reflecting flooding events and were observed as a series of thin deposits (Plate 10). A cut number [54009] was assigned during initial investigation and has been retained to express the extent of the deposits. The lowest of these was recorded as (54034), a light to mid brown silty clay with grey flecks measuring 0.07m thick. Above this was (54031), a 0.25m thick layer of dark grey brown gritty sandy clay; (54032), a 0.08m thick layer of mottled light and mid dark brown silty clay; (54030) and a 0.42m thick layer of grey and light brown silty clay. Pottery dating to the mid 2nd – 3rd Century AD was retrieved from the surface of (54030); possibly washing in during a flooding event from nearby activity.



Plate 10: Section including deposits (54030), (54031) and (54032)

6.39 Cutting the above was possible cut [54036], (only seen in section), located at the western extent of the above deposits. Only the eastern edge of this feature was observed in section as the western edge was truncated by a later feature. The possible feature measured 0.65m wide and 0.35m deep and was filled by (54035), a mottled dark grey and light brown silty clay. This could have been either a pit or ditch but is difficult to determine.

6.40 Truncating the western edge was ditch [54007], a north to south linear, with sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 11). The cut measured 1.97m in width and 0.45m in depth and was filled by a single deposit of compact mid grey brown silty clay (54017), which contained charcoal flecks and fragments of animal bone, oyster shell, macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds, pottery dating to the mid-late 2nd - 3rd Century AD and ceramic building material (CBM). Like ditch [54004], discussed above, a lens of heat affected clay (54018) was contained within fill (54017) which was light orange reddish brown in colour and was 0.06m deep.



Plate 11: Ditch [54007], looking south

6.41 To the east of the above was a probable natural channel recorded as [54019/54021], measuring 14.30m wide and 2.40m deep at its deepest point. The edges had sloped sides and an undulating base (Plate 12). The base of the channel was not reached due to flooding during excavation; however, its depth indicated above was established via auguring. The edges of the channel were initially difficult to define as they were quite diffuse, however through targeted hand excavation the eastern edge was identified. The western edge however was harder to establish and through discussions with the archaeological advisor, a sondage was excavated, which exposed the limit of the channel in section, (Plates 13 & 14).

6.42 Within the excavated portion of the channel, seven fills were observed although not consistent across the trench, with deposits overlapping, suggestive of various silting events. On the eastern end of the channel, the primary fill was a compact mid brown gravel clay (54020), measuring 0.80m deep, containing fragments of burnt bone, fragments of hazel shell, vegetables seeds, cereal macroplant and pottery dating to the early 2nd Century AD including a single stamped samian ware. This was overlain by a moderately compact mid grey silty clay (54023), measuring 0.90m deep, also containing fragments of pottery dating to the mid-late 2nd Century AD, and burnt bone. Fill (54023) was 'cut' by [54021], which likely represents a later iteration of the channel. This later channel measured 4.94m wide and 1.60m deep, at its deepest point and was filled by a moderately compact mid grey-black silty clay (54022), measuring 0.42m deep and containing sherds of late 2nd – 3rd Century AD pottery and animal bone.

6.43 On the western end of the channel, the earliest fill recorded in section was a compact mid-green grey clay (54025), which measured 4.94m wide and 1.20m deep. This was overlain by a friable mid grey-black silty clay (54026), which measure 0.71m deep and was similar to fill (54022), however was looser and more of a mixed deposit with inclusions of lenses of orange clay. These were overlain by deposit (54024) comprising a compact dark black silty clay, measuring 0.26m deep. Deposit (54024) was overlain by a compact mid black-grey clay (54027), measuring 0.20m deep. All the deposits contained in [54019] and [54021] were thought to be via alluvial deposition.

6.44 Trench 54 was also investigated by a sondage to investigate the presence of a roddon (Plate 14). Deposit (54003) was noted to reach a depth of 2m. The sondage also clarified the eastern edge of the channel [54019].



Plate 12: Channel [54021/54019], looking north



Plate 13: Edge of [54021/54019], looking north



Plate 14: Sondage through western end of channel [54019], looking north

6.45 The natural geology and features within the trench were overlain by 0.16m depth of compact greyish brown clay subsoil (54002), which in turn was overlain by greyish brown clay ploughsoil (54001), lying at 2.13m aOD at the western end of the trench, falling to 2.03m aOD at the eastern end. Pottery dating to the late 2nd – mid-3rd Century AD, along with a metal Romano-British Brooch, was retrieved from the ploughsoil (Appendix B).

Trench 55 (Figure 3.46 - 3.47)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
55001	0.28m	2.06m	Compact, greyish brown clay ploughsoil.
55002	0.18m	1.78m	Compact, brownish grey clay subsoil
55023	0.40m	1.60m	Compact, brownish grey silty clay possible redeposited/disturbed natural or natural geology
55003	NFE	1.60m	Compact, brownish grey silty clay natural geology

6.46 Trench 55 was located to the south of Trench 54 on the western side of Field 6 and was oriented north-west to south-east. Trench 55 targeted geophysical anomalies present in this area of the site. The natural geology comprised compact, brownish grey silty clay (55003) at a height of 1.60m aOD. Deposit (55023) was observed in the central of the trench and maybe a secondary natural, disturbed natural or redeposited natural. Its original was not clear as it was not consistent along the trench.

6.47 Four features cut the natural geology within this trench: ditch [55008], pit [55012], pit or ditch terminus [55017] and ditch [55004].

6.48 At the northwest end of the trench, ditch [55008] was orientated north to south (Plate 15), measuring 1.56m wide, 0.48m deep, with sharp sloping sides and a concave to flat base. Four fills were recorded in the ditch; the primary fill was (55019), a 0.08m deep moderately compact mid-orange brown sandy clay which contained mid-2nd - 3rd Century AD pottery. This was overlain by (55020), a 0.20m deep compact mid grey-black silty clay, also containing pottery of late 2nd – early 3rd Century AD date. This in turn, was overlain by (55021), 0.22m deep, compact mid green orange clayey silt. The uppermost backfill (55025), comprised a 0.40m thick compact mid brown grey silt clay, which contained shell, fragments of pottery and animal bone. This is possibly an enclosure ditch that continues into Trench 54 and represented as [54007].

6.49 To the south-east of ditch [55008], was pit [55012], a sub-circular in plan with shallow sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 16). The cut measured 0.32m wide, 1.34m long and 0.16m deep. The pit contained three fills; the primary fill was (55013), a 0.04m deep moderately compact mid orange brown sandy clay with inclusions of macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds, which looked to be a natural silting of the base of the pit. The secondary fill was (55014), a 0.03m deep compact dark orange grey silty clay with charcoal, which was in turn, sealed by (55015), a 0.13m deep moderately compact mid orange brown silty clay. No datable material was retrieved from the feature.

6.50 To the south-east of [55012], was [55017] a shallow pit or ditch terminus (Plate 17). The cut measured 1m long, 0.82m wide and 0.19m deep and contained a single fill, mid yellow brown, sandy clay (55016) which contained no datable material. Environmental data retrieved during the assessment of bulk samples, indicates the presence of over 996 carbonised macroplants, accumulated from the deliberate disposal of crop processing waste.



Plate 15: Ditch [55008], looking north



Plate 16: Pit [55012], looking north-east



Plate 17: Pit [55017], looking south-west

6.51 Towards the south-east of the trench, ditch or large pit [55004] was aligned roughly northeast to southwest, and measure 6m wide and 0.8m deep (Plate 18). Within the confines of the trench, it is uncertain whether this feature is a ditch or a large pit due to its shape in plan. The western edge of the cut sloped gently towards an undulating base; the eastern edge was less clear as it was truncated by a modern field drain. The ditch or pit contained five fills; the primary fill was a thin layer of blackish brown silt (55009), measuring 0.06m deep and containing a high quantity of mussel and cockle shells, macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds and charcoal, along with sherds of pottery of mid-2nd – 3rd Century AD and two metal objects; the beveled tip of a likely tool, similar in form to a small mortice chisel used in woodworking; and a small, non-classifiable rectangular fragment (Appendix B). The secondary fill was a (55024), a mixed grey and orange silty clay measuring 0.22m thick. This was in turn over lain by (55006), a thin dark grey brown deposit, containing charcoal, macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds and

pottery of a mid 2nd - 3rd century date, followed by (55007), a greyish brown silty clay measuring 0.40m deep, containing sherds of late 2nd – early 3rd Century AD pottery, burnt bone, macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds and flecks of charcoal. A lens of dark greyish brown silt (55010) was located on the eastern side of the ditch and measured 0.16m. The final fill was greyish brown clayey silt (55005), measuring 0.22m deep, and containing pottery dating to the 3rd Century AD. Environmental data retrieved during the assessment of bulk samples indicates the presence of over 329 carbonised macroplants, accumulated from the deliberate disposal of crop processing waste.



Plate 18: Ditch [55004], looking south

6.52 The above were overlain by 0.18m depth of compact, greyish brown clay subsoil (55002), which in turn was overlain by greyish brown clay ploughsoil (55001), lying at 2.24m aOD at the southeastern end of the trench, falling to 1.82m aOD at the northwest end. Both the subsoil and ploughsoil contained pottery dating the 2nd – 3rd Century AD.

6.53 Trench 55 was also investigated further by the excavation of a sondage to a depth of 2m (Plate 19). Deposit (55003) was noted to continue beyond the sondage depth of 2m. No changes in deposits were recorded.



Plate 19: Sondage in Trench 55, looking north-east

Field 7

6.54 Field 7 lay south of Field 2, (Figure 3.48) and contained eight trenches (Trenches 44-51). None of these trenches contained archaeological features. The highest point of the naturally-lain clays was at the south of the field, across the south end of Trench 49, and south of Trench 51, at 2.04m aOD, where yellowish brown silty clay was present. The trenches across the north facing slope in this field typically contained brownish grey clay at 1.70m aOD, changing to bluish grey clay as the topography dropped generally northwards to 1.36m aOD at the northwest end of Trench 50.

6.55 Each of the trenches in Field 7 contained subsoil comprising greyish brown clay, varying in depth from 0.07m in Trench 45, to 0.20m in Trench 49. Ploughsoil in each of the trenches was brownish grey clay, up to 0.30m deep on the lower parts of the field and closer to 0.20m deep on the slightly higher ground to the south.

Field 8

6.56 Field 8 lay south of Field 7, (Figure 3.54) and contained 18 trenches (Trenches 64-81). The naturally lain deposits within Field 8 varied from mid reddish brown silty clay at the lower levels to compact mid orange brown sandy clay at the highest areas. Interestingly, both the highest and lowest parts of the natural deposits in Field 8 were in the central part of the field; the highest being where the BGS indicated the presence of a roddon (Trench 71). The height of the natural geology in the north of the field (Trench 67) averaged 1.8m aOD, whilst the height in the south of the field (Trench 75) averaged 2.53m aOD.

6.57 The archaeological features cut through the naturally deposited clays, and were sealed by subsoil comprising greyish brown clay, varying in depth from 0.11m to 0.20m. The subsoil across the field was overlain by a ploughsoil of brownish grey clay, up to 0.33m in depth.

Field 8 Positive Trenches

Trench 68 (Figure 3.62)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
68000	0.23m	2.23m	Compact, mid reddish grey clay.
68001	0.11m	2m	Compact, mid yellowish brown clay
68002	NFE	1.89m	Strongly cemented, mid bluish grey clay natural geology

6.58 Trench 68 was located in the north-east of Field 8 and was oriented roughly east to west. Trench 68 targeted geophysical anomalies present in this area of the site. The natural geology comprised compact, mid blue grey clay (68002) at a height of 1.89m aOD. Two features were observed within the trench and recorded as [68004] and [68006].



Plate 20: Ditch [68004] on the left and [68006] on the right, looking south

6.59 Both features [68004] and [68006], are possibly part of the same larger feature, which appears curved in plan on the northern side of the features (Plate 20). Feature [68004] formed the most easterly side of the feature measuring 1.80m long, 0.92m wide and 0.12m in depth. The cut had sloped sides and a flat base, which was filled by a single deposit of loosely compact mid reddish orange-black sandy silt (68005), containing charcoal, macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds and pottery of dating to the Roman period (Appendix B). Feature [68006] was located directly to the west of [68004], with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The cut observed in plan measured 1.5m long; 1.29m wide; 0.59m deep; and contained several fills. The primary fill, (68007), was 0.16m deep and located on the western edge of the cut comprising a loose mid reddish orange black sandy silt with inclusions of charcoal flecks and pottery fragments dated to late 2nd-3rd Century AD. The secondary fill, (68009), was a 0.22m deep moderately compact mid yellow-grey silty clay, with inclusions of charcoal and fragments of burnt bone. This was overlain by (68011), a 0.37m deep loose mid grey silty clay, which in turn was overlain by a loose light yellow grey silty clay (68013), situated on the eastern most side of the cut and measuring 0.20m deep. These appear to be periods of infill or deliberate dump materials rather than recutting of the same feature. Small amorphous crumbs of fired clay were observed within the charcoal rich deposits within the features. This was interpreted in the field as potential briquetage

which could be suggestive of heated debris from salt extractions, however the fired clay on assessment could have been hearth lining, or possibly briquette, but it has no shape, form or technological traits that confirm this. It is possible that features [68004] and [68006] are related to or are the result of salterns, which were used for salt extraction which are known to have existed locally to the site.

6.60 A pit or ditch terminus [68014] was not clear in plan but was visible in the hand excavated section through [68006]. The cut had steeply sloping sides, a flat base, measuring 0.73m wide; 0.21m deep. containing a single fill of loose mid brown-grey clayey silt (68015) with inclusions of rare sub-rounded stones, charcoal flecks and pottery dating to the 2nd-3rd Century AD.

6.61 Feature [68004], [68006] and [68014] correspond with a geophysical anomaly which the trench targeted; however no evidence of a similar geophysical anomaly was present in the western half of the trench cutting the natural geology, or within the upper stratigraphy (subsoil or ploughsoil).

6.62 Overlying the above was as a 0.11m thick subsoil observed as a mid yellow brown clay subsoil (68002), which in turn was overlain by reddish grey clay ploughsoil (68001), lying at 2.23m aOD in the centre of the trench. The ploughsoil contained pottery of a late 2nd – 3rd Century AD.

Trench 73 (Figure 3.63)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
73001	0.19m	1.84m	Compact greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.
73002	0.34m	1.65m	Compact mid orangish brown clay.
73003	1.02m+	1.31m	Compact mid orangish yellow clay.

6.63 Trench 73 contained a sondage, excavated to a depth of 1.5m (Plate 21). Deposit (73003) was noted to continue beyond the sondage depth of 1.5m. No changes in deposits were recorded.



Plate 21: Sondage in Trench 73, looking south-east

Trench 74 (Figure 3.64 – 3.65)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
74001	0.24m	2.04m	Compact greyish brown silty clay.
74002	0.15m	1.80m	Compact, greyish brown clay subsoil.
74003	NFE	1.65m	Compact, mid orangish grey clay natural geology

6.64 Trench 74 was located towards the south of Field 8, between Trenches 72 and 77, and was oriented north-west to south-east. Trench 74 targeted geophysical anomalies present in this area of the site which suggested possible archaeology.

6.65 The natural geology comprised compact, mid orange grey clay (74003) at a height of 1.65m aOD. Four features cut the natural geology and were recorded as ditch [74004], pit [74008], ditch [74009] and ditch [74015].

6.66 The most southerly feature was recorded as pit [74008], measuring 0.62m long; 0.91m wide; and 0.22m deep. The pit had shallow sloping sides with a concave base and contained a single fill of moderately compact mid-grey brown silty clay (74014), which contained no datable material.

6.67 To the north west of the above was north-east to south-west aligned ditch [74004] (Plate 22). The cut had steeply sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 4m long; 2m wide; and 1.10m deep. The primary fill was (74005), a 0.22m deep loosely compact mid brown-grey clayey silt which contained rare sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks. The secondary deposit (74006) was a 0.11m deep, thin deposit of loosely compact mid brownish black clayey silt, that looked to be organically rich and containing pottery of mid 2nd to 3rd Century AD. This was overlain by (74007), a 0.70m thick loose mid brown-grey clayey silt, containing rare inclusions of sub-rounded stones, charcoal, pottery of early to mid-late 3rd Century date and animal bone (Appendix B). Environmental data retrieved during the assessment of bulk samples indicates the presence of over 4109 carbonised macroplants. accumulated from the deliberate disposal of crop processing waste.



Plate 22: Ditch [74004], looking south-west

6.68 At the north-west end of the trench, two ditches were present. Ditch [74015], was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west, measuring 2.55m wide and 0.90m deep (Plate 23). The cut had steep sloping edges, an undulating base and contained two fills. The primary fill comprised a loosely compact mid brown clay (74016), with a maximum depth of 0.70m, which was overlain by a loosely compact reddish brown grey mottled clay (74017), 0.63m deep. Deposit (74017) contained fragments of animal bone (Appendix B).



Plate 23: Ditch [74015], looking south

6.69 Ditch [74009], slightly further north, was orientated east to west, measuring 3.42m wide and 1m deep, with steep sloping sides and a flat base, (Plate 24). The primary fill (74018), comprised compact orange, grey silty clay measuring 0.26m deep. This was overlain by (74010), a moderately compact mid green grey clay measuring 0.78m deep, with rare inclusions of macroplant cereals; (74011), a 0.08m deep shallow moderately compact dark grey black clayey silt, also with rare macroplant cereals; (74012), 0.48m thick, compacted mid green grey silty clay; and finally (74013), 0.18m thick deposit of compact dark brown, grey silty clay. All fill deposits were sterile of artefacts or datable materials.



Plate 24: Ditch [74009], looking north-west

6.70 The above ditches may represent enclosure ditches and partially correspond with geophysical anomalies that the trench targeted and that had been interpreted in the geophysical report as the remains of a villa or bathhouse. The anomalies are suggestive of enclosure ditches or field systems and therefore these ditches are likely part of that system.

6.71 Overlying the above was a 0.15m thick deposit of mid grey brown clay subsoil (74002), which in turn was overlain by grey brown clay ploughsoil (74001), lying at 2.04m aOD in the centre of the trench. The ploughsoil contained pottery of a late 2nd – mid-3rd Century AD (Appendix B).

Trench 75 (Figure 3.66 – 3.67)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Sondage 1 – Eastern end

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
75001	0.50m	2.33m	Mid brown grey clay silt, ploughsoil.
75012	0.70m	1.79m	Mid to light blue grey, moist clay.
75013	0.20m	1.59m	Mid brown clay silt.
75014	0.80m+	1.39m	mid to light blue grey clay.

Sondage 2 – Western End

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
75001	0.40m	2.44m	Mid brown grey clay silt, ploughsoil.
75015	0.43m	2.44m	Light green-grey sandy clay.
75000	1.46m	2.04m	Mid to light blue grey, moist clay.
75011	0.36m	2.04m	Mid grey Black silty clay

6.72 No archaeology was present in Trench 75 however due to the presence in plan of a potential lense of pale grey sandy silt, further investigation was required. Two sondages were excavated and showed a sequence of naturally lain deposits (Plate 25 & 26). One sherd of pottery dating to the post-medieval period, along with a likely post-medieval metal ring washer may be associated with later agricultural practices in the area, were retrieved from the uppermost natural geology (75003).



Plate 25: Sondage 1 in Trench 75, looking [74015], looking north



Plate 26: Sondage 2 in Trench 75, looking [74015], looking north

Trench 76 (Figure 3.68)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
76001	0.26m	2.69m	Compact, brownish grey clay ploughsoil.
76002	0.20m	2.43m	Compact, greyish brown clay subsoil
76003	NFE	2.23m	Compact, mid orangish grey clay natural geology

6.73 Trench 76 was located towards the south of Field 8, to the south of Trench 74, and was oriented west-north-west to east-south-east. Trench 76 targeted a geophysical anomaly which suggested possible archaeology.

6.74 The natural geology comprised compact, mid orange grey clay (76003), at a height of 2.23m aOD.

6.75 A single feature was observed in the trench and recorded as [76004]. Located at the west end of the trench, ditch [76004], was orientated north-east to south-west, measuring 2.50m long, 1.67m wide and 0.58m deep (Plate 27). The cut had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and contained three fills. The primary fill was (76007), a 0.18m thick, very compact light green silty clay with mid orange yellow mottling, with rare inclusions of macroplant cereals, vegetable seeds and weeds and also fragments of pottery of 2nd – 3rd Century AD date and animal bone. The secondary fill (76006), a 0.12m thick, was a very compact dark black grey silty clay which was overlain by (76005), a 0.10m thick, very compact dark orange-brown silty clay. The ditch corresponds with a geophysical anomaly that the trench targeted which is suggestive of enclosure ditches within the vicinity of Trench 76 and therefore is likely part of that system. However, no evidence of a similar geophysical anomaly was present in the eastern end of the trench cutting the natural geology, or within the upper stratigraphy (subsoil or ploughsoil).



Plate 27: Ditch [76004], looking east

6.76 The above was overlain by (76002), a 0.20m thick grey brown clay subsoil, which in turn was overlain by (76001), a brown grey clay ploughsoil, lying at 2.69m aOD in the centre of the trench.

Trench 78 (Figure 3.69)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
78001	0.32m	2.64m	Compact greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.
78002	1.72m+	2.45m	Compact mid orangish grey silty sand natural geology.

6.77 Trench 78 was investigated further by the excavation a sondage to a depth of 1.72m (Plate 28). Deposit (78002), identified as a roddon, was noted to continue beyond the sondage depth of 1.72m. No changes in deposits were recorded.

6.78 No evidence of the geophysical anomalies which Trench 77 and 78 targeted were present in the trench cutting the natural geology, or within the upper stratigraphy (subsoil or ploughsoil).



Plate 28: Sondage in Trench 78, looking north

Trench 79 (Figure 3.70)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
79001	0.30m	2.64m	Compact dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.
79002	1.60m+	2.45m	Compact, mid greyish brown sandy clay natural geology.

6.79 Trench 79 was investigated further by the excavation of a sondage to a depth of 1.60m (Plate 29). Deposit (79002) was noted to continue beyond the sondage depth of 1.60m. No changes in deposits were recorded.



Plate 29: Sondage in Trench 79, looking south-west

Field 9

6.80 Field 9 lay south-west of Field 8 (Figure 3.71) and contained 24 trenches (trenches 82-106). In the north of Field 9, in Trench 87, the natural deposits lie at a high point of 2.6m aOD, dropping northeasterly to 1.20m aOD in Trenches 85 and 86. A second high point of 2.4m aOD in the east of the field (Trench 93) suggests a shallow channel between the high points, and a second low level, towards the south of the field may indicate pooling, with the natural as low as 1.4m aOD in Trenches 101 and 102. A third high point, of 2.2m aOD near the south of the field (Trenches 103 and 1.5) forms a slight ridge between the two fields.

6.81 The records of levels at the top of the trenches reveal a median ground level of 2.2m aOD across Field 9. There is a slight mound in the north of Field 9, lying at 2.8m aOD in Trenches 87 and 89. The ground falls gently downwards to a minimum of 1.6m aOD in a channel through Trenches 83, 84 and 86. Three other high points in Field 9 of 2.7m aOD in Trench 93 and 2.5m aOD in Trenches 98 and 103 surround a broad shallow hollow measuring 300m by 160m, as low as 1.80m aOD in Trench 101.

Field 9 positive trenches

Trench 90 (Figure 3.88)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(9000)	0.35m	2.30m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil
(9001)	NFE	1.95m	Compact, mid yellowish brown clay natural deposit

6.82 Trench 90 was located in the centre of Field 9, oriented north-south, measuring 50m by 2m. This lay outside of an identified roddon, and the naturally lain deposit was mid yellowish brown clay (9001), lying at 1.95m aOD in the north of the trench, falling gently to 1.90m in the south. South of centre, the natural deposit was cut by a gully oriented northwest-southeast.

6.83 The gully [9004], measured 0.35m wide and 0.13m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat base (Plate 30). The fill (9003), was light bluish grey silty clay and may be alluvial in origin. No dating material was present, and there were no inclusions of stone or organic material.

6.84 Ploughsoil across the trench was 0.35m deep, lying at 2.32m aOD at the north end of the trench, dropping gently, like the underlying topography, to 2.24m aOD in the south.



Plate 30: Gully [9004] Looking Northwest

Trench 94 (Figure 3.89)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(9400)	0.35m	2.52m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil
(9405)	0.20m	2.17m	Firm, mid reddish grey clay
(9406)	0.40m	1.77m	Soft, light greyish red sandy clay roddon deposit
(9407)	0.20m	1.57m	Soft, mid reddish grey sandy clay roddon deposit
(9401)	NFE	1.57m	Compact, mid yellowish brown sandy clay natural deposit

6.85 Trench 94 was located in the east side of Field 9, measuring 55m by 2m, and was oriented north-south. Compact, mid yellowish brown sandy clay, (9401), was identified as a naturally-lain deposit. A sequence of three roddon deposits were present. The lowest (9407) was soft, mid reddish grey sandy clay lying at a maximum level of 1.57m aOD. This was overlain by a 0.40m depth of soft, light greyish red sandy clay (9406), and the third deposit was 0.20m depth of firm, mid reddish grey clay, lying at 2.17m aOD at the middle of the trench (9405).

6.86 A ditch was present towards the north of the trench. This ditch [9404] was oriented roughly east-west, with vertical sides and a flat sloping base, shallower on the south side (Plate 31). The cut measured 0.85m wide and up to 0.43m deep. A single fill (9403), in the ditch was dark blackish brown silty clay. A high quantity of plastic baling twine in this fill is evidence of its modern date.

6.87 The topmost deposit in the trench was compact greyish brown clay ploughsoil (9400) up to 0.35m deep. This lay at 2.62m aOD at the southeast end of the trench, dropping to 2.55m aOD at the northwest end.



Plate 31: Ditch [9404] Looking West

Trench 96 (Figure 3.90)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(9600)	0.35m	2.25m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil
(9602)	0.05m	1.95m	Mid pinkish brown silty clay roddon deposit
(9601)	NFE	1.90m	Compact, mid yellowish brown sandy clay natural deposit

6.88 Trench 96 was located in the west side of Field 9, measuring 55m by 2m, and was oriented northwest-southeast. The natural deposit in the trench was compact, mid yellowish brown sandy clay (9601), lying at 1.76m aOD in the northwest, with a roddon deposit in the southeast, composed of mid pinkish brown silty clay (9602), raising the ground gradually to 1.95m aOD

6.89 The yellowish brown sandy clay, (9601), was cut by a ditch [9604], on a northeast-southwest alignment. The ditch measured 1.76m wide and 0.84m deep, with slightly concave sides of c.45° dropping to a flat base. The base narrowed slightly towards the northeast, perhaps indicating proximity to a terminus. There was a single fill (9603), of compact orange-brown clay. No inclusions or dating evidence was present.

6.90 The filled ditch and roddon deposit were overlain by 0.35m depth of mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil (9600), lying at 2.34m aOD at the southeast, over the roddon, and at 2.17m aOD at the northeast.

Trench 98 (Figure 3.91)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(9800)	0.35m	2.40m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil
(9802)	0.10m	2.18m	Mid pinkish yellow sandy clay roddon deposit
(9801)	NFE	2.05m	Compact, mid yellowish brown sandy clay natural deposit

6.91 Trench 98 was also located in the west of Field 9, measuring 57m by 1.85m and was oriented northwest-southeast. A layer of naturally-lain compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay (9801), was identified at the very northwest of the trench, whereas a roddon deposit of soft, mid pinkish yellow sandy clay (9802) lay across the rest of the trench, at a maximum level of 2.18m aOD at the southeast end of the trench.

6.92 Ditch [9804], with irregular edges, was oriented northeast-southwest and cut into the roddon deposit near the northwest end of the trench (Plate 32). This was 2.13m wide and 0.23m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. A single fill (9803) was in the ditch, of greyish brown silty clay. No inclusions or finds were present.

6.93 The top deposit in the trench was 0.35m depth of compact mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil (9800), lying at a high point of 2.45m aOD at the southeast of the trench, dropping gradually to the northwest, to 2.36m aOD.



Plate 32: Ditch [9804] Looking Southwest

Trench 100 (Figure 3.92)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(10000)	0.35m	1.82m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil
(10001)	NFE	1.47m	Compact, mid yellowish brown clay natural deposit.

6.94 Trench 100 measured 54m by 1.85m, and was located towards the south of Field 9, and oriented east-west. Naturally lain yellowish brown clay was the lowest deposit encountered, lying near level at 1.57m aOD at the ends of the trench, but dipping to 1.47m aOD in the centre.

6.95 The natural deposit was cut by a V-shaped ditch [10005], that measured 0.56m wide and 0.41m deep, with two fills (Plate 33). The lower fill (10004) was light greyish red clay, and was up to 0.32m deep. The secondary fill (10003) was mid blueish grey firm clay with abundant terrestrial shell inclusions but no dating evidence.

6.96 The upper deposit in the trench was 0.35m depth of compact greyish brown clay ploughsoil (10000). This lay at 1.97m aOD at each end, with a slight drop in the centre of the trench to 1.82m aOD, above the location of the ditch. This may be a topographical clue to the function of the ditch, potentially established to help drain slightly lower land.



Plate 33: Ditch [10005] Looking Northeast

Trench 102 (Figure 3.93)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(10200)	0.45m	1.96m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil
(10201)	NFE	1.51m	Compact, mid blueish, reddish brown sandy clay

6.97 Trench 102 was located towards the south of Field 9, oriented east-west and in an area slightly lower than the majority of the field. . In contrast to the rest of the trenches, the lowest deposit was compact, mid blueish, reddish brown sandy clay (10201). This lay at 1.60m aOD at the western end of the trench, falling to 1.49m aOD at the eastern end.

6.98 In the centre of the trench, a ditch [10204] was oriented north-south, measuring 0.72m wide and 0.35m deep, with sides dropping at 60° to a narrow, flattish base (Plate 34). There was a single fill (10203), of mid greyish brown silty clay, with frequent small fragments of terrestrial shell. This could be the same ditch excavated in Trench 100.

6.99 The topmost deposit in the trench was compact greyish brown clay ploughsoil (10200) up to 0.45m deep. This lay at 1.99m aOD at the west end of the trench, dropping to 1.93m aOD at the east end.



Plate 34: Ditch [10204] Looking South

Trench 103 (Figure 3.94 – 3.95)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(10300)	0.40m	2.44m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil
(10301)	NFE	2.04m	Compact, mid bluish, reddish brown sandy clay roddon deposit
(10302)	>1.00m	2.03m	mid yellowish brown sandy clay natural deposit

6.100 Trench 103 was located south of Trench 102, and was oriented north-northwest to south-southeast. The lowest deposit recorded was mid yellowish brown sandy clay (10302), and was a naturally-lain deposit, lying at 2.10m aOD at the northern end of the trench, whilst the majority of the trench contained roddon deposit (10301), composed of mid blueish, reddish brown sandy clay, to a maximum height of 2.14m at the southern end of the trench.

6.101 The roddon deposit (10301), was cut by two features, both of which may be pits. The smaller of the pits [10304] was located towards the southern end of the trench and continued beyond the limits of excavation (Plate 35). The pit was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.28m long, 2.28m wide and 0.55m deep. The profile of the pit was generally concave, with steeply sloping sides dropping to a rounded base. A single fill (10303) was present, of mid brown loosely compact clay.

6.102 The larger pit [10306], was located towards the middle of the trench and measured 4.95m north-south and was 0.35m deep (Plate 36). The southern side dropped steeply to the flat base, whereas the northern side dropped to a flat shelf just 0.12m deep and 1.20m wide before

dropping to the full base. The fill (10305) was light greyish brown compact clay, and contained small fragments of brick, coal, glass, animal bone and stone, indicative of a post-medieval date.

6.103 The topmost deposit in the trench was compact greyish brown clay ploughsoil (10200) up to 0.40m deep. This lay at 2.50m aOD at the southern end of the trench, dropping to 2.38m aOD at the northern end.



Plate 35: Pit [10304] Looking West-southwest



Plate 36: Pit [10306] Looking West-southwest

Field 10

6.104 Field 10 lay south of Field 9, (Figure 3.96) and contained 22 trenches (trenches 108-128). In Field 10, a curved ridge of higher ground adjacent to the bend in North Ing Drove (Trenches 118, 119 and 120) is the highest point of the field. This curving profile encloses a hollow spreading northwards with low points of 1.10m aOD seen in trenches 107, 111, 113, and 114, and there is

a second shallower hollow at the west part of the field (trenches 125 and 127) only as low as 1.40m aOD.

6.105 Field 10 is adjacent to Field 9 and shows a similar median ground level of 2.2m aOD. There is a curved area of higher ground at the south end of the field, at 2.6m aOD across Trenches 115, 118, 119 and 120. This is adjacent to North Ing Drove, showing that the routeway lies on the slightly higher ground. This curved area surrounds an area of lower ground at 1.6m aOD across trenches 107, 113 and 114, and there are two other smaller low areas in the west, at trenches 125 and 127.

Field 10 Positive Trenches

Trench 120 (Figure 3.109)

Table of stratigraphic sequence

Context No.	Thickness (max)	Height of Deposit (aOD) (centre point)	Description/Interpretation
(12000)	0.30m	2.58m	Compact, mid brownish grey clay ploughsoil
(12003)	0.35m	2.27m	Soft, mid yellowish brown sandy clay roddon deposit
(12004)	0.10m	1.92m	Compact, mid greyish brown clay roddon deposit
(12005)	NFE	1.82m	Soft, mid yellowish brown sandy clay roddon deposit
(12001)	NFE	2.28m	Compact, mid brownish blue clay natural deposit

6.106 Trench 120 was oriented northwest-southeast in the southwest of Field 10. Compact, mid brownish blue clay (12001) was identified as a naturally-lain deposit, at the northwest end of the trench, at 2.20m aOD. At the southeast end of the trench, a sequence of three roddon deposits were present. The lowest (12005) was soft, mid yellowish brown sandy clay lying at a maximum level of 1.82m aOD. This was overlain by 0.10m depth of compact, mid greyish brown clay (12004), and the third deposit was 0.35m depth of soft, mid yellowish brown sandy clay (12003), lying at 2.27m aOD at the southeast end of the trench.

6.107 A ditch was present towards the southeast of the trench and cut through the roddon deposits. This ditch [12007], was oriented roughly north-south and measured 0.91m wide and up to 0.30m deep, with the western side sloping at 30° and the eastern side at 60°, to an off-centre base (Plate 37). A single fill (12006) in the ditch was soft blue grey clay.

6.108 The topmost deposit in the trench was compact greyish brown clay ploughsoil (12000) up to 0.30m deep. This lay at 2.62m aOD at the southeast end of the trench, dropping to 2.55m aOD at the northwest end.



Plate 37: Ditch [12007] Looking North

7 FINDS

7.1 The finds have been assessed by respective specialists in their class, and the reports of these specialists are included in Appendix B. The main findings of these reports are summarised below. Each specialist has provided recommendations for further work to be done on the material, as well as recommendations for discard of material of low significance. Following acceptance of the report, discard of finds will be carried out as per the specialists' recommendations with the agreement of Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

Roman Pottery

7.2 A total of 687 sherds (14820g) of Roman pottery, and 15 sherds (86g) of post-medieval pottery, distributed over six trenches. The bulk of the Roman pottery was contained in Trenches 54 and 55, with a significant group also present in Trench 74. These groups represent a relatively homogenous, well-preserved and only slightly abraded assemblage that includes a high incidence of diagnostic and cross-joining sherds. The range of fabric and form types, including plain samian ware from central and east Gaul, black-burnished wares 1, shell-tempered wares from the Bourne-Greetham kilns and the Dales, grey wares, colour-coated ware and mortaria from the Lower Nene valley, and coarse wares from kilns close to Lincoln, are indicative of a broad chronology spanning the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, likely with a focus on the late 2nd/early 3rd to mid 3rd centuries AD. A single samian ware maker's stamp in (54020) attests to activity commencing in the early 2nd century AD, with groups dated to the narrow late 2nd/early 3rd to mid 3rd century AD in pits [54010], [55004] and layer (74007), while a single group in (54017) dates to the latter half of the 3rd century AD.

7.3 The supply pattern to the site in the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD appears to have had a dual foci, in part drawing on the major industry at town and industrial centre of Durobrivae (Water Newton) situated c.40km to the south for colour-coated ware, fine ware and mortaria, as well as small coarse ware kilns in between such as those at Bourne and Greetham that produced shell-

tempered ware. A contrasting supply of coarse ware vessels, principally highly-fired reduced wares, but also fine 'Parisian' ware appears to have been supplied from kilns around Lincoln, probably including the Racecourse kilns, while low quantities of Dales-type shell-tempered ware from north Lincolnshire may also have arrived via this route.

7.4 The pattern of supply evident in the assemblage above is not unexpected given the location of the site to the east of the major Roman road that links the urban centres of Durobrivae (Water Newton) in the Lower Nene Valley to the south and Lincoln to the north, which provides a supply network connected to various markets and other pottery production sites. The presence of modest quantities of samian ware and fine ware associated with a range of coarse ware jars, cooking pots and dishes is indicative of domestic occupation, with the high incidence of diagnostic, cross-joining sherds and average sherd weight suggests this occupation is either on or immediately adjacent to the relevant trenches, likely forming part of a farmstead or similar settlement of modest status on a roddon within Bicker Fen. The relatively narrow chronology of the assemblage in the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, with a focus on the late 2nd to mid 3rd centuries AD may suggest the occupation was of limited duration, potentially relative to environmental or economic factors, although the consumption pattern appears to indicate fairly affluent means.

7.5 The combination of samian ware, Parisian fine reduced ware and Lower Nene Valley colour-coated wares with wide-mouth grey ware jars and shell-tempered ware jars, including Dales ware types mirrors the supply pattern in Period 3 (2nd-4th centuries AD) at the Roman settlement at Old Sleaford c.15km to the north-west (Elsdon 1997, 121-2). A comparable supply pattern was also evident associated with Roman settlement previously noted at Bicker Fen, notably at the Viking Link site where common grey wares from kilns around Lincoln were associated with Lower Nene Valley grey wares and colour-coated wares, Dales ware and other shell-tempered wares (Machin 2024, 18-19). The Viking Link assemblage included only rare samian ware, mortaria and black-burnished ware 1, but did include amphorae and a grey ware, seemingly indicative of an equally affluent rural consumption pattern. The chronology at Viking Link corresponds broadly with this assemblage, with the earliest enclosures seemingly opened in the early 2nd century AD, but a focus on occupation spanning the 3rd to 4th centuries AD, potentially extending later than the duration of this assemblage (Machin 2024, 24). This pattern was also repeated in assemblages from Sutterton c.6km to the east, where the bulk of the assemblage was dated to the 3rd century AD, including samian ware, Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware plain rim dishes, Dales-ware-type, Bourne-Greetham, and black-burnished ware imitation jars (Leary 1994, 20; Precious 1996, 37; Davies 1996, 12).

The Metal and Industrial Materials

7.6 The metals assemblage comprises four ferrous metal objects and fragments recovered from three separate contexts within three trenches, including from a ploughsoil deposit (54001) and midden deposit (55009), and a naturally-lain post-medieval deposit (75003). The most significant of the ferrous metal finds is a likely Romano-British Brooch recovered from the ploughsoil (54001) in Trench 54. Other likely Romano-British finds were recovered from a domestic waste deposit (55009) within a linear ditch [55004] in Trench 55. These finds comprise the beveled tip of a likely tool, similar in form to a small mortice chisel used in woodworking, and a small, non-classifiable rectangular fragment. A likely post-medieval ring washer was recovered from deposit (75003) in Trench 75 which may be associated with later agricultural practices in the area.

7.7 The industrial assemblage comprises a single amorphous lump of fuel-ash slag, possibly representing either domestic or industrial residual hearth material, that was recovered from the ploughsoil (55001) in Trench 55, which also produced a small, natural white quartzite pebble. Tiny fragments of coal were also recovered from pit fill (10305) within Trench 103.

Animal Bone

7.8 A small assemblage of 82 refitted fragments of animal bones, teeth and shells was identified from hand-collected and sieved samples. Provisional dating is taken from the pottery but most features appear to be Roman.

7.9 Bones were in good condition, though fragmentary, and approximately a third were recently broken and/ or refitted. Canid gnawing was also observed in a third of the assemblage, indicating that deposits were not always buried immediately, but were available for dogs to chew.

7.10 The zooarchaeology was in good condition, though the findings were unremarkable for the period and sample sizes too small to provide reliable data for detailed analysis. However, further excavation has good potential to provide additional deposits containing animal remains that will be vital to understanding the diet, economy, status and human-animal relationships in the past.

7.11 Due to demands for space in long-term archiving, the assemblage has been assessed based on its potential to inform future research, contribute to further analysis and use in educational activities. The assemblage has been fully recorded and is of low priority for retention.

Cremated Bone

7.12 The cremated remains recovered from ditch [54004], comprised approximately 0.38g of unburnt and burnt bone fragments. The bone had been deposited in a ceramic vessel dating to the 3rd century AD. The largest bone fragment measured 22.46mm in length. Unfortunately, due to the fragmentation level and the lack of diagnostic fragments, it was not possible to determine whether the remains were human or animal. It seems likely, however, that the remains represent food waste discarded in or with the broken vessel in the ditch.

Macroplant, Charcoal and Shellfish

7.13 The large crop assemblage in pits [55017] and [74004] accumulated from the deliberate disposal of crop processing waste. The cereals in the remaining features represents a mix of both crop processing waste and food debris. The wild oats were unlikely to have been cultivated and instead these were probably a weed of the main wheat crop. Both wheat and barley have been cultivated in Britain from the prehistoric onwards and were a dietary mainstay of the Roman period (Renfrew 1993, 23; Renfrew 1993, 68-69; Van Der Veen 2022)..

7.14 The recovery of vegetables in the form of lentils/peas and vetch is much rarer in carbonised assemblages than other finds such as cereals because those parts of the plants usually eaten such as the leaves or shoots rarely survive when carbonised (Zohary & Hopf 1993, 181). The presence of vegetables indicates that a variety of crops were potentially cultivated alongside the cereals. As there were only two hazelnut shells there is little further information, they can provide in contributing to a greater understanding of the role of wild resources at this site.

7.15 The weeds grow in a range of habitats including arable fields, waste ground and damp environments. Some of these species including fat hen, wild radish and dock are edible but as these were largely recovered alongside the crop processing waste, they are more likely to

represent contaminants of the cereal rather than actual food debris. Further analysis of the diversity of the weed assemblage and the spatial deposition of these finds may contribute additional information to understanding the development of the surrounding landscape.

7.16 The tree species are all native to Britain and would have grown in the surrounding landscape (Stace 2010, Linford 2009). Both alder and willow are typically found in damp habitats. Hazel, ash, cherry and elm usually favour scrub or more open woods, whereas oak is adaptable to a variety of growing conditions. The charcoal assemblage has accumulated from the disposal and reworking of fuel debris within these features alongside other refuse. There is no evidence that any wooden structural elements or artefacts were burnt in situ or disposed of on site. The small size of the charcoal assemblage means that its potential for answering further research questions concerning the role of woodland is limited.

7.17 The only species which could be identified was oyster and this was a common find in the waters surrounding Britain during this period. The small size and poor preservation of the shellfish assemblage prohibits any in depth study of how important this resource may have been to this community.

7.18 The ecofact assemblage has been fully assessed and further species identifications are not required. The small size of the charcoal and shellfish assemblage means neither has more to offer in understanding the role of woodland or the exploitation of marine resources at this site. Further work is not required for either of these find groups. In contrast further analysis of the macroplant assemblage will provide greater understanding of the type of crop husbandry practised, the dietary role of the crops, their economic importance and their spatial deposition within the excavated area.

Conservation

7.11 This assemblage consisted of four ferrous metal objects and fragments recovered from three separate contexts within three trenches, and two industrial finds: a single amorphous lump of fuel-ash slag, and a natural white quartzite pebble. Small fragments of coal were also recovered. Following assessment by AOC's in-house finds specialists, it was recommended that all but one of the ferrous metal finds be retained; the iron washer (Bulk 75003) was recommended for discard, as were the industrial finds.

8 POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

8.1 The following section provides a review of the significance of the results of the trial trench evaluation in relation to the objectives laid out in the WSI (AOC 2023) which were defined by the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (2020), and informed by the appropriate Historic England guidance (Historic England 2023, 2024):

Objective	Potential Contribution
Strategic Objective 5H: Investigate the landscape context of rural settlements	Although isolated and sparse, the archaeological remains recorded during the evaluation are likely representative of activity within a Romano-British rural landscape. Within the evaluation, it is unclear whether settlement is present, however with the presence of enclosures and potential salt extraction, this activity can contribute to the understanding of the use of rural landscape in this period.
5.4.4 How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?	The result of the evaluation do not contribute to this research objective. The features identified, even if part of field systems, are closely dated to between the 2nd and 3rd Century AD with no earlier or later iteration identified.
5.4.6 Can we elucidate further the daily life of settlements and their role in the processing and marketing of agricultural products?	Potential evidence of salt extraction has been recorded within the evaluation and whilst this can contribute to the corpus of knowledge of saltern sites in Lincolnshire, the information retrieved from the evaluation is limited in its contribution to this objective.

Table 11: Contribution to Objectives

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The archaeological remains found during the trial trenching evaluation show evidence of activity in small, isolated areas of the site, the majority of which date to between the 2nd and 3rd Century AD (Roman period), with a localised number of features relating to the post-medieval period to modern agricultural practices.

9.2 Within the majority of trenches, the natural geology was overlain by subsoil recorded as between 0.15m and 0.18m thick light to mid grey brown silty clay. The subsoil was overlain by ploughsoil/agricultural soil measuring 0.19m and 0.40m thick.

9.3 Features excavated in the evaluation were recorded in Field 1, Field 6, Field 8, Field 9 and Field 10. Within Field 1, a single undated ditch [604] was found towards the northwest end of Trench 6, and a sub-rectangular pit [704] identified in Trench 7 which contained fragments of plastic in the fill, indicating a modern date. These isolated features in Field 1 are likely to represent the post-medieval to modern use of the agricultural landscape and are therefore of low significance.

9.4 Archaeological remains were present in small, isolated areas of Field 6 and Field 8. Three areas across the two fields can be defined as area of archaeological activity. In Field 6, ditches and a pit containing sherds of 2nd to 3rd Century AD pottery and animal bone were observed within Trenches 54 and 55 which correspond with a concentration of geophysical anomalies. The exact function of the features was unclear within the trenches, and the material recovered from

the features does not allow a defined interpretation of whether the features are representative of settlement activity, or agricultural activity such as field systems or enclosures.

9.5 It should be noted that features were investigated in Trenches 52 and 53 that could not be defined within the trench, however, were concluded to likely be naturally occurring channels and deposits.

9.6 Within Field 8, possible saltern activity was observed in Trench 68. The presence of small amounts of fired clay is suggestive of heating debris which could be suggestive of salt extraction, a process evident across the county in the archaeological record; the closest recorded sites being a Romano-British saltmaking site in Helpringham Fen which is a scheduled monument (MLI60710; SM1004962), located 3.3km to the west of the site; and saltern material at Coney Hill (MLI12560), 3.75km to the east of the site (Lincolnshire Heritage Explorer 2024). The geophysical anomalies that Trench 68 targeted could be suggestive of a saltern site, which are seen as circular mounded areas in the archaeological record, however the isolated nature of the feature in Trench 68 with the absence of the other geophysical anomalies in the trench does not support this interpretation. Having said that, more activity may be present beyond the trench edge which would expand on the interpretation of this activity.

9.7 Also, within Field 8, further ditches and pits, which contained sherds of pottery of the same period (2nd – 3rd Century AD) and animal bone were recorded within trenches 74 and 76. The ditches in trenches 74 and 76 corresponds with geophysical anomalies that the trenches targeted, which is suggestive of enclosure ditches within the vicinity of Trench 76 and therefore is likely part of that system. The material retrieved from the ditches was limited and therefore not enough to suggest whether these ditches may have been associated with settlement or agriculture.

9.8 The majority of the features in Fields 9 and 10 were ditches or drainage channels, cut through roddons and natural deposits. All features were undated, bar one pit which contained small fragments of post-medieval finds, although these could be intrusive through rooting or animal burrows. Large shell inclusion along within the fill of the pit were indicative of repeated ‘wetting and drying’ events. Whether the features were cut before the drying of the roddon deposits, or cut across them, cannot be proved due to lack of dating evidence for the majority of features.

9.9 Natural channels were observed in several trenches across the site and are believed to be part of natural fenland environment. The environment includes meandering channels with dry silts as high ground, known as roddons, with lower areas caused by shrinkage of wet fenland deposits outside of the former streams.

9.10 The three areas of activity recorded within the trenches (trenches 54, 55, 68, 74 and 76) correspond with geophysical anomalies thought to be of archaeological origin. Within Field 8, the geophysical anomalies suggest potential enclosure activity which corresponds with many of the ditch features recorded. However, many areas of geophysical anomalies were not visible within the trenches. For example, the geophysical anomalies targeted by trenches 74 – 78 were thought to suggest the presence of a Roman bathhouse or villa which did not materialise within the trenches and limited traces of these anomalies was recorded; only a small number of ditches and pits were recorded in trenches 74 and 76. Within Field 6, again many of the geophysical anomalies were not visible within the trenches, however the features recorded within trenches 54 and 55 correspond with anomalies, although their interpretation is unclear.

9.11 The interpretation of the geophysical results of higher ground as roddons was proven by roddon deposits identified in trenches across the site. These deposits varied from brownish yellow to pinkish brown sandy clay. This is clearest at the southern edge of Field 10. North Ing Drove has been established across one of the roddons, showing its past identification as a ridge of dry land, less liable to flooding. This lies at 2.6m aOD; considerably higher than the lowest levels of 1.40m-1.60m found in hollows between the higher, solidified stream remnants.

9.12 The evaluation has determined that subsurface remains within Fields 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10 are sparse and isolated in their activity, with only remains within Field 6 and 8 datable to a defined period of the Roman period between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The ditch features recorded dating to the Roman period could be indicative of potential enclosures or drainage systems; however their sparse nature makes it difficult to interpret their intended purpose. The drainage channels and ditches identified in Fields 9 and 10 are equally difficult to interpret due to their lack of datable material. However, the Hammond Beck flowing along the east side of Field 9 is identified by Historic England as part of the drainage system and probably a natural stream straightened and improved by the Romans and therefore the activity recorded in Fields 9 and 10 may be connected.

9.13 Although isolated and sparse, the activity dating to the Roman period is in keeping with the rural landscape identified for this period in the county, with agricultural use of the land, drainage and potential salt extraction activities.

10 CONCLUSIONS

10.1 To conclude, the subsurface archaeological remains within Fields 1-5 and 7 were minimal and are of limited significance. Within Fields 6 and 8, three areas have been defined as having isolated archaeological activity dating to the 2nd – 3rd century AD; ditches and a pit within trenches 54 and 55; potential evidence of salterns within Trench 68; and further ditches and pits within trenches 74 and 76. Within Fields 9 and 10 there was one modern pit and one modern ditch, whilst six other ditches were undated, and are likely to represent drainage channels in the wet fenlands; whether this drainage was taking place also within the 2nd-3rd century remains enigmatic.

10.2 Roddons were identified in all fields, being dried upriver courses. The location of ditches recorded across the site bore no relation to the location of the roddons. The roddon deposits recorded are believed to be part of the natural fenland environment featuring meandering channels with dry silts as high ground, with lower areas caused by shrinkage of wet fenland deposits outside of the former streams, most likely exacerbated by the construction of the Hammond Beck.

11 STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE

11.1 Trial trenching at the site has successfully established the archaeological potential across the site. The trial trenching established isolated archaeological remains in Fields 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10. The evaluation has revealed mixed results for matching the geophysical survey results, with geophysical anomalies corresponding with many of the ditch features recorded in Fields 6 and 8, However, many areas of geophysical anomalies across the site were not visible within the trenches with no indication as to the reason for the absence in certain areas. However, it should be noted of the challenging nature of the evaluation due to the extremely wet conditions of the site and standing water due to the high levels of clay.

11.2 Overall, the site has very low archaeological potential. Future mitigation should focus on the three isolated areas of archaeological activity in Fields 6 and 8.

12 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

12.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be issued to the Historic Environment Officer at LCC for comments and approval prior to the production of the final report.

12.2 After a period of time, a copy of the evaluation report will be issued to the local studies library, on the understanding that it will become a public document. A digital copy of the report will also be submitted to the Historic Environment Record and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). A summary of the findings will be submitted to the ADS (Appendix C – OASIS Form).

12.3 Following consideration of the evaluation results by the Historic Environment Officer at LCC, further publication of the results may be required. In addition, if further stages of archaeological fieldwork are required, publication may be deferred until such time as the project works are substantially complete. The format of any publication shall be commensurate with the importance of the results and be agreed in advance with the Historic Environment Officer at LCC

12.4 The site archive will comprise all artefacts, environmental samples, written, drawn, and photographic records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. Archaeological finds rarely have any monetary value, but they are an important course of information for future research, included in museum exhibits and teaching collections. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) recommend that finds are publicly accessible and that landowners donate archaeological finds to a local museum.

12.5 On completion of the project AOC will discuss arrangements with the developer/landowner for the archive to be deposited with the Lincoln Museum, the relevant project archive repository for the project archive. Following completion of the full extent of the fieldwork, the site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the recipient museum, and according to their guidelines.

12.6 Landowner consent will be required to allow transfer of the finds to the museum. This will require the completion of a Deed of Transfer form accompanied by a Legal Title Consent Request Letter from the Landowner. A complete finds inventory can be provided to the Landowner on request.

12.7 The site archive will be deposited on the completion of the project. It will then become publicly accessible.

12.8 Quantifications of the finds are contained within the respective specialist reports (Appendix B). Each specialist has made recommendations on the need for further work relating to the finds and/or recommendations for discard of material. Following acceptance of the report these recommendations will be carried out with advice and approval from the Historic Environment Officer at LCC.

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14 APPENDICES

Appendix A: Context Inventory

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
100	10000		Light yellow grey clay with darker patches and blue patches	0	-	-
1	100		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
1	101		Natural: firm mid bluish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
1	102		Natural: sandy yellow brown clay	0.45	50	1.8
2	200		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.5	50	1.8
2	201		Natural: compact mid greyish blue clay	NFE	50	1.8
3	300		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
3	301		Natural: compact mid reddish bluish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
4	400		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
4	401		Natural: yellow brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
4	402		Natural: yellow brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
5	500		Ploughsoil: yellow brown silty clay	0.4	50	1.8
5	501		Natural: Red brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
6	600		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
6	601		Natural: firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	108
6	602		VOID			
6	603		VOID			

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
6	604	604	Ditch: northwest/southwest aligned with steeply sloping sides and flat base	0.6	2.1	1
6	605	604	Fill of ditch [604]: very compact mid brown clay	0.6	2.1	1
7	700		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
7	701		Natural: firm mid bluish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
7	702		VOID			
7	703	704	Fill of pit [704]: loose mid yellow brown sandy clay	0.28	1.65	1.3
7	704	704	Pit: sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and flat base	0.28	1.65	1.3
8	800		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
8	801		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
9	900		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
9	901		Natrural: compact mid bluish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
10	1000		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
10	1001		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
11	1100		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
11	1101		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish clay	NFE	50	1.8
12	1200		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	2	1.8
12	1201		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish grey clay	NFE	2	1.8
13	1300		Ploughsoil: compact	0.4	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			mid greyish brown clay			
13	1301		Natural: firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
14	1400		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
14	1401		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
15	1500		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
15	1501		Natural: firm mid reddish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
16	1601		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
16	1602		Natural: firm mid reddish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
17	1701		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
17	1702		Natural: firm mid reddish brown sandy clay	NFE	20	1.8
18	18001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
18	18002		Natural: compact dark brownish red clay	NFE	20	1.8
19	19001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
19	19002		Natural: compact dark brownish red clay	NFE	20	1.8
20	20001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
20	20002		Natural: compact dark brownish red clay	NFE	20	1.8
21	21001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
21	21002		Natural: compact dark brownish red clay	NFE	20	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
22	22001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.35	41	1.8
22	22002		Natural: compact dark brownish red clay	NFE	41	1.8
23	23001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
23	23002		Natural: compact mid reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
24	24001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
24	24002		Natural: compact mid greyish red clay	NFE	50	1.8
25	25001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
25	25002		Natural: compact mid greyish red clay	NFE	50	1.8
28	2801		Ploughsoil: soft mid brownish grey silt	0.35	50	1.8
28	2802		Subsoil: soft mid greyish brown silt	0.09	50	1.8
28	2803		Natural: firm mid bluish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
29	2901		Ploughsoil: soft mid brownish grey silt	0.32	50	1.8
29	2902		Subsoil: soft mid greyish brown silt	0.11	50	1.8
29	2903		Natural: firm mid greyish brown silt	NFE	50	1.8
30	30001		Ploughsoil: soft mid brownish grey silt	0.32	50	1.8
30	30002		Subsoil: soft mid greyish brown silt	0.11	50	1.8
30	30003		Natural: firm mid greyish brown silt	NFE	50	1.8
31	31001		Ploughsoil: loose mid brownish grey clay	0.4	50	1.8
31	31002		Natural: compact light yellowish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
32	32001		Ploughsoil: loose mid	0.35	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			greyish brown clay			
32	32002		Natural: compact dark brownish red clay	NFE	50	1.8
33	33001		Ploughsoil: loose mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
33	33002		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
34	34001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
34	34002		Subsoil: compact mid brownish brown silt	0.15	50	1.8
34	34003		Natural: compact mid bluish grey clay	0.2	50	1.8
34	34004		Natural: compact mid reddish green clay	NFE	50	1.8
35	3501		Ploughsoil: soft mid brownish grey silt	0.3	50	1.8
35	3502		Subsoil: soft mid greyish brown silt	0.18	50	1.8
35	3503		Natural: firm mid brownish blue clay	NFE	50	1.8
36	36001		Ploughsoil: very compact dark grey brown clayay silt	0.3	50	1.8
36	36002		Subsoil: very compact light brown grey clay	0.16	50	1.8
36	36003		Natural: firm mid brownish blue clay	NFE	50	1.8
37	37001		Ploughsoil: soft mid brownish grey silt	0.34	50	1.8
37	37002		Subsoil: soft mid greyish brown silt	0.1	50	1.8
37	37003		Natural: firm mid brownish blue clay	NFE	50	1.8
38	38001		Ploughsoil: very compact dark grey brown clayay silt	0.3	50	1.8
38	38002		Subsoil: very compact light brown grey clay	0.16	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
38	38002		Natural: firm mid brownish blue clay	NFE	50	1.8
39	39001		Ploughsoil: cery compact dark grey brown clayey silt	0.24	50	1.8
39	39002		Subsoil: grey (rest of description missing)	0.34	50	1.8
39	39003		Natural: firm mid brownish blue clay	NFE	50	1.8
40	40001		Ploughsoil: compact dark reddish brown silty clay	0.25	50	1.8
40	40002		Natural: compact mid greyish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
41	41001		Ploughsoil: compact dark reddish brown silty clay	0.25	50	1.8
41	41002		Natural: compact mid greyish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
42	42001		Ploughsoil: compact dark reddish brown silty clay	0.25	50	1.8
42	42002		Natural: compact mid greyish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
43	43001		Ploughsoil: compact dark reddish brown silty clay	0.25	50	1.8
43	43002		Natural: compact mid greyish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
44	44001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.3	50	1.8
44	44002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
44	44003		Natural: compact mid bluish grey clay with orangish brown patches	NFE	50	1.8
45	45001		Ploughsoil: loose mid brownish grey clay	0.32	50	1.8
45	45002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.07	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
45	45003		Natural: compact mid bluish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
46	46001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.3	50	1.8
46	46002		Subsoil: compact greyish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
46	46003		Natural: compact mid brownish grey silty clay with orangish brown patches	NFE	50	1.8
47	47001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
47	47002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
47	47003		Natural: compact mid bluish grey clay with orangish brown patches	NFE	50	1.8
48	48001		Ploughsoil: compact brownish grey clay	0.3	50	1.8
48	48002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.17	50	1.8
48	48003		Natural: compact mid brownish grey silty clay with orangish brown patches	NFE	50	1.8
49	49001		Ploughsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.2	50	1.8
49	49002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
49	49003		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
50	50001		Ploughsoil: mid bnrownish grey clay	0.3	50	1.8
50	50002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.1	50	1.8
50	50003		Natural: compact mid bluish green clay	NFE	50	1.8
51	51001		Ploughsoil: mid brownish grey clay	0.3	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
51	51002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.12	50	1.8
51	51003		Natural: compact yellowish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
52	52001		Ploughsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.3	50	1.8
52	52002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.15	50	1.8
52	52003		Natural: compact mid greyish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
52	52004		VOID			
52	52005	52005	Possible channel bed: sloping sides with a concave base	0.9	1.8+	5.2
52	52006	52005	Fill of channel [52005]: very compact mid green grey cilty clay	0.24	1.8+	4.2
52	52007	52005	Fill of channel [52005]: compact dark grey black silty clay	0.8	1.8+	4.3
52	52008	52005	Fill of channel [52005]: compact brown orange silty clay	0.22	1.8+	2.3
52	52009	52005	Fill of channel [52005]: green grey	0.3	1.8+	2.15
52	52010	52005	Fill of channel [52005]: compact mid brown black clay	0.8	1.8+	4.31
52	52011		Tree throw	0.34	1.37	0.65
52	52012	25005	Slumped fill of [52005]: loosely compacted mid grey orange sandy silt	0.67	1.8+	1.76
52	52013	52005	Slumped fill of [52005]: loosely compacted light grey orange clay	0.38	1.8+	3.8
53	53001		Ploughsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.25	50	1.8
53	53002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.18	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
53	53003		Natural: compact mid greyish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
53	53004		poss naturally occuring channel: compact mid orange grey clay	0.3	1.8+	1.04
53	53005	53006	Fill of gully [53006]: compact mid orange grey clay	0.18	1.8+	0.46
53	53006		Gully: sloping sides and a flat base	0.11	1.8+	0.57
53	53007		Alluvial? Very compact light grey silty clay	0.18	2+	1.8+
54	54001		Ploughsoil: mid greyish brown clay	0.23	50	1.8
54	54002		Subsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.16	50	1.8
54	54003		Natural: compact mid brownish grey silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
54	54004		ditch	0.33	1.8+	0.94
54	54005		VOID			
54	54006		VOID			
54	54007	54007	Ditch: concave sides and concave base	0.97	1.27	1.97
54	54008	54008	VOID			
54	54009		Possible 'cut' of naturally lying deposits/channel			
54	54010		VOID			
54	54011		VOID			
54	54012		VOID			
54	54013		VOID			
54	54014	54004	Upper fill of ditch [54004]: friable dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.1-0.15	1+	2.5
54	54015	54004	Secondary fill of ditch [54004]: slightly compacted light ortange brown clay	0.06-0.13	1+	

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
54	54016	54004	Lower fill of ditch [54004]: friable dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.1	1+	0.7
54	54017	54007	Primary fill of ditch [54007]: loosely compact mid grey-brown silty sand	0.46	1.27	1.95
54	54018	54007	Fill within ditch [54007]: loosely compact light orange brown silty clay	0.06		0.3
54	54019	54019	Irregular cut with steeply sloping sides and concave base	1+	1.8+	1.72
54	54020	54019	Fill of [54019]: compact mid orange brown gravelly clay	1+	1.8+	1.72
54	54021	54021	Re cut of [54019]: irregular in plan with shallow sloping sides and uneven base	1+	1.8+	4.74
54	54022	54021	Fill of recut [54021]: compact mid grey black silty clay	1+	1.8+	4.74
54	54023		Fill of [54019]: compact mid grey silty clay	1+	1.8	4.74
54	54024		Slump fill of ditch [54021]: dark black	0.26	1.8+	6.97
54	54025		Fill of ditch [54021]: compact mid green grey clay	1+	1.8+	4.94
54	54026		Fill of ditch [54021]: dark black to light green and orange loose sily clay to compact sandy clay	0.71	1.8+	5.92
54	54027		fill of ditch [54021]: compact mid black grey clay	0.2	1.8+	2.12
54	54028	54004	Fill of ditch [54004]: very compact mid brown silty clay	0.1	1.8+	3
54	54029	54004	Contaminated natural associated with	0.27	1.8+	3

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			[54004]: very compact mid brown silty clay			
54	54030	54009	Fill associated with (54009): very compact mid brown grey calyey silt			
54	54031	54009	Fill associated with (54009): very compact mid grey brown grey calyey silt			
54	54032	54009	fill associated with (54009): very compact mid yellow brown silty clay			
54	54033	54009	Fill associated with (54009):L very compact mid brown grey silty clay			
54	54034	54009	Fill associated with (54009): very compact mid yellow brown silty clay			
55	55001		Ploughsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.28	50	1.8
55	55002		Subsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.18	50	1.8
55	55003		Natural: compact mid greyish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
55	55004	55004	Cut of possible linear or pit.			
55	55005	55004	Upper fill of [55004]: compact mid grey brown clayey silt			
55	55006	55004	Fill of [55004]: compact dark black brown clayey silt			
55	55007	55004	Fill of [55004]: compact mid grey brown silty clay			
55	55008	55008	Ditch: orientated north to south , measuring 1.56m wide, 0.48m deep, with sharp sloping sides and a		1.3	0.9

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			concave to flat base			
55	55009		Deposit: compact mid brown grey silty clay	0.13	1	1.1
55	55010		VOID			
55	55011		Deposit: compact mid dark grey brown silty clay			
55	55012	55012	Pit: sub-circular in plan shallow sloping sides and concave base	0.16	1.34	0.32
55	55013	55012	Fill of pit [55012]: compact mid orange brown sandy clay	0.04	0.49	0.32
55	55014	55012	Fill of pit [55012]: compact dark orange grewy silty clay	0.03	0.54	0.17
55	55015	55012	Fill of pit [55012]: compact mid orange brown silty clay	0.13	1.34	0.32
55	55016	55017	Fill of pit/terminus [55017]: loosely compact mid yellow brown sandy clay	0.19	1.14	0.82
55	55017	55017	Pit/terminus: circular in plan with shallow sloping sides and flat base	0.19	1.14	0.82
55	55018	55018	Ditch: north/south, shallow sloping sides with a concave base	0.13	1	0.8
55	55019	[55008]	Primary fill of ditch [55008] : compact mid orange brown sandy clay	0.08	1.8+	1.36
55	55020	[55008]	Fill of ditch [55008]: compact grey black silty clay	0.48	1.8+	1.67
55	55021	[55008]	Fill of ditch [55008] : compact green orange clayey silt	0.22	1.8+	1.67
55	55022	54004	Lower fill of ditch [54004]: compact mid			

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			grey silty clay			
56	56001		Ploughsoil: mid brownish grey clay	0.33	50	1.8
56	56002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.22	50	1.8
56	56003		Natural: compact bluish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
57	57001		Ploughsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.25	50	1.8
57	57002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.15	50	1.8
57	57003		Natural: compact mid brownish mid grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
58	58001		Ploughsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.25	50	1.8
58	58002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.11	50	1.8
58	58003		Natural: compact mid reddish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
59	59001		Ploughsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.2	50	1.8
59	59002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
59	59003		Natural: compact mid bluish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
60	60001		Ploughsoil: compact mid brownish grey clay	0.3	50	1.8
60	60002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.17	50	1.8
60	60003		Natural: compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	NFE	50	1.8
61	61001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.3	50	1.8
61	61002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.17	50	1.8
61	61003		Natural: compact mid reddish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
62	62001		Ploughsoil: compact	0.3	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			mid brownish grey clay			
62	62002		Subsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.1	50	1.8
62	62003		Natural: compact mid reddish brown silty clay with light grey clay patches	NFE	50	1.8
63	63001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
63	63002		Subsoil: compactmid yellowish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
63	63003		Natural: compact mid reddish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
64	64001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
64	64002		Subsoil: compactmid yellowish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
64	64003		Natural: compact mid reddish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
65	65001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.25	50	1.8
65	65002		Subsoil: compactmid yellowish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
65	65003		Natural: compact mid reddish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
66	66001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.25	50	1.8
66	66002		Subsoil: compactmid yellowish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
66	66003		Natural: compact mid reddish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
67	67001		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.25	50	1.8
67	67002		Subsoil: compactmid yellowish brown clay	0.2	50	1.8
67	67003		Natural: compact mid reddish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
68	68001		Ploughsoil: Compact, mid reddish grey clay.	0.23m	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
68	68002		Subsoil: Compact, mid yellowish brown clay	0.11m	50	1.8
68	68003		Natural: Strongly cemented, mid bluish grey clay natural geology	NFE	50	1.8
68	68004	68004	Cut of Salturn: circular in plan with shallow sloping sides and flat base	0.12	1.8+	0.92
68	68005	68004	Fill of salturn [68004]: compact mid orange black sandy silt	0.12	1.8+	0.92
68	68006	68006	Cut of Salturn: irregular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a concave base	0.59	1.5	1.92
68	68007	68006	Fill of [68006]: loose mid orange black sandy silt	0.24	0.42	-
68	68008	68008	Possible re cut of salturn [68006]: irregular in plan with steeply sloping sides and concave base	0.59	1.5	1.29
68	68009	68008	Fill of [68008]: compact mid yellow grey silty clay	0.59	1.5	1.29
68	68010	68010	Possible recut of [68008]: irregular in plan with shallow sloping sides and uneven base	0.37	1.5	1.29
68	68011	68010	Fill of [68010]: loose mid grey silty clay	0.37	1.5	1.29
68	68012	68012	Ditch: north/south aligned with steeply sloping sides and flat base	0.2	1.19	0.96
68	68013	68012	Fill of ditch [68012] : loose light yellow grey silty clay	0.2	0.96	0.96
68	68014	68014	Ditch termuinus: north/south aligned	0.21	0.73	0.73

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			with steep sloping sides and flat base			
68	68015	68014	Fill of ditch [68014]: loose mid brown grey calyey silt	0.21	0.73	0.73
69	69001		Ploughsoil: Compact greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.	0.30m	50	1.8
69	69002		Subsoil: Compact mid orangish brown clay.	0.20m	50	1.8
69	69003		Natural: Compact mid orangish yellow clay.	NFE	50	1.8
70	70001		Ploughsoil: Compact greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.	0.30m	50	1.8
70	70002		Subsoil: Compact mid orangish brown clay.	0.20m	50	1.8
70	70003		Natural: Compact mid orangish yellow clay.	NFE	50	1.8
71	71001		Ploughsoil: Compact greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.	0.29m	50	1.8
71	71002		Subsoil: Compact mid orangish brown clay.	0.30m	50	1.8
71	71003		Natural: Compact mid orangish yellow clay.	NFE	50	1.8
72	72001		Ploughsoil: Compact greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.	0.29m	50	1.8
72	72002		Subsoil: Compact mid orangish brown clay.	0.30m	50	1.8
72	72003		Natural: Compact mid orangish yellow clay.	NFE	50	1.8
73	73001		Ploughsoil: Compact greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.	0.19m	50	1.8
73	73002		Subsoil: Compact mid orangish brown clay.	0.34m	50	1.8
73	73003		Natural: Compact mid orangish yellow clay.	1.02m+	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
74	74001		Ploughsoil: Compact greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.	0.24m	50	1.8
74	74002		Subsoil: Compact mid grey brown clay.	0.15m	50	1.8
74	74003		Natural: Compact mid orangish grey clay.	NFE	50	1.8
74	74004	74004	Pit: sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and concave base	1.1	4	2
74	74005	74004	Primary fill of pit [74004]: loose mid brown grey clayey silt	1.1	4	2
74	74006	74004	Fill of pit [74004]: loose mid brown grey clayey silt	1.1	4	2
74	74007	74004	Fill of pit [74004]: loose mid brown grey clayey silt	1.1	4	2
74	74008	74008	Cut of ditch : north/south aligned with shallow sloping sides and concave base	0.22	0.62	0.91
74	74009	74009	Ditch: circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a concave base	1m	1.8+	3.42
74	74010	74009	Fill of ditch [74009]: compact m,id green grey clay	0.78	1.8+	2.89
74	74011	74009	Fill of ditch [74009]: compact fark grey black clayey silt	0.56	1.8+	2.7
74	74012	74009	Fill of ditch [74009]: compact mid green grey silty clay	0.52	1.8	2.76
74	74013	74009	Fill of ditch [74009]: compact mid brown grey silty caly	0.18	1.8	2.68
74	74014	74008	Fill of ditch [74008] : compact mid grey brown silty clay	0.22	0.62	0.91

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
74	74015	74015	Channel			
74	74016	74015	Fill of channel [74015] : Loose mid brown clay			
74	74017	47015	Fill of channel [74015] : Loose mid brown clay			
74	74018	74009	Fill of [74009]: very compact mid orange grey silty clay			
75	75001		Ploughsoil: Mid brown grey clay silt	0.50m		
75	75002	75002	Gully: north/south aligned with vertical sides and a flat base	0.15	1	0.7
75	75003	75002	Fill of gully [75002]@ very compact dark grey blue silty clay	0.15	1	0.7
75	75004	75004	Gully: steeply sloping sides and a flat base	0.56	1.2	2.06
75	75005	75004	Upper fill of gully [75004]: very compact dark orange clay	0.12	1.2	1.86
75	75006	75004	Middle fill of gully [75004]: very compact dark grey clay	0.06	1.2	1.92
75	75007	75004	Lower fill of gully [75004]: loose dark grey clay	0.24	1.2	1.84
75	75008	75008	Gully: circular in plan with steep sloping sides and flat base	0.25	1.14	1.05
75	75009	75008	Upper fill of gully [75008]: very compact light grey clay	0.12	1.14	1.05
75	75010	75008	Lower fill of gully [75008]: very compact dark grey clay	0.13	1.14	0.94
75	75011		Grological feature: compat grey-black silty cal	0.37	1.8+	3.94
75	75012		Geological feature.: compact mig orange brown clayey silt	1.86	1.8+	50+

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
75	75013		Geological feature: compact mid green grey clay	1.38	1.8+	6.87+
75	75014		Geological feature.: compact mid orange brown sandy clay	1.9	1.8+	7.00+
75	75015		Geological feature: very compact light green grey sandy clay	0.42	1.8+	2.74
75	75016		Fill of ? : loose mid brown clay			
76	76001		Ploughsoil: Compact, brownish grey clay	0.26m	50	1.8
76	76002		Subsoil: Compact, greyish brown clay	0.20m	50	1.8
76	76003		Natural: Compact, mid orangish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
76	76004	76004	Gully: steeply sloping sides and flat base	0.58	2.5	1.67
76	76005	76004	Upper fill of gully [76004]: very compact dark orange brown silty clay	0.1	2.5	1.7
76	76006	76004	Middle fill of gully [76004]: very compact dark black grey silty clay	0.12	2.5	0.76
76	76007	76004	Lower fill of gully [76004]: very compact light green silty clay	1.18	2.5	1.6
77	77001		Ploughsoil: Compact, brownish grey clay	0.26m	50	1.8
77	77002		Subsoil: Compact, greyish brown clay	0.20m	50	1.8
77	77003		Natural: Compact, mid orangish grey clay	NFE	50	1.8
78	78001		Ploughsoil: Compact, brownish grey clay	0.32m	50	1.8
78	78002		Natural: Compact, mid orangish grey silty sand	1.72m+	50	1.8
79	79001		Ploughsoil: Compact dark greyish brown silty	0.30m	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			clay			
79	79002		Natural Compact, mid greyish brown sandy clay	1.60m+	50	1.8
80	80001		Ploughsoil: Compact dark greyish brown silty clay	0.30m	50	1.8
80	80002		Natural Compact, mid greyish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
81	81001		Ploughsoil: Compact dark greyish brown silty clay	0.30m	50	1.8
81	81002		Natural Compact, mid greyish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
82	8200		Ploughsoil: grey brown silty clay	0.34	50	1.8
82	8201		Natural: yellow brown clay with some grey blue clay patches	NFE	50	1.8
83	8300		Ploughsoil: grey brown silty clay	0.3	50	1.8
83	8301		Natural: grey yellow brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
84	8400		Ploughsoil: grey brown silty clay	0.35	50	1.8
84	8401		Natural: grey yellow brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
85	8500		Ploughsoil: grey brown silty clay	0.35	50	1.8
85	8501		Natural: reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
86	8600		Ploughsoil: grey brown silty clay	0.35	50	1.8
86	8601		Natural: reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
87	8700		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
87	8701		Natural: compact mid greyish yellow sandy	NFE	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			clay			
87	8702		VOID			
87	8703		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.2		
87	8704		Roddon: compact dark brownish grey clay	0.05		
88	8800		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
88	8801		Natural: compact mid greyish yellow sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
88	8802		VOID			
88	8803		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.25		
88	8804		Roddon: compact dark brownish grey clay	0.05		
89	8900		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
89	8901		Natural: compact mid browinish yellow sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
89	8902		VOID			
89	8903		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.15		
89	8904		Roddon: compact dark brownish grey clay	0.05		
90	9000		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
90	9001		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
90	9003	9004	Fill of field drain [9004]: compact light bluish grey silty clay	0.13	1.13	0.35
90	9004	9004	Field drain: east5-southeast/west-northwest aligned with steep sloping sides and	0.13	1.13	0.35

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			flat base			
91	9100		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
91	9101		Natural: compact yellowish brown silty clay	NFE	50	1.8
91	9102		VOID			
91	9103		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.3		
91	9104		Roddon: compact dark brownish grey clay	NFE		
92	9200		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
92	9201		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
92	9202		VOID			
92	9203		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.2		
92	9304		Roddon: compact dark brownish grey clay	0.05		
93	9300		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
93	9301		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
93	9302		VOID			
93	9303		Roddon firm mid greyish red silty clay	0.9		
93	9304		Roddon: soft light reddish grey sandy clay	0.1		
93	9305		Roddon: soft light reddish brown sandy clay	NFE		
94	9400		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
94	9401		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown sandy	NFE	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			clay			
94	9402		VOID			
94	9403		Roddon: firm mid reddish grey clay	0.2		
94	9404		Roddon: soft light greyish red sandy clay	0.4		
94	9403	9404	Fill of ditch [9404]: firm dark black brown silty clay	0.43	1.9+	0.85+
94	9404	9404	Ditch: east/west aligned with vertical sides and flat base	0.43	1.9+	0.85+
94	9405		Roddon: soft mid reddish grey sandy clay	NFE		
95	9500		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
95	9501		Natural: compact mid reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
96	9600		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
96	9601		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
96	9602		VOID			
96	9603		Roddon: compact mid pinkish brown silty clay	NFE		
96	9603	9604	Fill of ditch [9604]: very compact mid brown orange clay	50	1.63	85
96	9604	9604	Ditch: circular in plan with steep sloping sides and concave base	50	1.63`	85
97	9700		Ploughsoil: mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
97	9701		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
97	9702		VOID			

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
97	9703		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.6		
97	9704		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE		
98	9800		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.354	50	1.8
98	9801		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
98	9802		VOID			
98	9803		Roddon: soft mid pinkish yellow sandy clay	NFE		
98	9803	9804	Fill of geological feature [9804]: compact mid grey brown silty clay	0.25	2.25	1
98	9804	9804	Geological feature: northeast/southwest aligned with steeply sloping sides and flat base	0.25	2.25	1
100	10000		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
100	10001		Natural: compact mid yellowish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
100	10002		VOID			
100	10003	10005	Upper fill of gully [10005]: firm mid blue grey clay	0.14	2.68+	0.52
100	10004	10005	Lower fill of gully [10005]: firm light greyish red clay	0.27	2.68+	0.5
100	10005	10005	Gully: northeast/southwest steeply sloping sides and V-shapped base	0.43	2.68+	0.52
101	10100		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
101	10101		Natural: compact mid	NFE	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			yellowish brown clay			
102	10200		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.45	50	1.8
102	10201		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
102			VOID			
102	10203	10204	Fill of Gully [10204]: compact mid grey brown silty clay	0.3	1.8	0.4
102	10204	10204	Gully: north/south aligned with shallow sloping sides and a concave base	0.3	1.8	0.4
103	10300		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
103	10301		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown sandy clay	NFE	50	1.8
103	10302		VOID			
103	10303		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE		
103	10303	10304	Fill of pit [10304]: loose mid brown clay	0.55	2.2	0.9
103	10304	10304	Pit: circular in plan with steep sloping sides and concave base	0.55	2.2	0.9
103	10305	10306	Fill of feature [10306]: very compact light grey brown clay	0.35	4.95	1.1
103	10306	10306	Geological feature: north/south aligned linear with steeply sloping sides and a flat base	0.35	4.95	1.1
104	10400		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
104	10401		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
105	10500		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
105	10501		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
105	10502		VOID			
105	10503		Roddon: firm mid bluish yellow clay	0.45		
105	10504		Roddon: soft mid greyish yellow clay	0.2		
105	10505		Roddon: soft light greyish brown sandy clay	0.2		
105	10506		Roddon: soft dark greyish brown sandy clay	NFE		
106	10600		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
106	10601		Natural: compact yellowish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
107	10701		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
107	10701		Natural: mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
108	10800		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
108	10801		Natural: compact m,id bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
109	10900		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
109	10901		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
110	11000		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
110	11001		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
110	11002		VOID			

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
110	11003		Roddon: compact mid bluish grey clay	0.2		
110	11004		Roddon: compact mid reddish brown clay	0.2		
110	11005		Roddon: compact mid bluish grey clay	0.1		
110	11006		Roddon: firm mid greenish grey sandy clay	0.1		
110	11007		Roddon: soft mid reddish yellow sandy clay	NFE		
111	11100		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.45	50	1.8
111	11101		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
112	11200		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
112	11201		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
113	11300		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
113	11301		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
114	11400		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
114	11401		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
115	11500		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.3	50	1.8
115	11501		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
115	11502		VOID			
115	11503		Roddon: firm light reddish brown sandy clay	0.3		

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
115	11504		Roddon: soft light reddish brown sandy clay	0.1		
115	11505		Roddon: soft light reddish grey sandy clay	NFE		
116	11600		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
116	11601		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
117	11700		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
117	11701		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
118	11800		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.3	50	1.8
118	11801		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
118	11802		VOID			
118	11803		Roddon: compact mid reddish brown clay	0.1		
118	11804		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.4		
118	11805		Roddon: soft yellowish brown sandy clay	NFE		
119	11900		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.25	50	1.8
119	11901		Natural: compact mid brownish blue clay	NFE	50	1.8
119	11902		VOID			
119	11903		Roddon: firm mid bluish grey clay	0.1		
119	11904		Roddon: soft light reddish brown sandy clay	0.25		
119	11905		Roddon: soft mid greyish brown sandy	0.1		

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			clay			
119	11906		Roddon: soft light greyish red sandy clay	NFE		
120	12000		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.3	50	1.8
120	12001		Natural: compact mid brownish blue clay	NFE	50	1.8
120	12002		VOID			
120	12003		Roddon: soft yellowish brown sandy clay	0.3		
120	12004		Roddon: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.1		
120	12005		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.55		
120	12006	12007	Fill of gully [12007]: soft blue grey clay	0.39	2.35+	0.94
120	12007	12007	Gully: rectangular in plan with steeply sloping sides and mostly flat base	0.39	2.35+	0.94
121	12100		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8
121	12101		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
121	12102		VOID			
121	12103		Roddon: firm mid greyish red sandy clay	0.5		
121	12104		Roddon: soft light greyish yellow sandy clay	0.4		
121	12105		Roddon: form mid bluish grey silty clay	0.2		
121	12106		Roddon: soft mid greyish red sandy clay	NFE		
122	12200		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.3	50	1.8
122	12201		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown	NFE	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
			clay			
122	12202		VOID			
122	12203		Roddon: soft light greyish yellow sandy clay	0.4		
122	12204		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy silt	NFE		
123	12300		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
123	12301		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
123	12302		VOID			
123	12303		Roddon: soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.1	50	1.8
123	12304		Roddon: compact light pinkish grey sandy clay	0.35		
124	12400		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
124	12401		Natral: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
125	12500		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.43	50	1.8
125	12501		Natural: mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
126	12600		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
126	12601		Natural: mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
127	12700		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.4	50	1.8
127	12701		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8
128	12800		Ploughsoil: compact mid greyish brown clay	0.35	50	1.8

Trench	Context	Cut number	Context Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
128	12801		Natural: compact mid bluish reddish brown clay	NFE	50	1.8

Appendix B: Specialist Reports

The Ceramic Assemblage –

Andrew Peachey

Trial-trench evaluation excavations recovered a total of 687 sherds (14820g) of Roman pottery, and 15 sherds (86g) of post-medieval pottery, distributed over six trenches (Table 1). The bulk of the Roman pottery was contained in trenches 54 and 55, with a significant group also present in Trench 74. These groups represent a relatively homogenous, well-preserved and only slightly abraded assemblage that includes a high incidence of diagnostic and cross-joining sherds. The range of fabric and form types, including plain samian ware from central and east Gaul, black-burnished wares 1, shell-tempered wares from the Bourne-Greetham kilns and the Dales, grey wares, colour-coated ware and mortaria from the Lower Nene valley, and coarse wares from kilns close to Lincoln, are indicative of a broad chronology spanning the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, likely with a focus on the late 2nd/early 3rd to mid 3rd centuries AD. A single samian ware maker's stamp in (54020) attests to activity commencing in the early 2nd century AD, with groups dated to the narrow late 2nd/early 3rd to mid 3rd century AD in pits [54010], [55004] and layer (74007), while a single group in (54017) dates to the latter half of the 3rd century AD.

Trench	Sherd count	Weight (g)	R.EVE	Mean sherd weight (g)
54	247	5976	1.43	24.19
55	352	5685	3.57	16.15
68	8	268	0.15	33.50
74	78	1715	2.17	21.99
75	7	26	0	3.71
76	1	18	0	18.00
SF1	9	1218	1.35	135.33
Total	*702*	*14906*	*8.67*	21.23

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by trench

The supply pattern to the site in the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD appears to have had a dual foci, in part drawing on the major industry at town and industrial centre of Durobrivae (Water Newton) situated c.40km to the south for colour-coated ware, fine ware and mortaria, as well as small coarse ware kilns in between such as those at Bourne and Greetham that produced shell-tempered ware. A contrasting supply of coarse ware vessels, principally highly-fired reduced wares, but also fine 'Parisian' ware appears to have been supplied from kilns around Lincoln, probably including the Racecourse kilns, while low quantities of Dales-type shell-tempered ware from north Lincolnshire may also have arrived via this route.

Low quantities of plain body sherds of post-medieval red earthenware were recovered from topsoil (55001) and gully [75002], and were likely produced in the 18th to 19th centuries, but do not merit any further discussion.

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight (g), with fabrics analysed at x20 magnification and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive; in accordance with the Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Barclay et al 2016), which complement the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004; Willis 2004).

Where possible, fabric types have been cross-referenced with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998), while local or indistinguishable coarse wares were assigned an alpha-numeric code and are fully described in the report, or referenced to major type sites/kiln groups in the area. The pottery fabrics are described below and the fabrics quantified in Table 2; with a catalogue of the pottery entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Samian ware form types refer to the standardised form types/codes outlined in Webster (1996), and die nos. of stamps to Names on Terra Sigillata (Hartley & Dickinson 2008-2012). To avoid repetition, references to form types in major type-assemblages of are abbreviated and italicised thus:

Dur. Durobrivae, Water Newton (Perrin 1999)

Lincoln. Lincoln (Darling & Precious 2014)

Discussion of Roman Pottery Supply

A total of 20 fabric groups were identified (Tables 2-3), with the dominant variants comprising reduced coarse wares likely produced in the environs of the major urban centre at Lincoln, if not more locally to the site (GRS1, GRS2, GRS3), which collectively account for 48.33% of the assemblage by sherd count (43.23% by weight). A further 14.56% by sherd count (13.77% by weight) comprised fabrics produced elsewhere in Lincolnshire or adjacent in Yorkshire, including fine ware (PAR FR), shell-tempered ware (BOG SH & DAL SH) and black-burnished ware 1 (ROS BB1). A total of 16.74% by sherd count (14.87% by weight) was supplied by the Lower Nene Valley industry, principally reduced wares (LNV RE & LNV GW), bit also including colour-coated ware (LNV CC), white ware (LNV WH) and mortaria (LNV WH (M)). The Lower Nene Valley, if not Fenland, products likely also include the bulk of the generic shell-tempered ware (ROB SH1), but it cannot be discounted that some f this fabric could not be distinguished from the products of the Bourne-Greetham kilns. Samian ware has a modest presence, accounting for 4.8% by sherd count (1.56% by weight), principally from central Gaul (LEZ SA2), whose products are typically associated with samian ware from east Gaul (RHZ SA, TRI SA), while a solitary vessel from south Gaul (LGF SA) may constitute the earliest vessel in the assemblage. Other regionally-traded wares not associated with these sources are rare, and appear limited to a single mica-dusted (UNS MD) beaker, and a mortaria from Mancetter-Hartshill in the west Midlands (MAH WH (M)).

Fabric Code	Fabric Description
LGF SA	La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 28)
LEZ SA2	Lezoux samian ware 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 32)
RHZ SA	Rheinzabern samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 43)
TRI SA	Trier samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 41)
PAR FR	Parisian-type fine reduced ware (Elsdon 1982, 8: fabric 1; Perrin 1999, 105)
UNS MD	Unsourced mica-dusted ware. Cream surfaces coated with gold mica, orange margins and a pale grey core. A fine silty matric with sparse red/black iron rich grains (<0.1mm) (Tomber & Dore 1998, 210; Darling & Precious 2014, 31)
LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118)
LNV WH	Lower Nene Valley white/parchment ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 119)
LNV RE	Lower Nene Valley reduced ware (Perrin 1996, 116; Rollo 2001). Mid to dark grey surfaces with a pale grey to cream core and margins, sometimes with a reduced core). Inclusions comprise common quartz (<0.25mm) with

	sparse dark grey/black and cream angular clay pellets/iron rich grains (0.25-1.5mm occasionally larger). A hard fabric with a smooth feel
LNV GW	Lower Nene Valley (white bodied) grey-slipped ware (Hancocks 2003, 207; Rollo 2001)
GRS1	Mid to dark grey surfaces over a slightly paler core, sometimes with pale grey margins; inclusions comprise common-abundant translucent/clear quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse black iron-rich grains (0.25-1.25mm) and occasional (calcareous) voids (0.25-5mm). Very hard fired with a moderately abrasive/pimply feel. Likely a product of thew Lincoln Racecourse kilns (Darling & Precious 2014, 122: fabric K20).
GRS2	Dark grey to black surfaces, oxidised margins surfaces over a mid-dark core; inclusions comprise common translucent/clear and opaque quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse black iron-rich grains (0.25-1.25mm). Hard fired with a moderately abrasive/pimply feel.
GRS3	Mid to dark grey surfaces over a slightly paler core, sometimes with pale grey margins; inclusions comprise common silty translucent/clear quartz (<0.2mm) with sparse black iron-rich grains (0.1-0.5mm) and very occasional calcareous grains (0.25-5mm). Very hard fired with a smooth to slightly powdery feel. Likely a product of thew Lincoln Racecourse kilns (Darling & Precious 2014, 122: fabric K20).
ROS BB1	Rossington Bridge black-burnished ware 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 202; Darling & Precious 2014, 112-3), likely from the south Yorkshire industry, as there is no evidence for the shale inclusions that often characterise the equivalent fabric from Dorset but is not always a reliable distinction.
ROB SH1	Romano-British shell-tempered ware 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 212), wheel-made with common, moderately sorted shell (0.5-5mm)
BOG SH	Bourne-Greetham shelly ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 156)
DAL SH	Dales shelly ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 157; Darling & Precious 2014, 84)
LNV WH (M)	Lower Nene Valley white ware mortaria (Tomber & Dore 1998, 119)
MAH WH (M)	Mancetter-Hartshill white ware mortaria, with trituration grits of common, moderately-sorted, hard red-brown and black argillaceous/?re-fired clay (0.5-6mm) (Tomber & Dore 1998, 189: MAH WH)

Table 2: Fabric codes and descriptions

Fabric	**Sherd Count**	**Weight (g)**	**R.EVE**
LGF SA	1	50	0
LEZ SA2	19	89	0.62
RHZ SA	8	69	0.15
TRI SA	5	23	0.05
PAR FR	17	230	0.15
UNS MD	2	6	0
LNV CC	18	244	0.25
LNV WH	16	191	0
LNV RE	40	771	1.05
LNV GW	33	647	1.1
GRS1	292	5054	2.2
GRS2	18	358	0.15
GRS3	22	995	1.4
ROS BB1	10	659	0.5
ROB SH1	103	3860	0.1
BOG SH	63	934	0.6
DAL SH	10	217	0.22
LNV WH (M)	8	350	0.13
MAH WH (M)	2	73	0
Total	*687*	*14820*	*8.67*

Table 3: Quantification of Roman fabric types

Discussion of Roman Pottery by Fabric Group

Samian ware

The levels of samian ware in the assemblage are commensurate wut that expected of rural sites, although the slightly elevated R.EVE value is approaching that of roadside settlements (Willis 2005: 7.2.8), although this may be a reflections of the favorable levels of preservation in the stratified groups. The presence of a single vessel from south Gaul (LGF SA) in (54020) is slightly anomalous relative to the general chronology of the assemblage, but may be indicative of the commencement of activity. LGF SA comprises the base of a Dr.18/31 dish stamped with die 8a of Sulpicius, a die dated c.AD85-110, but whose Dr.18/31 dishes are typically early 2nd century AD.

The central Gaulish samian ware is limited to the products of the super-industry at Lezoux (LEZ SA2), which appear principally of mid to late 2nd century AD (late Antonine) date, and in layer (74007) are notable associated with vessels from east Gaul (RHZ SA & TRI SA). The bulk of the LEZ SA2 appears to represent Dr.33 conical cups with an internal offset to the rim, and external mid body groove, including fragments in (54023), topsoil (54001) and (55001), although it cannot be discounted they are derived from the same vessel (but not cross-joining). The LEZ SA2 also includes a single Dr.31 dish in layer (74007) and a Dr.35 cup with trailed leaf decoration on the rim in (55020), supporting a chronology focused on the latter half of the 2nd century AD, potentially remining in use thereafter.

The samian ware from east Gaul appears to represent a continuation, if not an associated consumption pattern to that from central Gaul, focused on Dr.31 dishes in RHZ SA in pit [54010], topsoil (74001), in TRI SA in layer (74007). Further fragments of footring in RHZ SA and TRI SA from topsoil (54001) are also likely from this type of dish. Dr.31 dishes from east Gaul were produced between the late 2nd to mid 3rd centuries AD, although the exceptionally chalky TRI SA fabric variant present is perhaps more typical of imports in the second quarter of the 3rd century AD. The only exception to this pattern is an RHZ SA Ludowici Tg dish with a flanged rim with an upturned tip that has survived with a high gloss in layer (74007), and is also typical of the late 2nd to mid 3rd century AD.

Fine ware

Non-samian ware fine ware, including white ware, accounts for 7.71% of the assemblage by sherd count (4.53% by weight). A significant component is comprised of Parisian fine reduced ware (PAR FR) (Table 3), potentially from more than one source in Lincolnshire, including Market Rasen, Roxby/Dragonby and possibly Rossington Bridge. The bulk of these vessels have a silky black surface, notably including a jar with a flared rim and globular body, with a broad mid-body decorated zone in pit [55004]. The decoration comprises an ‘arcaded’ design with alternate columns, each formed of three stamped motifs, comprising varied combinations of tapered or square black stamps (of square toothed impressions) and/or a concentric triple diamond. Every other column is topped by a diamond motif, each of which is linked above by a semi-circular arc (of square toothed impressions), forming the arcade and enclosing the other columns. Comparable jars, with alternate stamped decorative schemes, have been recorded at Market Rasen and Dragonby (Elsdon 1982, 36 & 38: figs.9.33 & 10.47) and dated to the mid/late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD. A further body sherd in topsoil (55001) appears to have a comparable decorative scheme to the jar but is in a contrasting mid grey fabric typical of the Market Rasen kilns, possibly suggesting they were from the same batch or source, while the footring base of an indeterminate PAR FR bowl was present in ditch [54007].

Colour-coated wares from the Lower Nene Valley (LNV CC) have a broadly equal presence to the PAR FR (Table 3), but contrast in form type. The LNV CC includes a disc-necked flagon (*Dur*.188-9) with

two opposed handles in pit [55004], with a currency in the late 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, while an LNV CC wide-mouth jar with an angular rim (*Dur*.282) in (54017) may represent one of the latest vessels in the assemblage, not emerging prior to the late 3rd century AD. The presence of LNV CC may be under-represented in the assemblage with grey-slipped (LNV GW) beakers and dishes, potentially representing LNV CC vessels whose slip happens to have fired grey, a trait typical of products from the Stanground kilns in the 3rd century AD. Products from the Lower Nene Valley kilns also include white ware (LNV WH), likely flagons, but only bases and body sherds are represented, notably in layer (74007).

The only fine ware vessel that may be a regionally, of not continentally-traded product is a beaker with gold mica-dusted surfaces (UNS MD) in pit [55004], represented by body sherds of a folded beaker potentially manufactured in the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries AD.

Coarse wares

The dominant coarse wares are very well (highly) fired sandy grey wares that were likely produced by the Racecourse kilns at Lincoln, or perhaps similar local kilns, principally comprising a medium-coarse variant (GRS1) but also including a finer variant (GRS3) (Table 3). The GRS1 principally occurs as a range of utilitarian jars or cooking pots, including copies of black-burnished ware and Dales ware types, as well as plain rim 'dog' dishes that are also copies of black-burnished ware types. However, the most common jars (or wide-mouth bowls) are quite distinctive of the various kilns around Lincoln and have a re-curved, strongly everted bead rim on a short neck, and a globular body with a single mid body groove (*Lincoln* 1222), including examples in saltern [68006], layer (74007) and SF1 with a currency in the late 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. Further fragments of everted bead rim I pit [55004] and (54022) are likely derived from this type, while body sherds with elongate burnished hoop decoration in SF1 are also typical of jars produced by the same kilns. These are supplemented by contemporary, black-burnished ware imitation jars with a flaring plain and (equal) burnished lattice decoration (*Lincoln* 1035) in pit [55004] and ditch [54011]; and by Dales ware imitation jars with an everted flat-topped rim and internal lid-seating (Lincoln 998-9) in pit [55004] and layer (74007). The GRS1 dishes are limited to shallow plain rim types with a non-chamfered base (Lincoln 1336), including examples in (54017), (54022) and layer (74007). These dishes imitate types produced in the late 2nd to 4th centuries AD in black-burnished ware 1, but the GRS1 examples have plain burnished internal and external surfaces and are notable for exhibiting soot adhering to their underside and external side, suggesting they were utilized over a range, grill or hearth (a wear pattern not noted on the 'cooking pots').

The related GRS3 occurs in a contrasting range of forms to GRS1, potentially commensurate with an alternative workshop, or an alternative function, likely table wares with a smooth burnished finish, but nonetheless with a currency that commences in the early/mid 3rd century AD. The GRS3 included two necked bowls in SF1, one with an offset neck and high rounded shoulder (*Lincoln* 1146) and another with a narrow cordon on an angular shoulder (*Lincoln* 1157). (54017) contained a GRS3 dish with a triangular bead rim and external burnished wavy line decoration (Lincoln *1359*), likely a black-burnished ware imitation, while the only diagnostic vessel in GRS2, likely a coarse ware produced local to the site, was also a dish with a triangular bead rim, in layer (74007).

The 'coarse' wares from the Lower Nene Valley occur as two variants, one with slipped grey surfaces over a pale core (LNV GW) and one that has reduced surfaces fading to a pale core (LNV RE), although both tend to have smooth, well-finished, burnished surfaces. The LNV GW has close affinities with LNV CC (as mentioned above), potentially highlighting a blurred distinction arising from firing conditions at some kiln sites (notably Stanground), but potentially also arising because of the close relationship and

evolution between these two products in the 3rd century AD. Such LNV GW products include a dish with trailed leaf decoration that imitates samian form Dr.36 (*Dur*.96/8) in (54017), beakers with a short out-curved rim, folded body and under-slip scale decoration (*Dur*.158-9) in (54002) and pit [55004], and a sallow plain rim dish (*Dur*.88-90) in layer (74007). The one exception to this in LNV GW, also in layer (74007) is a wide-mouth jar with a roulette-decorated cordon (*Dur*.45) that is paralleled instead in the related LNV RE in this assemblage. The LNV RE occurs as a range of necked and wide-mouth jars that are consistent with the relatively standardized repertoire of forms that characterize the major industry. These include necked jars with a grooved plain neck (*Dur*.39) in (55020), with a grooved neck with burnished wavy line decoration (*Dur*.20), and with a rilled cordon (*Dur*.48) in pit [55004]; while a wide-mouth jar with an everted bead rim also in pit [55004] has a distinctive road shoulder cordon filled with rouletted decoration (*Dur*.45). These LNV GW and LNV RE form types all develop from the mid 2nd century AD, but are most common in the 3rd century AD.

Black-burnished ware 1, likely from the south Yorkshire industry at Rossington Bridge (ROS BB1) forms a distinctive but minor component of the assemblage (Table 3). The ROS BB1 appears to fulfill a similar function to the common utilitarian GRS1, including the flaring plain rim of a jar or cooking pot in pit [55004], associated with a flanged dish with burnished arc decoration (Lincoln 892-3), while (54029) contained a dish with a rounded bead rim and burnished lattice decoration (Lincoln 894). Like the other reduced coarse wares, these ROS BB1 vessels develop in the mid/late 2nd century AD but have a flourit in the 3rd century AD.

Shell-tempered coarse wares account for 25.62% of the assemblage by sherd count (33.81% by weight) (Table 3) but exhibit contrasts in form type relative to their varying source. The most common, and typically thicker-walled variant: ROB SH1 appears principally represented by storage jars, including the base and lower body of a high-volume vessel in pit [54010], and large jars with an everted dropping triangular bead rim in (54017), commensurate with the products of the Lower Nene Valley industry, if not the kilns at Harrold, Bedfordshire. Also common is the distinctive fabric from Bourne and Greetham (BOG SH) c.21km to the south-west, typically black to mottled black-brown in colour and limited to characteristic small jars with a down-turned everted bead rim and rounded shoulder with a double groove, which were produced in the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries AD (Perrin 1996, 129: fig.84.104), and include at least one, if not two examples in pit [55004]. Equally distinctive are the jars or cooking pots that characterize the shell-tempered Dales ware (DAL SH); a fabric that contains more silt or sand than the other shell-tempered coarse wares, and may have been produced in north Lincolnshire, south Yorkshire or north Nottinghamshire. The DAL SH jars present are characteristic of the industry and have an everted flat-topped rim with an internal lid seating, commensurate with vessels at Winterton villa (Rigby & Stead 1976, 188: fig.93.1&5) that emerge in the early/mid 3rd century AD and continue to the mid 4th century AD, including examples in pot [55004], (55020) and layer (74007).

Mortaria

Specialist wares in the form of mortaria, the distinctive Roman grinding vessels are rare, accounting for 1.46% of the assemblage by sherd count (2.85% by weight), principally limited to Lower Nene Valley white ware (LNV WH(M)) with heavily worn black slag trituration grits, although body sherds from a mortar from Mancetter-Hartshill (MAH WH(M)) were recovered from topsoil (55001), with equally heavily worn red-brown and black argillaceous trituration grits. The LNV WH(M) included a mortar with a small slightly unturned bead above a slightly drooping hooked flange (*Dur*.M5) in ditch [54011], which developed in the mid 2nd century but likely declined by the early 3rd century AD; while a mortar in layer

(74007) with an upright bead above a triangular reeded flange (*Dur*.M23) is more typical of the 3rd century AD.

Conclusions

The pattern of supply evident in the assemblage above is not unexpected given the location of the site to the east of the major Roman road that links the urban centres of *Durobrivae* (Water Newton) in the Lower Nene Valley to the south and Lincoln to the north, which provides a supply network connected to various markets and other pottery production sites. The presence of modest quantities of samian ware and fine ware associated with a range of coarse ware jars, cooking pots and dishes is indicative of domestic occupation, with the high incidence of diagnostic, cross-joining sherds and average sherd weight suggests this occupation is either on or immediately adjacent to the relevant trenches, likely forming part of a farmstead or similar settlement of modest status on a roddon within Bicker Fen. The relatively narrow chronology of the assemblage in the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, with a focus on the late 2nd to mid 3rd centuries AD may suggest the occupation was of limited duration, potentially relative to environmental or economic factors, although the consumption pattern appears to indicate fairly affluent means.

The combination of samian ware, Parisian fine reduced ware and Lower Nene Valley colour-coated wares with wide-mouth grey ware jars and shell-tempered ware jars, including Dales ware types mirrors the supply pattern in Period 3 (2nd-4th centuries AD) at the Roman settlement at Old Sleaford c.15km to the north-west (Elsdon 1997, 121-2). A comparable supply pattern was also evident associated with Roman settlement previously noted at Bicker Fen, notably at the Viking Link site where common grey wares from kilns around Lincoln were associated with Lower Nene Valley grey wares and colour-coated wares, Dales ware and other shell-tempered wares (Machin 2024, 18-19). The Viking Link assemblage included only rare samian ware, mortaria and black-burnished ware 1, but did include amphorae and a grey ware, seemingly indicative of an equally affluent rural consumption pattern. The chronology at Viking Link corresponds broadly with this assemblage, with the earliest enclosures seemingly opened in the early 2nd century AD, but a focus on occupation spanning the 3rd to 4th centuries AD, potentially extending later than the duration of this assemblage (Machin 2024, 24). This pattern was also repeated in assemblages from Sutterton c.6km to the east, where the bulk of the assemblage was dated to the 3rd century AD, including samian ware, Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware plain rim dishes, Dales-ware-type, Bourne-Greetham, and black-burnished ware imitation jars (Leary 1994, 20; Precious 1996, 37; Davies 1996, 12).

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NE	54001	54001		Topsoil Tr.54	LEZ SA2	Cup	Dr.33	\	\		\	M-L2	mid body sherd with external groove
NE	54001	54001		Topsoil Tr.54	RHZ SA	Dish	?	\	\		\	L2-M3	footring with flat floor; imdeterminate
NE	54001	54001		Topsoil Tr.54	TRI SA	Bowl/Dish?	?	\	\		\	L2-M3	footring; indeterminate
NE	54007	54013		?Ditch terminus	PAR FR	Bowl		\	\		\	2nd-3rd	footring base of bowl
NE	54010	54014		?Pit	ROB SH	Storage Jar		\	\		\	RB	lower body of storage jar
NE	54010	54014		?Pit	RHZ SA	Dish	Dr.31	\	\		\	L2-M3	partial footring base with high internal kick
NE	54011	54015		?Ditch	LNV WH (M)	Mortaria	Dur.M5	14	0.08		\	M2-E3	small slightly inturned bead, higher than slightly drooping flange with hooked tip; fractured above trituration grits; limited profile
NE	54011	54015		?Ditch	GRS1	Jar		\	\		\	E2-3	body sherds of BB imitation jar with equal burnished lattice
NE	?	54017		?	GRS1	Dish	Lincoln 1336	9	0.15		?	E/M3-4	shallow dish with plain tapered rim; non-chamfered base; traces of soot on exterior and underside
NE	?	54017		?	GRS3	Dish	Lincoln 1359	8	0.3		?	M3-4	small slightly undercut triangular bead rim, shallow dish with non-chamfered base, burnished wavy line on external surface
NE	?	54017		?	ROB SH	Jar		10	0.1		\	M3-4	undercut/drooping everted triangular bead rim
NE	?	54017		?	LNV CC	Jar	Dur.282	8	0.1		?	L3-4	wide-mouth jar with medium neck and slightly andular/squared rim

NE	?	54017		?	LNV GW	Dish	Dur.96/8	11	0.1		?	L2-3	imitation of samian Dr.36 with overhanging bifid rim with trailed leaf underslip decoration; probably Stanground product (possibly grey LNV CC)
NE	?	54020		?	LNV RE	Jar	Dur.20	13	0.15		\	2nd-3rd	necked jar with everted bead rim, grooved neck decorated with burnished wavy line, above a rounded shoulder
NE	?	54020		?	LGF SA	Dish	Dr.18/31	\	\		\	c.AD85-110	base stamped …LPICI] , die 8a of Sulpicius, whose Dr.18/31 are more typically E2
NE	?	54022		?	GRS1	Jar		8	0.05		\	RB	everted bead rim
NE	?	54022		?	GRS1	Dish		12	0.05		\	L2-4	shallow plain rim dish, burnished interior and exterior
NE	?	54022		?	LNV GW	Beaker		\	\		\	M2-3	body sherds of folded beaker
NE	?	54023		?	LEZ SA2	Cup	Dr.33	7	0.1		\	M-L2	rim sherd with internal offset
NE	?	54029		?	ROS BB1	Dish	Lincoln 894	11	0.25		\	3rd C	rounded bead rim, medium depth with fairly equal burnished lattice on exterior; no chamfer to base; traces of soot on exterior
NE	55001	55001		Topsoil Tr.55	PAR FR	?Bowl		\	\		\	M2-M3	body sherd with cordon above decorated zone including comb-impressed arcade/medallion
NE	55001	55001		Topsoil Tr.55	LEZ SA2	Cup	Dr.33	7	0.3		\	M-L2	rim sherd with internal offset; small fragment
NE	55002	55002		Post-Roman silting event	GRS3	Jar		7	0.1		\	RB	everted bead rim
NE	55004	55005		?Pit	DAL SH	Jar	Winterton (Rigby & Stead 1976, 188: fig.93.1&5	9	0.05			E/M3-M4	everted flat-topped rim with internal lid seat; small fragment

NE	55004	55007		?Pit	BOG SH	Jar	OHF106	8	0.6		?	M-L2	down-turned everted bead rim on shory neck; double groove on rounded shoulder
NE	55004	55007		?Pit	GRS1	Jar	Lincoln 992	9	0.3		\	M2-3	short everted bead rim, short neck, rounded shoulder/globular body
NE	55004	55007		?Pit	GRS1	Jar	Lincoln 998-9	9	0.05		\	3-M4	flat-topped everted rim with internal lid-seating; imitation of Dales ware type
NE	55004	55007		?Pit	GRS1	Jar	Lincoln 1035	8	0.4		?	E/M2-L3	flaring everted plain rim, ovoid body with mid body zone of fairly equal burnished lattice; ?over-fired with metallic surface finish; imitation of BB1 form
NE	55004	55007		?Pit	ROS BB1	Dish	Lincoln 892-3	14	0.15		?	L2-E/M3	flanged dish with near horizontal rim; intersecting burnished arcs on exterior, very uneven horizontal burnished facets on interior and base
NE	55004	55007		?Pit	LNV RE	Jar	Dur.45	11	0.6		?	L2-3	wide-mouth jar with everted bead rim, short neck, broad shoulder cordon filled with rouletted decoration, otherwise exterior is burnished
NE	55004	55007		?Pit	LNV RE	Jar	Dur.48	6	0.15		?	M2-3	everted plain rim, rilled/grooved cordon on shoulder of ovoid body of small jar

NE	55004	55007		?Pit	PAR FR	Jar	Elsdon 1982, 38: fig.10.47) Decoration is an 'arcade' formed of colimns constructed of varying combinations of tapered or square block-stamps (of square-tooth impressions), or a concentric trippe diamond stamp, with the top of very other diamond linbked by an arched square-tooth line.	6	0.15		?	M/l2-E3	flaring rim with small beadom globular body with broad mud-body decorated zone delineated by upper/lower narrow cordons.
NE	55004	55007		?Pit	LNV GW	Beaker	Dur.158-9	7	0.15		?	M2-E3	short out-curved rim elogate folds on bodywith underslip barbotine scale decoration berween folds; may be an LNV CC beaker that has fired grey, and E3 products at Stanground frequently have a blue-grey colour coat (Perrin 1999, 94)
NE	55004	55007		?Pit	LNV CC	Flagon	Dur.188-9	1	0.15		?	L2-3	narrow, near vertical plain rim, disc neck with two opposed handles (stumps) extending immediately below disc
NE	55004	55009		?Pit	BOG SH	Jar		\	\		\	M2-3	bosy sherds of jar with double groove on shoulder
NE	55004	55009		?Pit	ROS BB1	Jar		7	0.1		\	M2-3	flaring, tapering plain rim

NE	55004	55009		?Pit	UNS MD	Beaker		\	\		\	M2-3	body sherds of folded beaker
NE	?	55020		?	DAL SH	Jar	Winterton (Rigby & Stead 1976, 188: fig.93.1&5	9	0.05		\	E/M3-M4	everted flat-topped rim with internal lid seat; small fragment
NE	?	55020		?	LNV RE	Jar	Dur.39	7	0.15		\	M2-3	necked jar with medium gooved neck above rounded shoulder
NE	?	55020		?	LEZ SA2	Cup	Dr.35	5	0.12		\	M-L2	overhanging rim with trailed leaf decoration, small semi-hemispherical body
NE	68006	68007		?Saltern	GRS1	Bowl	Lincoln 1222	14	0.15		\	L2-3	short everted/downturned bead rim, on wide-mouth globular body with mid body groove
NW	74001	74001		Topsoil Tr.74	RHZ SA	Dish	Dr.31	10	0.05		\	L2-M3	bead rim; small fragment
NW	74007	74007		Layer	GRS1	Bowl	Lincoln 1222	10	0.3		?	L2-3	short everted/downturned bead rim, on wide-mouth globular body with mid body groove
NW	74007	74007		Layer	GRS1	Dish		10	0.1		?	L2-4	shallow plain rim dish, non-chamfered base
NW	74007	74007		Layer	GRS1	Jar	Lincoln 999	8	0.3		?	E/M3-4	evrted flat-top rim with internal lid-seating; rounded shoulder; imitation of Dales ware type
NW	74007	74007		Layer	DAL SH	Jar	Winterton (Rigby & Stead 1976, 188: fig.93.1&5	8	0.12		?	E/M3-M4	everted flat-topped rim with internal lid seat; slight angle to rounded shoulder/ovoid body
NW	74007	74007		Layer	LNV WH (M)	Mortaria	Dur.M23	14	0.05		?	3rd C	upright bead above triangular, slightly undercut reeded flange; fractured above trituration grits
NW	74007	74007		Layer	GRS2	Dish		11	0.15		?	M2-3	triangular bead rim, medium depth

NW	74007	74007		Layer	LNV GW	Jar	Dur.45	11	0.75		?	L2-3	wide-mouth jar with everted bead rim, short neck, broad shoulder cordon filled with rouletted decoration, otherwise exterior is burnished
NW	74007	74007		Layer	LNV GW	Dish	Dur.88-90	9	0.1		?	M/L2-3	shallow plain rim dish
NW	74007	74007		Layer	LEZ SA2	Dish	Dr.31	9	0.1		\	M-L2	bead rim to lower body
NW	74007	74007		Layer	TRI SA	Dish	Dr.31	11	0.05		\	E-M3	bead rim
NW	74007	74007		Layer	RHZ SA	Dish	Ludowici Tg	10	0.1		\	L2-M3	flanged rim with upturned tip; shallow strongly curved body with internal offset to floor

The Ceramic Building Materials and Fired Clay

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 16 fragments (180g) of Roman CBM and 2329 pieces (2956g) of contemporary fired clay in a very highly fragmented condition, potentially associated with domestic activity or rural industry on the site, as well as isolated fragments of post-medieval field drain from the topsoil (Table 4).

Material	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Roman CBM	16	180
Fired Clay	2329	2956
Post-medieval field drain	5	65
Total	*2350*	*3201*

Table 4: Quantification of CBM & Fired Clay

The Roman CBM was manufactured in a mid orange to orange-red fabric with inclusions of abundant fine quartz (<0.1mm), sparse black iron-rich grains (0.1-0.5mm) and occasional calcareous grains/voids (0.5-3mm). Small fragments in topsoil (55001) are from the upper and inner edges of the flange of tegulae roof tiles, but do not preserve the extant profile of any of the tiles, while flat fragments in (54020) are likely also from tegulae tile.

The fired clay typically occurs as very small amorphous fragments, with a mottled red-brown to dark grey, friable silty fabric with inconsistent coarse sand, organic and calcareous inclusions (typically 0.5-3mm, occasionally to 10mm). The exceptions to this state of preservation include, in pit [55004], fragments that are 30mm thick with partial pre-firing circular perforations c.40mm diameter with a raised lip on one side where the perforation was pushed through the wet/leather hard clay. These traits are commensurate with kiln or oven plates of a type previously recorded in the Nene and Welland Valleys, as well as slightly further west in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire (Swan 1984, 65-6), introduced in the late pre-Roman Iron Age and continuing through the Roman period. A further flat fragment with a thickness of 30mm was present in pit [68010] and is likely derived from a comparable object. The remaining very small fragments, best-regarded as 'crumbs' may be derived from such objects, although the quantities in any given context do not amount to the equivalent of a single clay plate, and it is more likely they represent the remnants of related oven, hearth or kiln lining that has been raked out and discarded in nearby features. High densities of very small fragments were present in pits [54010], [55004], saltern [68004], (54017) and (54020) but are not of sufficient quantity to indicate they are directly related to any industrial or domestic activity on the site.

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The Metals and Industrial Materials

Andrew Morrison (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction and methodology

A small assemblage (Mass: 53.6g), comprising both ferrous metals (49.4g) and industrial materials (4.2g), was examined in November 2024 following the archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at Bicker Fen, in Boston/ South Holland, Lincolnshire.

The finds were examined macroscopically, and with the aid of x-radiography, with the aim of identifying object type, function, and date. Hand-retrieved bulk finds are identified by 'Bulk' followed by their context of discovery (e.g., Bulk 54001), while retent finds are identified by their sample number (e.g., <16>). Where more than one object type was present under the same bulk finds number, these have been differentiated by the addition of a letter (e.g., Bulk 55001a, Bulk 55001b). Finds were weighed using a Sartorius digital scale accurate to 0.1g. A summary table of the finds by context has been included as Appendix A (Table 1), with an expanded inventory presented as a separate Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

The assemblage

The metals assemblage comprises four ferrous metal objects and fragments recovered from three separate contexts within three trenches, including from a ploughsoil deposit (*54001*) and midden deposit (*55009*) located in Field 6, within the northern archaeologically significant area, and from a naturally-lain post-medieval deposit (*75003*) in Field 8, within the southern archaeologically significant area.



Plate 5: Iron Brooch (Bulk 54001) profile



Plate 6: Iron Brooch (Bulk 54001) face

The most significant of the ferrous metal finds is a likely Romano-British Brooch (Bulk 54001; Plate 1 and 2) that was recovered from the ploughsoil (*54001*) in Trench 54. A precise typological classification of the brooch cannot be established at this stage due to the presence of heavy corrosion product and active spalling, although a flat, V-shaped head and a distinct C-shaped bow with a possibly facetted face are visible. There is a separate horizontal bar present within the broken head and possible remnants of a catch plate at the base of the bow. While Iron brooches are less common than their copper alloy counterparts, they are likely under-represented in the archaeological record due to loss from corrosion and are thought to be more closely associated with the Iron Age and Early Roman periods (Mackreth 2011, 4).

Other likely Romano-British finds were recovered from a domestic waste deposit also containing food remains and Romano-British pottery (*55009*) within a linear ditch [*55004*] in Trench 55 (Ward & Marshall 2024). These finds comprise the beveled tip (<16>) of a likely tool, similar in form to a small mortice chisel used in woodworking, and a small, non-classifiable rectangular fragment (Bulk 55009) that is completely obscured by corrosion, although possible rivets are visible via x-ray.

A likely post-medieval ring washer (Bulk 75003) was recovered from a deposit (*75003*) in Trench 75, which may be associated with later agricultural practices in the area.

The industrial assemblage comprises a single amorphous lump of fuel-ash slag (Bulk 55001a), possibly representing either domestic or industrial residual hearth material, that was recovered from the ploughsoil (*55001*) in Trench 55, which also produced a small, natural white quartzite pebble (Bulk 55001b). Tiny fragments of naturally occurring coal (<5>) were also recovered from a naturally-laid deposit (*10305*) within Trench 10.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the probable Romano-British iron brooch (Bulk 54001), the tool bit (<16>), and unidentified fragment (Bulk 55009) be retained due to their local and regional significance, and their association with potentially significant Romano-British activity in the immediate area. The ring washer (Bulk 75003) and fuel-ash slag (Bulk 55001a) are unlikely to add significantly to future research and should be discarded, while the natural quartzite pebble (Bulk 55001b) and coal fragments (<5>) are also recommended for eventual discard.

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Table 1: The metals and industrial materials from Bicker Fen by context

Area	*Trench*	*Context #*	*Context description*	*Bulk/ Sample #*	*Material:*	*Classification:*	*Object:*	*Description:*	*Intact Y/N*	*Quantity:*	*Mass: (g)*	*Period/ century:*
NE	10	10305	Fill of ditch-like feature [10306]. Possible natural marine deposit.	<5>	Natural	Coal	Coal	Tiny coal fragments, likely naturally occurring.	N	7	0.7	Not closely dateable
NE	54	54001	Ploughsoil deposit.	Bulk 54001	Fe	Dress accessories	Brooch	Indeterminate type. Broken flat triangular head tapering to a C-shaped bow that may have had a facetted face. The attachment system is unclear with a housing behind the head holding the remnants of a horizontal bar. The catch plate does not survive.	N	1	13.7	Iron Age/ Romano-British
NE	55	55001	Ploughsoil deposit.	Bulk 55001a	Industrial	FAS	Fuel-ash slag	Amorphous, lightweight vesicular mass with a dark grey-black fabric and glossy patches.	N	1	2.9	Not closely dateable
NE	55	55001	Ploughsoil deposit.	Bulk 55001b	Natural	Stone	Quartzite	White quartzite pebble with possible remnants of green plant matter adhered to the surface.	N	1	0.6	Not closely dateable
NE	55	55009	Shell-rich possible midden deposit within linear pit [55004].	Bulk 55009	Fe	Non-classifiable	Non-diagnostic	Unidentifiable fragment. Possible thin-rectangular cross-section. Likely rivets visible.	N	1	4.6	Not closely dateable
NE	55	55009	Shell-rich possible midden deposit within linear pit [55004].	<16>	Fe	Tools	Bit	Tip fragment from a likely tool. Square cross-section with an off-set point similar to a mortice chisel.	N	1	0.8	Not closely dateable
SE	75	75003	Likely post-medieval, naturally lain gully deposit.	Bulk 75003	Fe	Fixtures and fittings	Ring washer	Flat, circular ring washer with a large central hole	Y	1	30.3	Likely post-medieval

The Animal Bone

Matilda Holmes

Introduction

A small assemblage of 82 refitted fragments of animal bones, teeth and shells was identified from hand-collected and sieved samples. Provisional dating is taken from the pottery but most features appear to be Roman. This report aims to characterise the zooarchaeology and assess the potential for further work to add to the understanding of human-animal interactions at the site, and its significance on a local, regional and national level.

Methodology

Bones were fully recorded and those that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (micro – rat/ vole size; small – cat/ rabbit size; medium – sheep/ pig/ dog size; or large – cattle/ horse size). Sieved samples were collected but because of the highly fragmentary nature of such samples a selective process was undertaken, whereby fragments were recorded only if they could be identified to species and/ or element, or showed signs of taphonomic processes.

Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Payne (1973). Bone fusion, metrical data (von den Driesch 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996) and any evidence of pathological changes, butchery (Lauwerier 1988) and working were noted. The surface condition of bones was recorded on a scale of 0-5, where 0 is fresh bone and 5, the bone is falling apart (Behrensmeyer in Lyman 1994, 355). Other taphonomic factors included the incidence of burning, gnawing, recent breakage and refitted fragments. Articulated or associated fragments were entered as a count of 1, so not to bias the relative frequency of species present.

Summary of Findings

Bones were in good condition, though fragmentary, and approximately a third were recently broken and/ or refitted. Canid gnawing was also observed in a third of the assemblage, indicating that deposits were not always buried immediately, but were available for dogs to chew.

Evidence of butchery and burning was scarce. There were no obvious deposits of primary butchery, skin-processing or craft-working waste, though a sheep/ goat metacarpal from unphased ditch 54021 had been polished and shaped into a point. It is likely that the assemblage derived from a mixture of processing and food waste. The only primary context noted was 74016 from channel 74015, which produced a cattle radius and two associated carpals.

Table 1 provides a summary of taxa recorded for each feature. The assemblage largely derived from a small quantity of bones recovered from numerous features, though larger quantities came from ditch 54007. Cattle and sheep/ goats were most common of the main domesticates, though pigs and horses/ donkeys were also recovered. Fish remains, micro-mammals (including mouse and bank vole) and marine molluscs were produced from samples.

Potential and recommendations

The zooarchaeology was in good condition, though the findings were unremarkable for the period and sample sizes too small to provide reliable data for detailed analysis. However, further excavation has good potential to provide additional deposits containing animal remains that will be vital to understanding the diet, economy, status and human-animal relationships in the past.

Recommendations for Selection and Retention

Due to demands for space in long-term archiving, the assemblage has been assessed based on its potential to inform future research, contribute to further analysis and use in educational activities. The assemblage has been fully recorded and is of low priority for retention.

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Table 1: Summary of hand-collected and sieved animal remains by feature and provisional phasing (NISP). Only identified remains are quantified from samples

Feature	Period	Unidentified	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse/ donkey	Micro-mammal	Eel	Fish	Cockle	Mussel	Oyster	Total identified
Topsoil			1	2									3
Channel 74015	Undated	1	1										1
Ditch 54021	Undated	3	1	1		1							3
Pit 74004	Undated		1			1							2
Ditch 54019	IA/ Roman	10	2	1			3						6
Linear/ pit 55004	Roman		1	2	1		1	1			1	1	8
54021 recut	Roman	11	1	1	1								3
Deposit 54029	Roman	2	3	2									5
Ditch 54007	Roman	31	9	5		1	5		2				22
Ditch 55008	Roman		5	1									6
Feature 54010	Roman	5		1									1
Gully 76004	Roman	3				1							1
Layer 55009	Roman	2	1	4	1					1			7
Pit 68010	Roman	1	1		1								2

Pit 74004	Roman	3	1	1	1				1				4
Saltern 68004	Roman						6		2				8
Total		72	28	21	5	4	15	1	5	1	1	1	82

The Cremated Bone

Dr Alexandra Johnson (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

This document has been submitted as a specialist evaluation report on the burnt bone remains from Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire (LCNCC:2023.2). Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in ten fields as part of a 1% evaluation in advance of the installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station. A total of 97.3ha was evaluated, approximately 90ha of which was available for trenching. The site lies on agricultural land c. 1.5km west of Bicker and c. 1.2mk north of Donnington. A total of 125 of the originally planned 128 trenches were excavated, as set out in the WSI (AOC 2023) between January and June 2024.

Geophysical survey of the site undertaken by AOC in 2022 identified anomalies indicating later prehistoric or Roman period activity, comprising small sub-square enclosures suggestive of possible industrial salt-working, a typical activity common in such tidal and fen landscapes (AOC 2022). Roman period activity was evidenced along the roddons (Godwin 1938). Within the western end of Trench 54, ditch [54004] was observed, measuring 3m wide and 0.8m deep with sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch contained multiple deposits, the earliest (recorded as the primary fill) comprised mid brown orange silty clay (54029), measuring 0.27m deep. This fill contained pottery dating to the 2nd – 3rd centuries AD. In the base of the ditch was an overturned, broken urn or vessel, containing possible cremated remains. The vessel appeared to have a been damaged in antiquity and may have been redeposited, as it did not look to be deliberately or carefully placed within the ditch. The vessel, which dated to the 3rd century AD, was lifted for micro-excavation in the laboratory (AOC 2024).

Methodology

The vessel was lifted from site for micro-excavation in the laboratory. Burnt bone collected from the fill (including fragments collected during dry sieving and sample processing) were cleaned, weighed, and sent to a specialist for assessment. The remains were assessed and recorded following the codes of ethics and practice laid out by CIfA and BABAO (Brickley & McKinley, 2004; Mitchell & Brickley 2018). Assessment of the burnt bone included recording the overall weight and colour, as well as anatomical region (where possible), and recording fragments any identifiable to specific bone, where possible.

Osteological Assessment

The burnt bone fragments (labelled environmental sample 37) from context (54031) were excavated from a ceramic vessel dating to the 3rd century AD. The bone fragments comprised 0.38g and were highly fragmented and varied in colour, ranging from unburnt (brown) to charred (black) (Plate 1). A total of 0.35g was recovered from the 2-5mm sieve, while 0.09g were recovered from the 0-2mm sieve. One fragment exhibited a white outer cortical surface with a dark charred internal medullary surface. The white colour suggests the remains were exposed to heat of at least 900°C, while the darker pieces represent bone portions exposed to a lower temperature of at least 500°C, and the unburnt fragments were exposed to heat below 500°C (Walker & Miller 2008).

The largest bone fragment measured 22.46mm in length. Unfortunately, due to the fragmentation level and the lack of diagnostic fragments, it was not possible to determine whether the remains were human or animal. It seems likely, however, that the remains represent food waste discarded in or with the broken vessel in the ditch. Based on the lack of material, in particular identifiable fragments, no further analysis is recommended.



Plate 7. Cremated remains from (54028).

Recommendations

The cremated remains recovered from Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire comprised approximately 0.38g of unburnt and burnt bone fragments. The bone had been deposited in a ceramic vessel dating to the 3rd century AD. During assessment, none of the bone fragments were able to be identified as human remains. Due to the fragmentary nature of the bone, no further analysis is recommended.

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Context	Sample	Spit	Cut	Urn	>10mm	5-10mm	2-5mm	<2mm	Total Weight (g)	Colour	Age	Sex	MNI	Max Frag. Length (mm)	Comments
35104	62	1	35103	None	11.71	26.45	15.07	0.01	53.24	white	9-10 years old assuming teeth are permanent	Unknown	1	30.35	Fragments of upper and lower limb long bone shafts, cranial vault, four tooth root fragments including a likely fully formed single rooted permanent tooth like canine or max incisor and at least two root frags from a molar, likely permanent but unsure, rib fragments and small cranial vault frags, central mandible fragment with crypts for lower incisors
35104	63	2	35103	None	13.62	45.91	33.91	1.86	95.3	White	Unknown	Unknown	1	34.4	Cranial vault fragments including likely frontal and temporal, parietal, and likely sphenoid or maxillary/nasal bones, tooth root and crown frags from permanent fully formed teeth including a possible premolar or molar; rib body fragments and upper and lower long bone limbs, at least one vert arch fragment; thin, frail fragments of cranial vault suggest the individual may have been a non-adult, though this cannot be confirmed at this stage
35104	64	3	35103	None	0	1.08	0.88	0	1.96	White	Non-adult?	Unknown	1	12.78	Small cranial vault fragments (frontal or parietal) thin and frail, suggest non-adult, rib body fragments
35104	62	1 RT	35103	None	0	0	31.77	25	56.77	White	Unknown	Unknown	1	15.65	29.19g of rocks removed from 10 and 5mm sieves, smaller ones still prevalent throughout; uniformly white throughout, only tiny fragments including several tooth root fragments and crown chunks
35104	63	2 RT	35103	None	0	0	44.93	62.39	107.32	white with some darker charred frags	Unknown	Unknown	1	15.31	32.63g of rocks removed from >10mm and 5-10mm sieves, smaller rocks prevalent in other sieves; mostly tiny fragments including chunks of charcoal, cranial vault fragments, rib body fragments and one unidentified fully formed tooth root, and at least 2 crown frags, distal end of medial phalanx?
35104	64	3 RT	35103	None	0	0	9.84	17.21	27.05	White	Unknown	Unknown	1	8.26	Mostly rocks, tiny bits of rib body frags, possible tooth frags and cranial vault

Table 2: Cremated Bone

The macroplant, charcoal and shellfish Assessment

Jackaline Robertson (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

In November 2024, 30 bulk samples were submitted for environmental assessment from the archaeological evaluation and mitigation undertaken at Land at Bicker Fen, Boston/South Holland, Lincolnshire (Murray 2023). The bulk samples were collected from a series of field boundary ditches, linears and pits believed to date to the Roman period. The ecofacts were composed of carbonised macroplant, charcoal and shellfish. The aim of this report was to identify the assemblage to species, assess their suitability for radiocarbon dating and potential for further study with reference to the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (Accessed November 2024).

Methodology

This assessment was undertaken in line with published standards and guidelines (CIfA 2014). The bulk samples were processed at AOC archaeology Group using a floatation method designed to retrieve both ecofacts and artefacts (Kenward *et al*. 1980). The residues were separated using a stack system of 4mm, 2mm and 1mm sieves and each fraction was scanned by eye and with a magnet. The wash overs were scanned using a low-powered microscope at x10-x40 magnification.

Macroplant identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases stored at AOC Archaeology Group (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006). Taxonomy and nomenclature for plants follows Stace (2010). Contexts (55016), (74006) and (74007) were all found to be particularly rich in macroplant finds, so these results were semi-quantified.

Charcoal fragments larger than 4mm were selected for analysis. Species identifications were confirmed by analysing the transverse, tangential and radial sections at x0.7-x45 magnification and using keys and texts stored at AOC Archaeology Group (Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990).

The shellfish assemblage was very fragmented and poorly prepared. Where possible the fragments were identified to species using reference material and guides stored at AOC Archaeology Group (*Hayward et al* 1996). Most fragments could not be identified and instead they were quantified by number and weight.

The assemblage

The macroplant

A total of 5878 carbonised macroplants were assessed from 21 contexts. The assemblage was concentrated in pit [74004] which had 4109 finds with a further 996 in pit [55017]. The next largest concentration was in linear/pit [55004] with 329 finds. The rest of the assemblage was scattered among the remaining features in much smaller quantities. The assemblage was formed of cereals, vegetables, nuts and weeds. Preservation of the macroplants was variable. The cereal caryopses, vegetables and most of the weeds ranged from poor to good whereas many of the chaff fragments and hazelnut shells were recorded as good to excellent.

Cereal formed the largest part of the assemblage with 2836 caryopses and 2497 chaff fragments noted in 19 contexts. The species were wild oat (*Avena strigose* L.), oat (*Avena* sp.), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), bread/club wheat (*T. aestivum*/*compactum* L.), spelt (*T. spelta* L.), emmer/spelt (*T. dicoccum*/*spelta* L.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Crop remains totalling 4704 were concentrated within pits [55017] and [74004].

There were 22 lentil/peas (*Lathyrus*/*Pisum* sp.) scattered among four contexts. The 74 vetch (*Vicia* sp.) were present in 11 samples. There were two fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.) in deposit [54019].

The 447 weeds were recovered from 13 contexts. The species were a mix of daisy (*Asteraceae* sp.), thistle (*Carduus*/*Cirsium* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) Á.Löve.), hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis* sp,), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), knotweed (*Persicaria* sp.) plantain (*Plantago* sp.), grass (*Poaceae* sp.), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.), northern dock (*Rumex longifolius* DC.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). The weeds numbering 380 were localised within two pits [55017] and [74004]. The rest were scattered among the site in much smaller quantities.

The charcoal

The charcoal assemblage (13g) was dispersed among six contexts with no evidence of selective or deliberate disposal within any feature. A total of 37 fragments were identified as alder (*Alnus glutinosa* L.), hazel (*Corylus avellana* L), ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), cherry (*Prunus* sp.), oak (*Quercus* sp.), willow (*Salix* sp.) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Preservation of the charcoal was mostly poor with a much smaller number described as adequate. Thos fragments described as poor were noticeably vitrified.

The shellfish

The 37 shell fragments (3.9g) were scattered among four contexts with no evidence of selective or deliberate disposal within any feature. The only species which could be identified was oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) present in ditch [54004]. The rest of the fragments were poorly preserved and could not be identified to species.

Discussion and statement of significance

The macroplant

The large crop assemblage in pits [55017] and [74004] accumulated from the deliberate disposal of crop processing waste. The cereals in the remaining features represents a mix of both crop processing waste and food debris. The wild oats were unlikely to have been cultivated and instead these were probably a weed of the main wheat crop. Both wheat and barley have been cultivated in Britain from the prehistoric onwards and were a dietary mainstay of the Roman period (Renfrew 1993, 23; Renfrew 1993, 68-69; Van Der Veen 2022). The large size of the cereal assemblage provides an excellent opportunity to study the agricultural husbandry practised at this site and the dietary and economic role of this resource during the Roman period.

The recovery of vegetables in the form of lentils/peas and vetch is much rarer in carbonised assemblages than other finds such as cereals because those parts of the plants usually eaten such as the leaves or shoots rarely survive when carbonised (Zohary & Hopf 1993, 181). Vegetables including peas have been cultivated from the prehistoric period onwards and have been used as a food source for humans and as fodder for animals (Renfrew 1993, 25). The presence of vegetables indicates that a variety of crops were potentially cultivated alongside the cereals and further analysis may provide an opportunity to explore how important this resource was to the population.

As there were only two hazelnut shells there is little further information, they can provide in contributing to a greater understanding of the role of wild resources at this site.

The weeds grow in a range of habitats including arable fields, waste ground and damp environments. Some of these species including fat hen, wild radish and dock are edible but as these were largely recovered alongside the crop processing waste, they are more likely to represent contaminants of the cereal rather than actual food debris. Further analysis of the diversity of the weed assemblage and the spatial deposition of these finds may contribute additional information to understanding the development of the surrounding landscape.

The charcoal

The tree species are all native to Britain and would have grown in the surrounding landscape (Stace 2010, Linford 2009). Both alder and willow are typically found in damp habitats. Hazel, ash, cherry and elm usually

favour scrub or more open woods, whereas oak is adaptable to a variety of growing conditions. The charcoal assemblage has accumulated from the disposal and reworking of fuel debris within these features alongside other refuse. There is no evidence that any wooden structural elements or artefacts were burnt in situ or disposed of on site. The small size of the charcoal assemblage means that its potential for answering further research questions concerning the role of woodland is limited.

The shellfish

The only species which could be identified was oyster and this was a common find in the waters surrounding Britain during this period. This species was exploited throughout the Roman period as a food resource. The small size and poor preservation of the shellfish assemblage prohibits any in depth study of how important this resource may have been to this community.

Recommended further work

The ecofact assemblage has been fully assessed and further species identifications are not required. If material is needed for radiocarbon dating, then the cereal caryopses, lentils/peas, hazelnut shell along with the non-oak charcoal species are all suitable. Where possible oak should be avoided for dating as it is a slow growing species which can prove unreliable.

The small size of the charcoal and shellfish assemblage means neither has more to offer in understanding the role of woodland or the exploitation of marine resources at this site. Further work is not required for either of these find groups. In contrast further analysis of the macroplant assemblage will provide greater understanding of the type of crop husbandry practised, the dietary role of the crops, their economic importance and their spatial deposition within the excavated area. To complete this analysis the following recommendations are listed below.

- The macroplant results from Land at Bicker Fen should be compared to other similar sites in this area of a similar date.
- A full analysis report exploring the agricultural husbandry practised, spatial deposition of the assemblage, the dietary role of the plant resources and the economic status of this site should be produced.
- Completion of this analysis report.

The ecofacts are stored in a stable and dry condition at AOC Archaeology. Once all work is completed the macroplant, charcoal and shellfish are recommended for discard.

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Macroplant Data

Sample			**15**	**20**	**14**	**37**	**31**	**1**	**2**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**16**	**17**	**19**	**27**	**30**	**28**	**29**	**35**	**21**	**23**
Feature			**D 54004**	**D 54007**	**Void**	**Dep 54009**	**Dep 54019**	**L/P 55004**	**L/P 55004**	**L/P 55004**	**L/P 55004**	**L/P 55004**	**Deposit**	**Pit 55012**	**Pit 55017**	**Salturn 68004**	**Pit 74004**	**Pit 74004**	**D 74009**	**D 74009**	**G 76004**	**G 76004**
Context			**54014**	**54017**	**54013**	**54031**	**54020**	**55007**	**55009**	**55009**	**55007**	**55006**	**55009**	**55013**	**55016**	**68005**	**74006**	**74007**	**74010**	**74011**	**76005**	**76007**
Sample Vol (l)			**20**	**40**	**10**	**3**	**40**	**30**	**20**	**20**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**20**	**40**	**10**	**40**	**20**	**10**	**20**	**10**
% Analysed			**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Species	**Name**	**Part**																				
Crops																						
Avena strigosa L.	Wild oat	Caryopsis/es															3	2				
Avena sp.	Oat	Caryopsis/es		2			2	7							16		7	5				
Hordeum vulgare L.	Hulled barley	Caryopsis/es													4			2				
Hordeum sp.	Barley	Caryopsis/es					1		2								1	1				
T. aestivum/compactum L.	Bread/club wheat	Caryopsis/es				1	5		3						11		1	2				
T. spelta	Spelt	Spikelet(s)															5	5				
T. spelta	Spelt	Caryopsis/es													>100		>100	>100				
T. spelta	Spelt	Fork(s)						1	4	1					2		>100	>100				
T. spelta	Spelt	Glume(s)	4	23		16	7	16	19	10		1	7		20		>500	>500		1		
T. dicoccum/spelta L.	Emmer/spelt	Caryopsis/es	1	17			8	6	15	4	1		1		>500		>500	>500	2		1	
T. dicoccum/spelta L.	Emmer/spelt	Glume(s)	2	6		29	7	7	7	12		2	49		13		>500	>500	2	1		3
Triticum sp.	Wheat	Caryopsis/es	5	10	2	2	33	25	48	2		5	14		>100	3	>100	>100				2
Cerealia sp.	Cereal	Caryopsis/es	9	19	5	5	31	28	35	6	1	4	6		>100	1	>100	>100				1
Cerealia sp.	Cereal	Chaff frag(s)					1											1				
Cerealia sp.	Cereal	Straw frag(s)				6			2				2					1				
Cerealia sp.	Cereal	Culm node(s)																2				
Vegetables																						
Lathyrus/Pisum sp.	Lentil/pea	Seed(s)					5						4				4	9				
Vicia sp.	Vetch	Seed(s)	5	4		4	26	12	2	5		8			2		1	5				
Nuts																						
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel	Nutshell frag(s)					2															
Weeds																						

Asteraceae sp.	Daisy	Achene(s)						2														
Carduus/Cirsium sp.	Thistle	Achene(s)							3						2							
Carex sp.	Sedge	Nutlet(s)					2								3			1				
Chenopodium album L.	Fat hen	Seed(s)							6	2		4			>50		>50	>50				
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoot	Seed(s)		5		4							4		>50		>50	>50				
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) Á.Löve	Black bindweed	Achene(s)	1				1															
Galeopsis sp.	Hemp-nettle	Nutlet(s)		1																		
Galium sp.	Bedstraw	Nutlet(s)					1		2			1	2		1							
Persicaria sp.	Knotweeds	Achene(s)		2																		
Plantago sp.	Plantain	Seed(s)				1																
Poaceae sp.	Grass	Caryopsis/es				1	1						5		20			1				
Raphanus raphanistrum L.	Wild radish	Seed(s)																>50				
Rumex longifolius DC.	Northern dock	Achene(s)						3							2							
Rumex sp.	Dock	Achene(s)						1														
Unknown	Indet	Achene/nutlet/seed	1	1			1	1	3				4	1								

Charcoal Species Data

Sample	Feature	Context	Species	Name	Frag	RW	Weight
15	Ditch 54004	54014	*Quercus* sp.	Oak	4	1	4
1	Linear/pit 55004	55007	*Corylus avellana* L.	Hazel		1	
1	Linear/pit 55004	55007	*Prunus* sp.	Cherry	2		
1	Linear/pit 55004	55007	*Quercus* sp.	Oak	1		
1	Linear/pit 55004	55007	*Salix* sp.	Willow	6		2.2
2	Linear/pit 55004	55009	*Salix* sp.	Willow	2		0.1
27	Salturn 68004	68005	*Alnus glutinosa* L.	Alder	5		2.7
28	Pit 74004	74007	*Fraxinus* sp.	Ash	9		
28	Pit 74004	74007	*Ulmus* sp.	Elm	1		2.1
30	Pit 74004	74006	*Corylus avellana* L.	Hazel		2	
30	Pit 74004	74006	*Fraxinus* sp.	Ash	3		1.9

Key: Frag=fragment, RW=roundwood, weight recorded in grams

Shell Data

Sample	Feature	Context	Species	Name	Frag	Pres	Weight
14	Void	54013	Unknown	Unknown	5	Poor	0.2
19	Pit 55017	55016	Unknown	Unknown	1	Poor	0.01
20	D 54007	54017	*Ostrea edulis* L.	Native oyster	18	Poor	3.4
31	Dep 54019	54020	Unknown	Unknown	13	Poor	0.3

Conservation

Emma Griffiths

Summary

A small assemblage of finds was brought to AOC Archaeology for assessment and stabilisation in November 2024, following the archaeological evaluation of land at Bicker Fen, in Boston/ South Holland, Lincolnshire. This assemblage consisted of four ferrous metal objects and fragments recovered from three separate contexts within three trenches, and two industrial finds: a single amorphous lump of fuel-ash slag, and a natural white quartzite pebble. Small fragments of naturally occurring coal were also recovered. Following assessment by AOC's in-house finds specialists, it was recommended that all but one of the ferrous metal finds be retained; the iron washer (Bulk 75003) was recommended for discard, as were the industrial finds.

This report discusses the stabilisation of those finds recommended for retention.

Work Requested

The following work was requested:

- X-radiography analysis to aid in identification
- Assessment (CifA Type 1 report)
- Stabilisation of retained finds
- Conservation report

Description

Iron finds

The ferrous metal finds to be retained include a probable Romano-British brooch (Bulk 54001), which has a distinct C-shaped bow, V-shaped head, and possible facetted face; a separate horizontal bar is present within the broken head, as well as possible remnants of a catch plate at the base of the bow. Also recommended for retention is the bevelled tip of a likely tool (<16>), similar to a small mortice chisel used for woodworking, and a small non-classifiable fragment (Bulk 55009), both of which are also believed to be Romano-British (Morrison, 2024).

Condition

Iron finds

The iron finds are mostly obscured by encrusted earth and corrosion products, with no signs of active corrosion on the vast majority of the finds.

Due to absence of active corrosion, these finds were passively stabilised through storage in a desiccated environment and remain in the same condition.

The brooch (Bulk 54001) however had undergone spalling prior to conservation, and several sections had fragmented off revealing bright spots of possible active corrosion beneath the encrusted earth layers.

Following conservation, the spalled sections of the brooch has been readhered, and the active corrosion removed. The encrusted earth layers have also been significantly reduced.

Conservation Summary

The following treatments were carried out to stabilise the finds. Those finds that have undergone conservation intervention were photographed before and after conservation treatment; finds that received no intervention were not photographed.

Iron Brooch (Bulk 54001)

- *Spalled areas reattached using 20%w/v Paraloid B-72 in acetone.*
- *Areas of active corrosion and surface soiling reduced using air-abrasive unit with 53-micron aluminium oxide powder.*
- *Object repacked to support C-shaped bow, and further stabilised through storage in a desiccated environment.*

Remaining Iron finds

- *Passively stabilised through storage in desiccated environment.*

Handling Requirements

The following handling requirements apply at all times:

- Clean nitrile gloves should always be worn for object handling to prevent contaminating objects surface
- No food or drink should be consumed around the objects.
- Objects should be examined on a smooth padded surface and should be kept in the individual packaging provided when not being examined as the objects are not individually marked.

Storage Requirements

Metal is susceptible to rapid corrosion in the presence of air and moisture. Keep metal objects in an airtight container with silica gel, and an indicator strip. If the RH goes above 40% replace the silica gel with a dry batch. Any alteration in the surface of the object – splits, cracks or beads of moisture/corrosion should be reported to a conservator. Temperature should stay at 15 – 21°C and within ±3°C/day.

References

Morrison A. (2024). Bicker Fen Metals and Industrial Materials

Appendix I: X-ray Catalogue

AOC 34811; Bicker Fen; X-radiograph Catalogue							
X-ray plate	**KeV**	**Mins**	**Find no. Δ**	**Sample no. ◊**	**Context no. ()**	**Material**	**Description**
1a	75	3			75003	Fe	Object
1b	90	3			75003	Fe	Object
1c	40	3		16	55009	Fe	Object
1d	50	3		16	55009	Fe	Object
1d	50	3			55009	Fe	Object
1e	65	3			55009	Fe	Brooch
1e	65	3			54001	Fe	Brooch
1f	75	3			54001	Fe	Brooch
1g	75	3			54001	Fe	Brooch

Appendix II: List of Finds for Conservation

SF number	Context	Material	Description
-	54001	Fe	Brooch

Appendix C: OASIS

OASIS ID (UID)	aocarcha1-520046
Project Name	Evaluation at Bicker Fen Solar Farm
Sitename	Bicker Fen Solar Farm
Sitecode	LCNCC : 2023.2
Project Identifier(s)	34811
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	AOC Archaeology Group
Project Dates	26-Nov-2023 - 01-Jul-2024
Location	**Bicker Fen Solar Farm** NGR: TF 20641 38018 LL: 52.92602912966907, -0.206834268195544 12 Fig: 520641,338018
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Lincolnshire Local Authority District: Boston Parish: Bicker
Project Methodology	In total, 125 trenches were excavated during the evaluation, all measuring 50m by 1.80m. Three trenches (Trenches 26, 27 and 99) were removed from the scope of works; Trench 99 could not be excavated due to the presence of agricultural materials; Trenches 26 and 27 could not be excavated due to the presence of woodland.
Project Results	The subsurface archaeological remains within Fields 1-5 and 7 were minimal and are of limited significance. Within Fields 6 and 8, three areas have been defined as isolated archaeological activity dating to the 2nd – 3rd century AD; ditches and a pit within Trenches 54 and 55; potential evidence of salterns within Trench 68; and further ditches and pits within Trenches 74 and 76. Within Fields 9 and 10 there was one modern pit and one modern ditch, whilst six other ditches were undated, and are likely to represent drainage channels in the wet fenlands; whether this drainage was taking place also within the 2nd-3rd century remains enigmatic. Roddons were identified in all fields, being dried upriver courses. The location of ditches recorded across the site bore no relation to the location of the

	roddons. The roddon deposits recorded are believed to be part of the natural fenland environment featuring meandering channels with dry silts as high ground, with lower areas caused by shrinkage of wet fenland deposits outside of the former streams, most likely exacerbated by the construction of the Hammond Beck.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation AGR Solar 2 Limited
HER	Lincolnshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	C Edwards, R Murray
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Appendix D: Figures

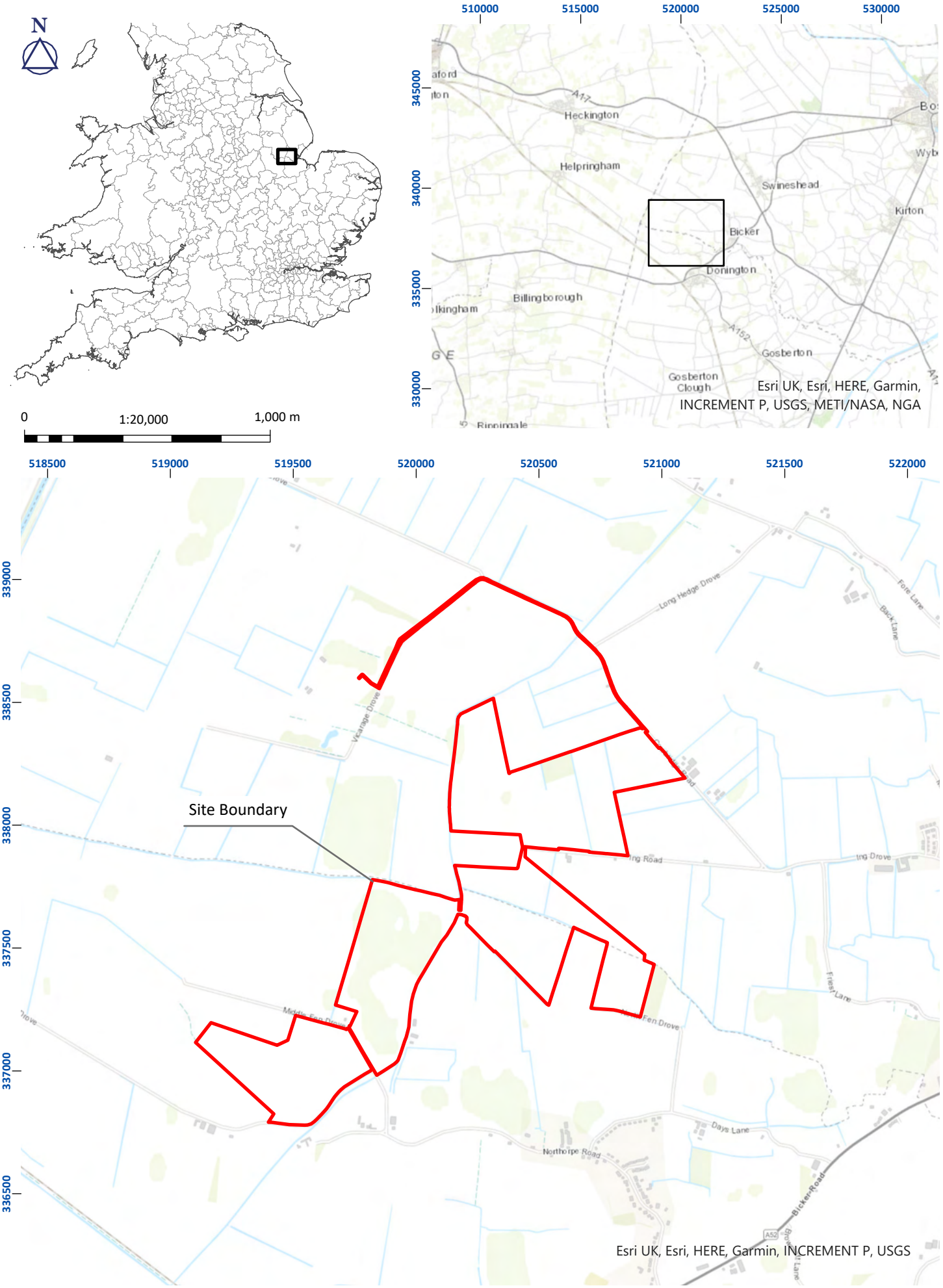


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/34811/REP/01/01