

An Iron Age and Romano-British Enclosure System at Normanton le Heath, Leicestershire

by Reuben Thorpe and Josephine Sharman with Patrick Clay.

A system of enclosures and droveways, known from aerial reconnaissance of the cropmarks, was investigated in advance of proposed opencast mining. This revealed a complex multi-phase settlement showing changing patterns of site and land organisation during the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods.

Introduction

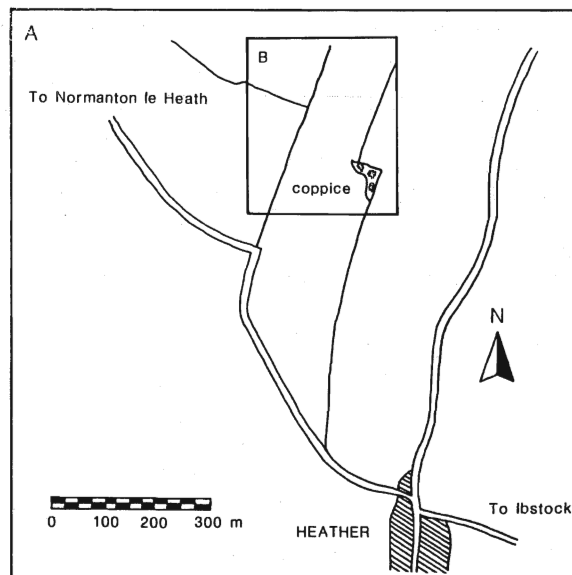
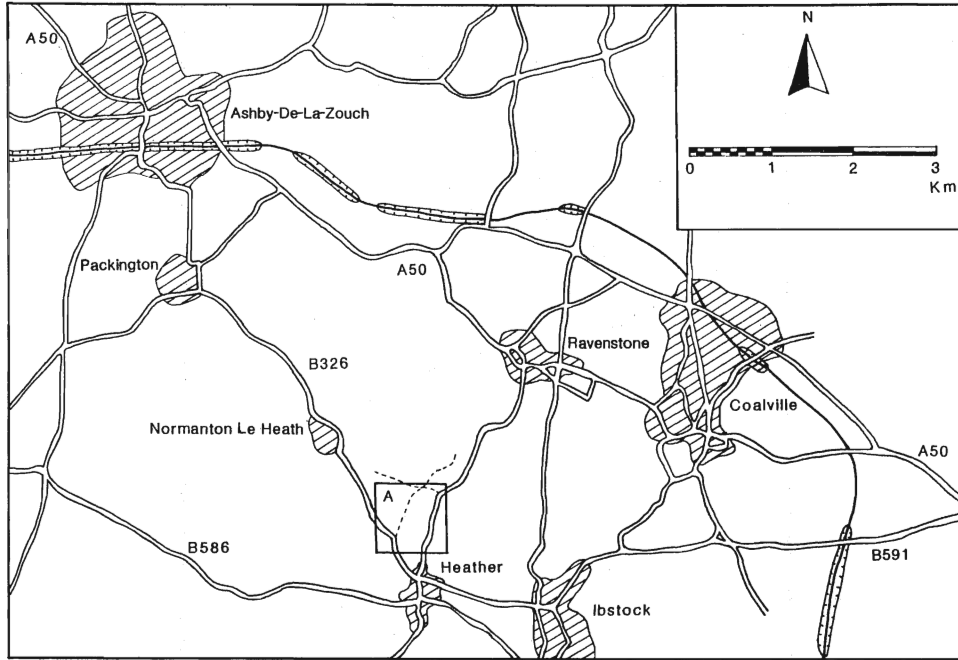
An Iron Age cropmark site (SK 389 118), to the east of the village of Normanton le Heath and immediately north-west of the village of Heather, was excavated by Leicestershire Archaeological Unit between 20th August and 31st December, 1990, in response to proposed development of the site by the British Coal Corporation Opencast Executive. The site, 22.5 km (14 miles) north-west of Leicester, is in a part of the county which has not previously been subject to much archaeological excavation, and thus presented an opportunity to make a significant addition to knowledge of prehistory in north-west Leicestershire (illus.1). Various discoveries made on the site by farmers over the past twenty years, include a bronze axe found lying on the field surface, identified as a Middle Bronze Age 'palstave' dating to c.1400 B.C., and a fragment of an Iron Age 'beehive' quern.

Geology and topography

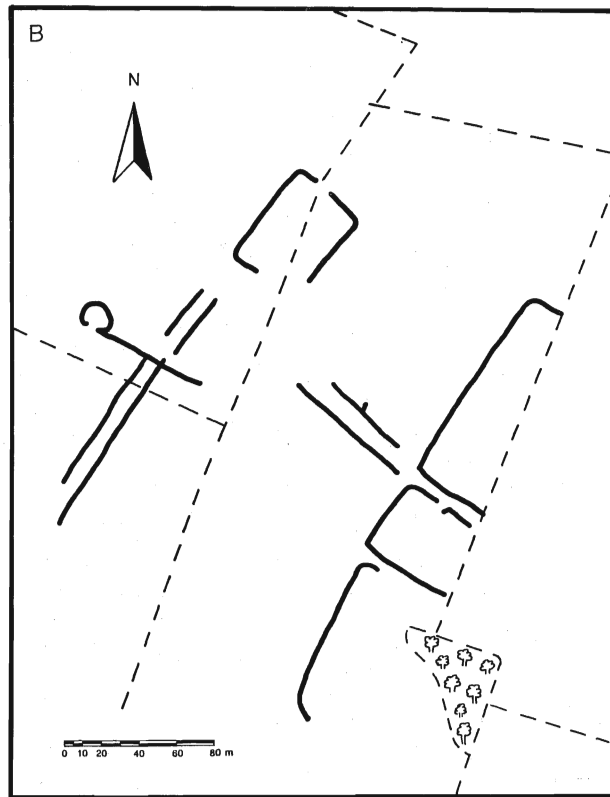
The site is on an area of high ground, at 139m O.D., and the local geology is of boulder clay, with areas of sand and gravel, deposited by glacial drift. There are no springs or streams close to the site; the nearest brook is almost half a mile away. However, at present there are two ponds in Field 3, so potentially, there may have been a pond during the Iron Age, which would have been adequate for watering stock, at least.

The fieldwork survey

Aerial photographs taken by James Pickering in 1984 (Pickering and Hartley, 1985 72.4) show a complex series of rectangular cropmark enclosures and associated double ditched linear features, indicating a possible Iron Age settlement with droveways (illus.2). In total, the Normanton cropmarks spanned an area of more than 38 ha. The British Coal Corporation sponsored the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team to carry out an archaeological assessment of the area of a proposed new opencast coal working. In the course of this, the site was fieldwalked, between September and December 1989, using the traverse and stint method (Liddle, 1985).



1. Location Plan: Heather and Normanton le Heath Area.



2. Cropmarks of enclosures.

The traverses covered a 10% sample of the walked fields. A small, but high quality flint scatter was discovered at the centre of the cropmark site (see below p.50). This consisted of four small scrapers, probably of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date, a plano-convex flint knife and a barbed and tanged arrowhead, suggesting a possible phase of activity during the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period (c.2000 B.C.). Plano-convex knives are often found in burials of the period, but are serviceable tools and do also occur on settlement sites. Flint flakes were found over the whole of the south of the site and the area of definite flint scatter roughly coincides with that of the cropmarks. The flint is, however, likely to predate the cropmarks by some 1500 or 2000 years. Only a quern fragment from the south-west of the site is likely to be of the same period.

The fieldwalking survey was directed by Peter Liddle and the finds are deposited with Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (Acc. No. A60.1989).

Aims

Assessment of the fieldwork survey indicated the necessity for excavation to ascertain the nature of surviving archaeological deposits. The aims of the excavation were multiple:-

- i) to establish the form, function and chronology of any archaeological activity.
- ii) to recognise and investigate any areas of occupation.
- iii) to provide information on the economy and environment of the site.

Methods

The fieldwork was conducted in two stages; an evaluation to be followed immediately by full scale excavation. Extensive trial trenches, 1.4m wide, were opened, by a JCB 3C with a ditching bucket, at right angles to the cropmark ditches, to the level of the subsoil. The trenches were then cleaned by hand, using draw hoes and trowels. However, at the end of a long, hot summer, the dried out subsoil combined with the effects of deep ploughing rendered the archaeology almost invisible. The disturbed subsoil also needed to be removed by the JCB, and eventually the strategy was developed of making some trenches a double bucket width. Although this made progress slower, in compensation, the linear features stood out more clearly. Trenches on the two fields to the west of the site had to be reinstated within three weeks of the start of the evaluation. In contrast, on the main part of the site, trenches of archaeological interest were immediately opened out for full scale excavation of selected areas (illus.3). In total, approximately 5,000 sq.m. were machined over a period of seven weeks. The difficulty of machining to the right level, coupled with the timescale of the excavation, meant that some trenches could not be fully investigated.

The trenches in Fields 1 and 2 were numbered consecutively 1-16. In Field 3 areas 3-5 were opened to provide larger areas for examination, with immediately adjoining trenches numbered 3/1,3/2,4/1, etc. The trial trenches in Fields 3 and 4 were identified by letters A-I.

The geology of the site made it very difficult to distinguish between the naturally derived ditch fills and the surrounding natural subsoil. Area 3, the first open area to be investigated, was reduced 0.1m by hand, using a system of grid squares dug in spits, before the underlying archaeology became apparent. Similarly, a deep build up of soil in the north-east of Area 3/1, was taken down in metre grid squares, by 0.1m spits.

Once features were clearly defined, they were photographed and planned before and after excavation. Sections were drawn and photographed, and all major contexts were sampled for environmental analysis. Pits and post holes were half sectioned, usually along a north-south axis with the western half being removed, or quarter sectioned with the north-west and south-east quadrants being removed. Ditches were sectioned at right angles to their axes. All small finds, including flints, were three dimensionally recorded. The prepared archive and finds are deposited with Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (Acc. No. A159. 1990). The excavation was supervised by Reuben Thorpe and Russell Trimble, under the general direction and co-ordination of Josephine Sharman. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

Evaluation of Fields 1 and 2 (illus.3)

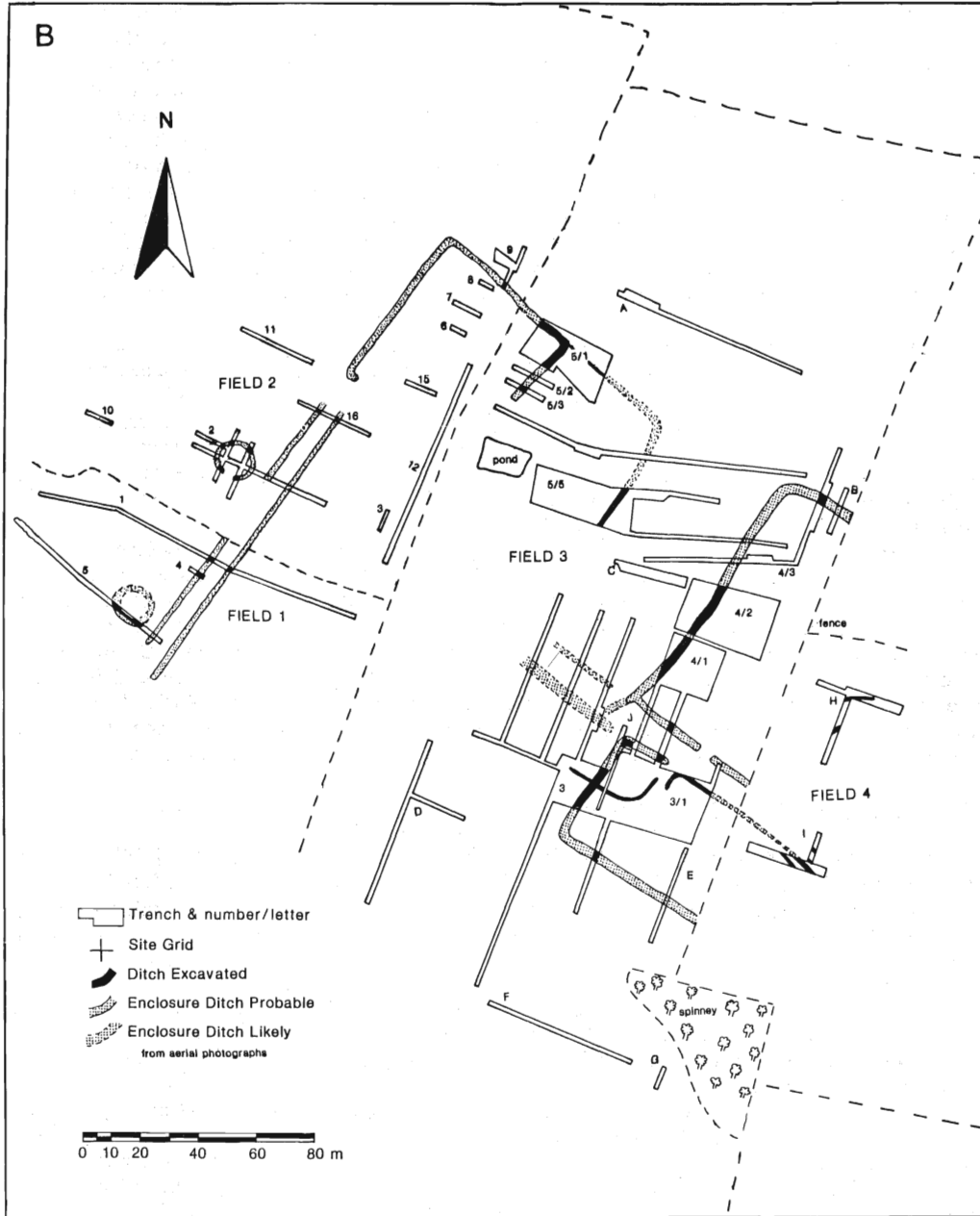
Sixteen trenches were opened in Fields 1 and 2 to evaluate the archaeological potential of the area. Features were located in seven trenches and are described below. Any interpretation, however, remains tentative pending further open area excavation.

Field 1

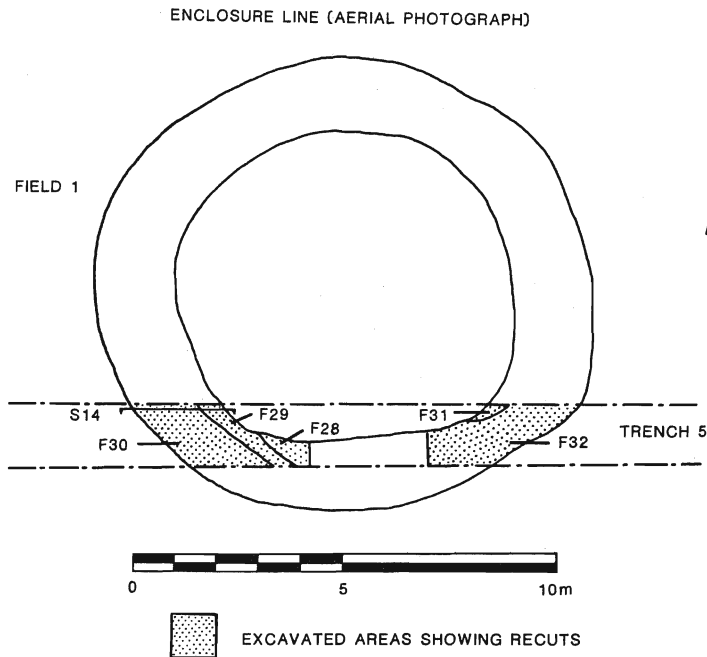
In Trench 5, F31 a relatively shallow, U-shaped ditch contained homogenous brown fill of silty sand with no finds. Several recuts of this ditch were identified (F28-30,F32; see illus.4 and 5) Iron Age pottery was recovered from F32. From aerial photographs, these features appear to form part of an annular or penannular ditch.

A double ditched linear feature on a north-south alignment showed as a clear cropmark on aerial photographs of Field 1. Both ditches were located in Trench 1. The eastern ditch, F5, was wide and shallow, (0.41m deep) with a mixed and weathered fill of brown, sandy silt and showed evidence of one recut to the west. No finds were recovered from either feature. Six metres to the west of F5, the other component of the double ditch, F2 was only 0.33m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained a fill of brown sandy silt with no dating evidence. This ditch was also examined in Trench 4; in both trenches it was cut by a modern sub-rectangular pit.

Another north-south aligned ditch, F26, was discovered 40m to the west of F2 in Trench 1. F26 was a flat bottomed ditch, 0.59m deep and 1.17m wide, with evidence of recutting to the



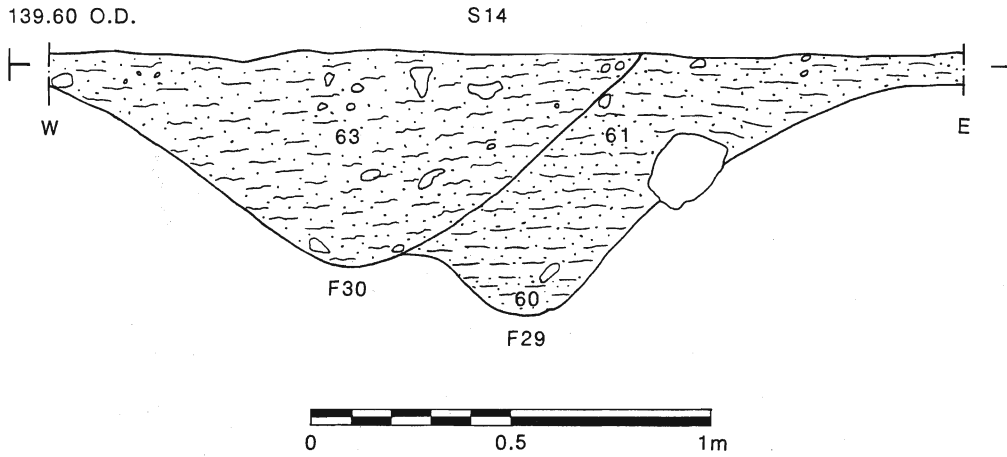
3. Excavated Area in relation to cropmarks.



4. Circular enclosure located in Field 1, Trench 5.

west. It contained some sherds of Iron Age pottery. Also in Trench 1, F7, a shallow ditch on a south-east to north-west axis was uncovered 22m east of F5. The shallow cut, 0.75m across and 0.2m deep, contained a fill of yellowish-brown sandy silt weathered from the sides. There was no pottery from this feature. Nine metres to the east of F7, there was a possible post hole F4; the steep-sided, but irregular cut contained a possible partial clay lining, and a fill of brown sandy silt, with no finds. Forty metres north of F5, in Trench 5, a second post hole was located with an elongated cut probably showing that the post had been deliberately removed. The fill of greyish-brown sandy silt contained no dating evidence.

At the western end of Trenches 1 and 5, and in Trench 10 in Field 2, another ditch was uncovered, F21 which contained post-medieval pottery and appeared to have been a relatively recent field boundary. In Trench 5, 20m to the east of F21, there was a shallow ditch, F14, 1m wide, but only 0.05m deep, filled with brown sandy silt. This was cut by F16, a shallow gully, 0.4m wide and 0.03m deep with a fill of grey-brown loam. Immediately adjacent to these, F15, another shallow gully followed the same roughly north-south alignment. All three of these features were insubstantial, and appeared to butt-end before coming to the south side of the trench. They contained no dating evidence. Five metres to the south-east of F14, a more substantial ditch crossed Trench 5 at a tangent, on a roughly east-west axis. F18 was a steep-sided ditch, 0.65m across and 0.8m deep, filled with a naturally derived dark brown sandy loam. No finds were recovered from F18. 0.22m to the east of the ditch, there was a post hole 0.2m across, with steep sides and a flat base.



5. Section S14 through F29/30 in Field 1, Trench 5.

Field 2

Ten trenches were opened in Field 2. The linear double ditches F2 and F5 were investigated again in Trench 16, and located, but not excavated, in Trench 2.

The eastern ditch (F215) was 1.4m wide, with steeply sloping sides, and 0.65m deep, with a slightly rounded base. The brown sandy fill contained no finds and again showed evidence of having been re-cut. The ditch was sealed by a cobbled track 2.5m across, consisting of tightly compacted pebbles and stones. The profile of the band of cobbles was slightly hollow, dipping 0.21m at the centre and filled with yellowish-brown sandy loam.

As in Field 1, the western component of the double ditch (F214) was less substantial, with a shallow V-shaped profile, 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep, containing a fill of greyish-brown sandy silt. The two ditches were 8m apart, while a narrow V-shaped gully, 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep, with a fill of greyish-brown sandy silt, was located 0.8m to the west.

In Trench 12, there was a shallow sub-rectangular pit, F207, with several ashy layers, indicating that it was a hearth, but containing no dating evidence. F209, an enclosure ditch, visible as a cropmark, on a north-west to south-east alignment was investigated in Trench 9. The section revealed a ditch 1m deep and 2.5m wide, with steep sides and a rounded base filled with greyish-brown sandy silts.

Trench 2 was opened with the aim of revealing a circular feature shown as a cropmark on the aerial photograph. This proved to be a penannular ditch through which five sections were investigated. The width of the ditch varied between 0.66m and 1.50m and the depth between 0.59m and 0.90m. The fills consisted of brown sandy silts. One section to the south-east contained a primary backfill of burnt and heat shattered stones, amongst which were several sherds of Iron Age pottery. The most easterly section was heavily truncated to the north by a modern field drain; there was no evidence of the feature beyond the field drain, suggesting it may have truncated the butt-end of the ditch. On the north-east side of the ditch, traces of an earlier cut survived with a steep-sided narrow slot on the inside, which was probably a palisade slot.

Discussion of Fields 1 and 2

Fields 1 and 2 were available for trial excavation during a scant three week period, including backfilling. Weather conditions were adverse and the subsoil was completely dried out. Despite these factors, it became evident that there was substantial archaeological survival on both fields, including many features that had not shown as cropmarks.

The double ditched linear feature was investigated in each field. No surface survived between the ditches to confirm that it was a droveway. However, the section of the more substantial eastern ditch, which was investigated in Trench 16, was sealed by a hard-packed concave cobbled surface, 2.5m wide, which may be evidence of a metalled droveway. No evidence for the cobbled road or path came to light in Trench 1, but the ditch proved to be more shallow than in Trench 16, so it is possible that the cobbles had been ploughed out.

Another north-south aligned ditch F26, 40m west of the double ditch and containing Iron Age pottery, may represent the western side of the enclosure of which F2 was the eastern side.

F32, the substantial ditch arc in Trench 5, may represent an inturn of the westernmost double ditch to form an enclosure, similar perhaps, to the inturn of the phase 2 enclosure, F938, on Area 3/1 (illus.6). The ditch was too substantial, at 1.5m wide, to be an eaves-drip gully, and the cropmark was fairly indistinct, although a larger circular ditch remains a possibility.

In Trench 2, a penannular gully, F22, was investigated. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from one section, and it may be that this was an eaves-drip gully, or bedding trench of an Iron Age building with an opening to the east. The earliest phase of the gully incorporated a possible palisade slot.

A north-west to south-east aligned enclosure ditch F209, was investigated in Trench 9. This same ditch was further investigated in Field 3, and under better, damper weather conditions was revealed to have accommodated a palisade (see below). Such a substantial boundary may have been a protective enclosure for dwellings.

Apart from the modern boundary ditch, F21, to the west of the site, the other features investigated in Fields 1 and 2 were impossible to date or match to cropmarks. F18 may represent a modern boundary or an ancient enclosure ditch.

The Excavation

Excavation of the eastern area of cropmarks (Field 3) revealed seven phases of activity. The excavation was divided into three main areas (3-5) with sub-divisions e.g. 4/1, 4/2 (See illus.3).

Phase 1 Initial enclosures and trackway (illus.6,9,20)

Area 3

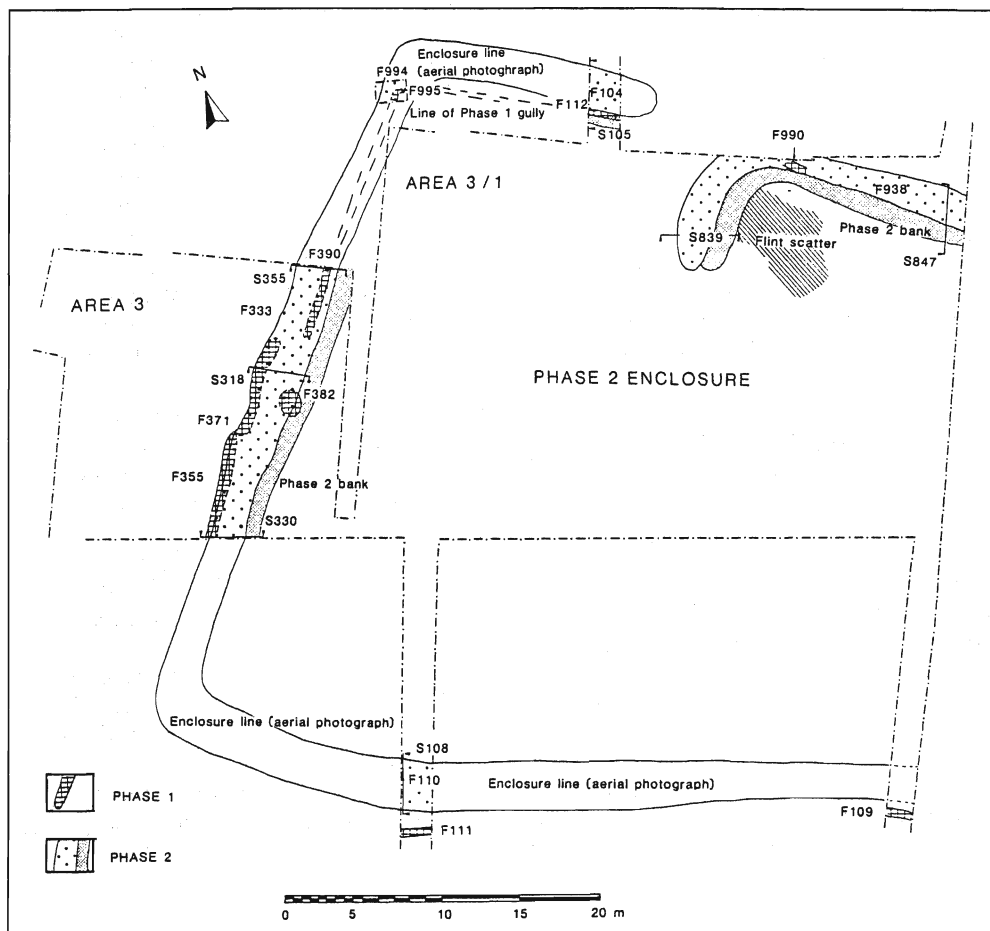
Pit	F382
Gullies	F328 F355, F390, F371, F995, F112, F111, F109, F990 (illus.6)
Buried soil(?)	[1192]

Area 5

Gullies	F511, F501, F502 (illus.9)
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On the east side of area 3, an oval shaped pit, F382, at its widest 1.5m across and 0.60m deep with a flat base, had been cut by Phase 2, 3 and 6 activity. The fill was composed of sandy silts deriving from the natural subsoil.

Other activity in this phase consisted of a number of shallow ditches and gullies, the discontinuous alignments of which anticipate the phase 2 enclosure ditch (illus.6).

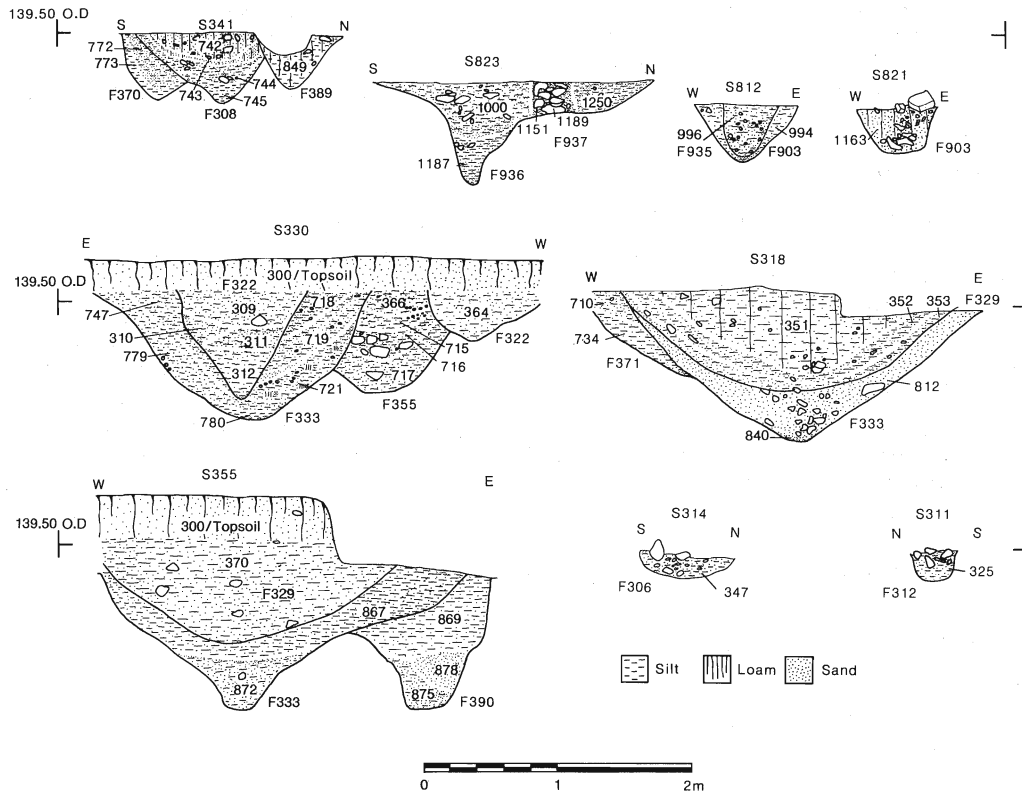


6. Phases 1 and 2 in Areas 3 and 3/1.

In the west, extending from the southern edge of excavation of area 3, ran an interrupted gully line, comprising F355, F371 and F390. The southernmost of these, F355, (illus.7) had a steep U-shaped profile approximately 1m wide and 0.80m deep running north-east for 6.5m. The fills comprised a mixture of yellow-brown silty sands and sandy silts; a primary silting deposit, 717, at the base, was sealed by 716, a yellow-brown layer, which contained a large amount of waterworn stone, perhaps suggesting deliberate backfilling.

Directly to the north, F371 continued on the same axis but was separate from F355. Running north-east for 6.00m, F371 was 0.50m deep, with a markedly different shallow U-shaped profile, (illus.10). Similarly the nature of the fills differed from those of F355, derived solely from natural weathering and silting. The most northern extent of F371 was difficult to establish due to the intrusion of later features which had almost destroyed it.

F390 followed a similar line to both F355 and F371, but differed both in terms of profile and



7. Sections through features in Areas 3 and 3/1.

depth (illus.7). With a depth and width of 1.00m, F390 ran for a length of 4.00m into the northern edge of excavation of area 3. Similar gullies were recorded in trial trenches J(F995) and M (F112), (illus.8); although it cannot be proven that F390, F995, F112, are the same gully, this interpretation is likely to be correct.

Within area 3/1 a short section of gully, F990, was discovered, severely truncated by the phase 2 ditch, F938. The truncated gully ran approximately north-west to south-east for a length of 1.50m before disappearing into the section. Due to the truncation very little survived of F990's fills or profile, but from the evidence remaining the form is most likely to have been that of a flattened 'V'. Within area 3/1 a possible surviving soil 'B' horizon [1192] was located adjacent to F990. Carbonised plant remains of emmer, spelt and possible rye were recovered from this deposit (see below p.57).

In the southernmost trenches adjacent to area 3/1, two shallow gullies were noted, F111 in Trench K and F109 in Trench E. These run just south of, and parallel to, the southern side of the phase 2 enclosure.

To the north-west, a series of possible phase 1 features was detected in area 5/1 (illus.9). These consisted of three gullies, F501, F502, with F511 situated further to the north, all on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. While the relationship between F501 and F502 had been destroyed by the phase 2 ditch F515, it is likely that they were part of the same feature; F501 a shallow V-shaped feature 0.44m wide and 0.25m deep ran for a length of 12m

before its line was obscured by recent tree and root action in the north-west. Further to the east, F502 extended up to and beyond the edge of excavation, its excavated length being 20m. It had a shallower profile; 0.55m wide and 0.23m deep. Gully F511, 3.6m to the north, was less substantial than both F501 and F502, being 0.34m wide and 0.10m deep. However like F501/F502, it was filled with yellowish-brown sandy silts, and was truncated by F515, running in total for an observed length of 9.00m.

Discussion of Phase 1

Evidence from this earliest phase, in areas 3 and 3/1, is of a series of gullies and ditches, forming a disjointed alignment, which may be the antecedent of the phase 2 enclosure (illus.6). A pit, F382, was within the boundary formed by these gullies.

Despite the slot-like profile of gully F390, there is no evidence to suggest posts were contained within it. There was no distortion of the profile to indicate post removal, nor were there signs of deliberate backfill, or of post ghosts or differential filling. It is likely that F390 had been cut, and, like F371, allowed to silt up naturally; the primary silting, 875, being capped by a slumping of the sides, 878, the gully then continuing to infill gradually.

The phase 1 activity in area 5/1 likewise may also represent part of an ill-defined enclosure comprised of discontinuous gully lines, similar to the phase 3 gullies at Gamston, Nottinghamshire (Knight 1991).

Phase 2 Rectangular enclosure system (illus.6,9,11,20)

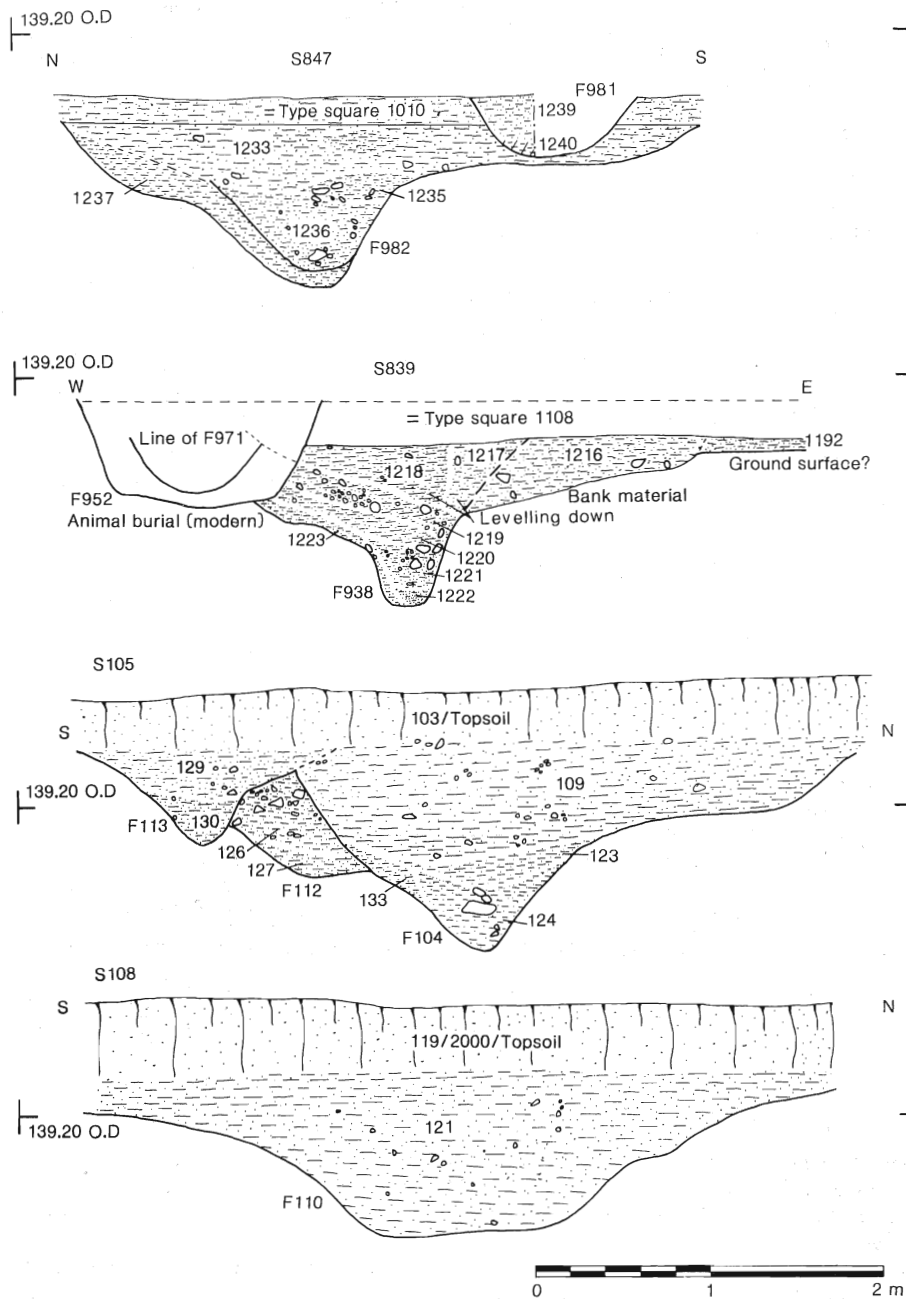
Area 3	
Ditches	F333, F994, F104, F938, F110 (illus.6)
Area 4	
Ditches	F432, F427 (illus.11)
Area 5	
Post holes	F513, F514,
Ditch	F515 (illus.9)

To the west of area 3/1, a large ditch, F333, 1.20m - 1.50m deep, and on average 2.00m wide, crossed area 3 for a length of 17m on a south-west to north-east axis. The profile of F333 varied from a wide V-shape to a more rounded U-shape. This ditch appears to have largely been left open to backfill naturally, although the presence of waterworn stones, in fills 812 and 867, and some clay patching may also suggest a certain amount of levelling down of an associated bank. From sections of F333 (illus.7) it could be seen to cut phase 1 gullies F390, F355, F371 and possible storage pit F382.

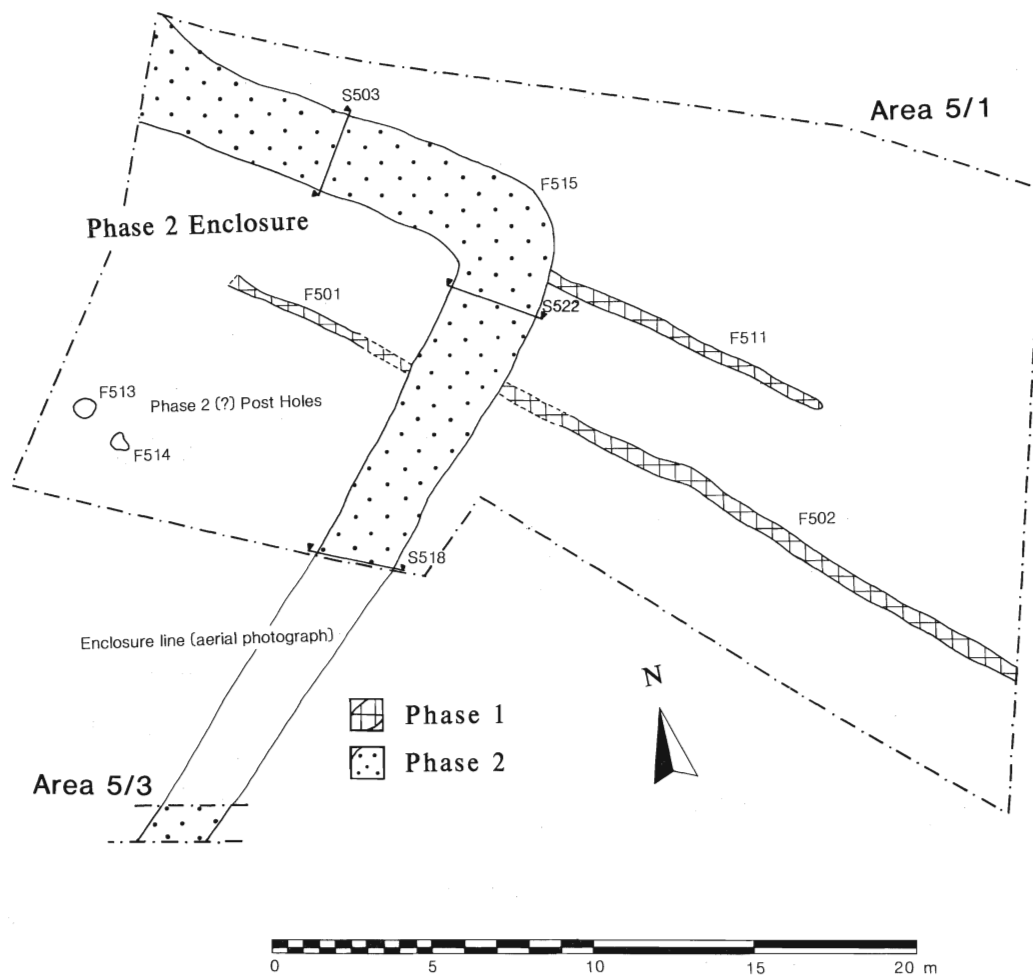
This phase of enclosure was also revealed in the north; part of the return of the phase 2 enclosure ditch was excavated in Trench J, while in Trench M, F104 could be seen to cut F112. Like F333, F104 showed some evidence of a levelling down of an associated bank, with a high stone content in a matrix of friable brown silt.

From aerial photographs it appears that this part of the enclosure ditch terminated to the east of the excavated section of F104. A little further to the east and within area 3/1 the inturn of the enclosure ditch F938 and enclosure entrance were revealed.

Two sections were excavated across F938 (illus.6, plan; illus.8, section 839) revealing an initial silting, followed in phase 3a by deliberate backfilling. F938 was 1.20m - 1.40m deep, with a stepped profile sloping to a rounded V-shaped base, running south-east to north-west for 14m and partially disappearing into the northern edge of excavation of area 3/1 before turning at an acute angle of almost 90° to the south-west for 6.50m. Around this area there was a deep build-up of dark brown soils, partially infilling the upper portion and obscuring the edges of F938. This build-up was excavated in spits. These layers coupled with the fills (1217, 1218) seen in section 839 (illus.8) suggested a levelling-down of an associated bank in phase 3a. The remnants of the associated bank (1216) were observed sealing the possible phase 1 soil horizon, 1192.



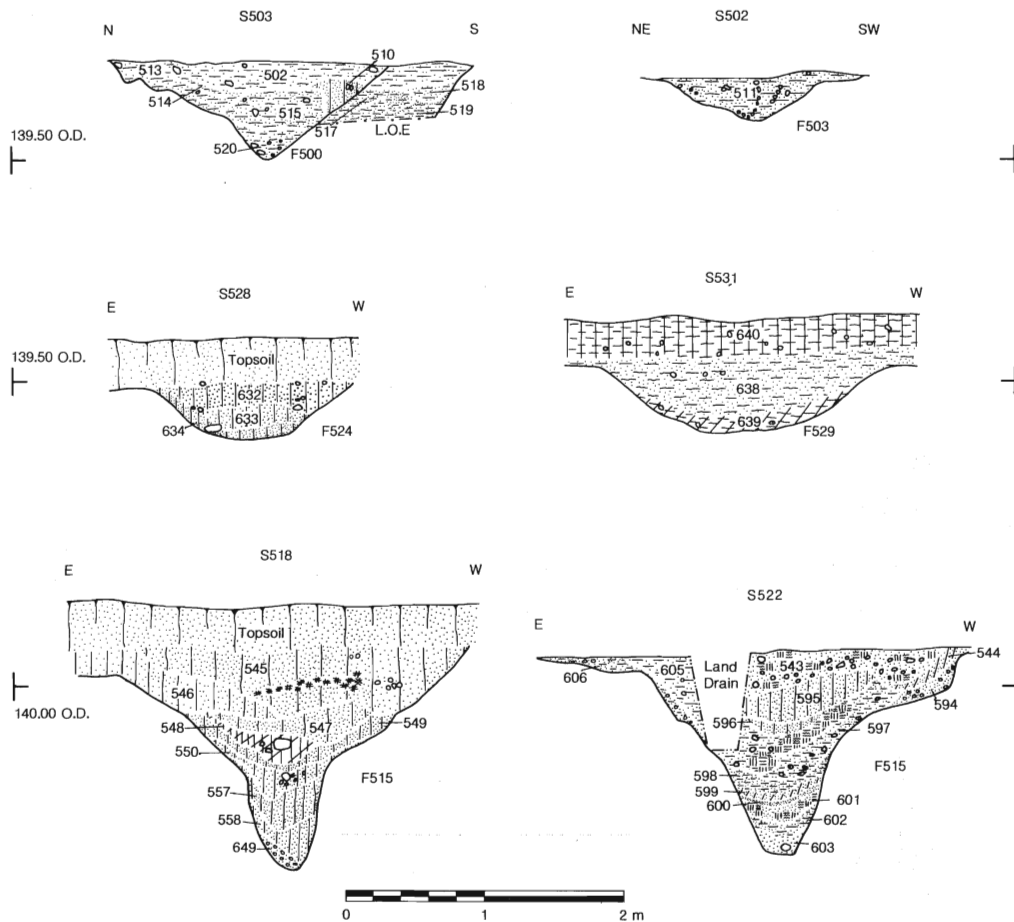
8. Sections through features in Areas 3 and 3/1.



9. Phases 1 and 2 in Areas 5/1 and 5/2.

A section was excavated to confirm the southernmost extent of the enclosure (illus.8, S108). The main enclosure ditch here differed in profile to all the other recorded sections; a shallow, wide U-shaped ditch, F110 was 1.00m deep and 3.40m wide, running west-north-west to east-south-east.

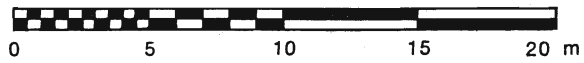
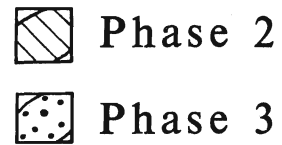
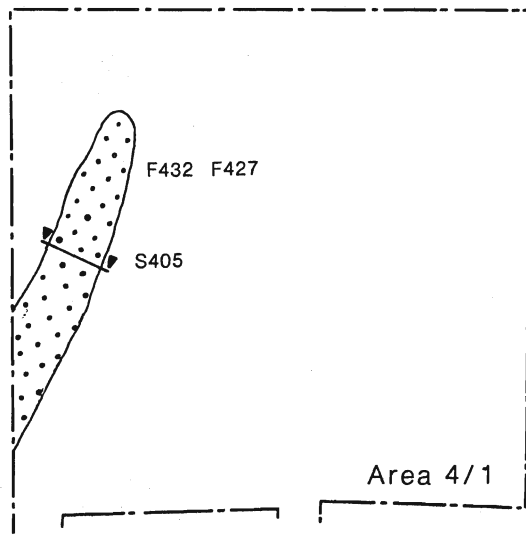
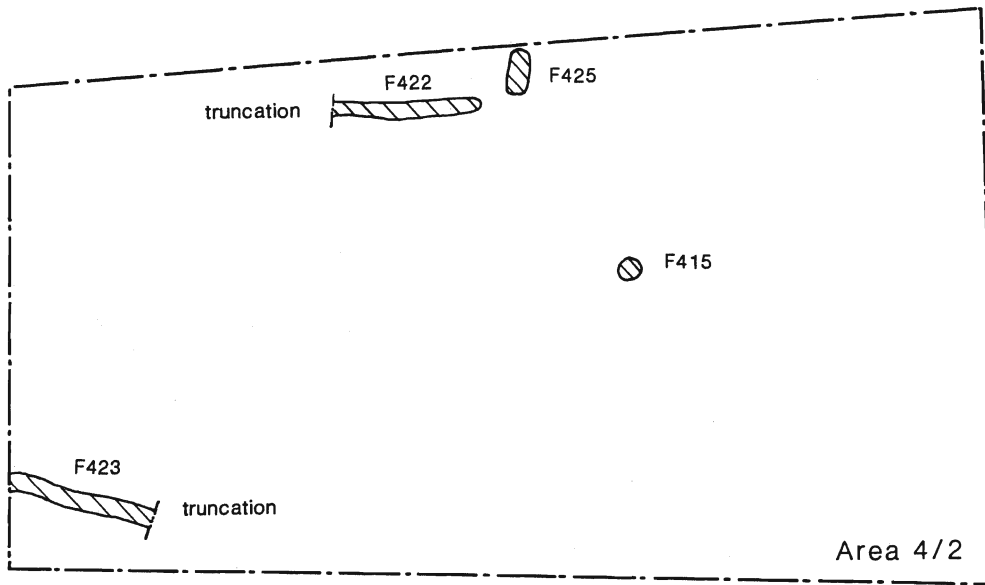
To the north of areas 3 and 3/1, there was some evidence of another phase 2 enclosure. This was only detected in area 4/1 and consisted of the earliest cut, F432, followed by what could have been a later ditch or a clearing event, F427 (illus.11). F432 was a V-shaped ditch with a maximum observed depth of 1.00m and width of 2.10m, filled with brown sandy loams and silty loams, containing a high percentage of fire scorched, waterworn stone, similar to the fills of the



10. Sections through features in Area 5/1.

phase 2 ditches on areas 3 and 3/1. F427, a re-cut of F432, measured 1.30m wide and had a maximum observed depth of 1.00m. Where recorded this feature had a profile varying from a widened V to a shallower stepped version. Heavily truncated by F400 (phase 7), F427 was observed only in sections (illus.12, S405) but like F432 it ran north-east to south-west for at least 13m. The fills of brown silty loam and sandy silts contained waterworn stone and Iron Age pottery.

In areas 5/1 and 5/3 (illus.9), phase 2 was indicated by a large, steep-sided enclosure ditch, F515. Running on a north-west to south-east axis, F515 was observed for a total length of 20m before turning at nearly 90° to run north-east to south-east. From the turn, F515 continued to the baulk, 12m away, but was also observed in Trial Trench 9 in Field 1, approx 20m to the east. Sections through this large ditch (illus.10, S518,S522) revealed a profile with a 45° slope, changing half-way down to a slot 0.40m across and 0.80m deep, while the top of the ditch was



11. Phases 2 and 3 in Area 4/1 an 4/2.

2.60m wide and the total depth was 1.60m. The lower fills consisted of orange silty sands and sandy silts with no finds, while the upper fills of yellow-brown sandy silts contained some Iron Age pottery and weed seeds including heath grass (below p.57).

Discussion of Phase 2

This phase sees the emergence of a well defined series of enclosures. The enclosure in area 3 and 3/1, 60m long by 40m wide, enclosed an area in excess of 2,400 sq.m. Evidence for a substantial bank was located marking a firm departure from phase 1, with shallow gullies being replaced by deeper, more imposing ditches and banks. This trend is also reflected by the evidence from areas 4/1, 5/1 and 5/3. Enclosure ditch F515 forms part of a large rectangular enclosure identified from aerial photographs. This enclosure measured approximately 60m by 60m and would have enclosed an area of 3,600 sq.m. From the profiles of F515 (illus.10), which were uniform along its excavated length, it seems that this large enclosure was palisaded, the slot in the base of the ditch specifically dug to accommodate close fitting timbers. This interpretation is supported by the composition of the primary fills, where silts gradually replaced the timber posts which had rotted *in situ*, while the upper fills show deliberate backfilling and tipping, either to secure the posts, or to infill the slumped ditch prior to phase 3 activity.

Below and mixed into the levels removed by spit digging in Area 3/1, lay a well defined linear scatter of flint, provisionally dated to the Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age, which could be the result of two different depositional events.

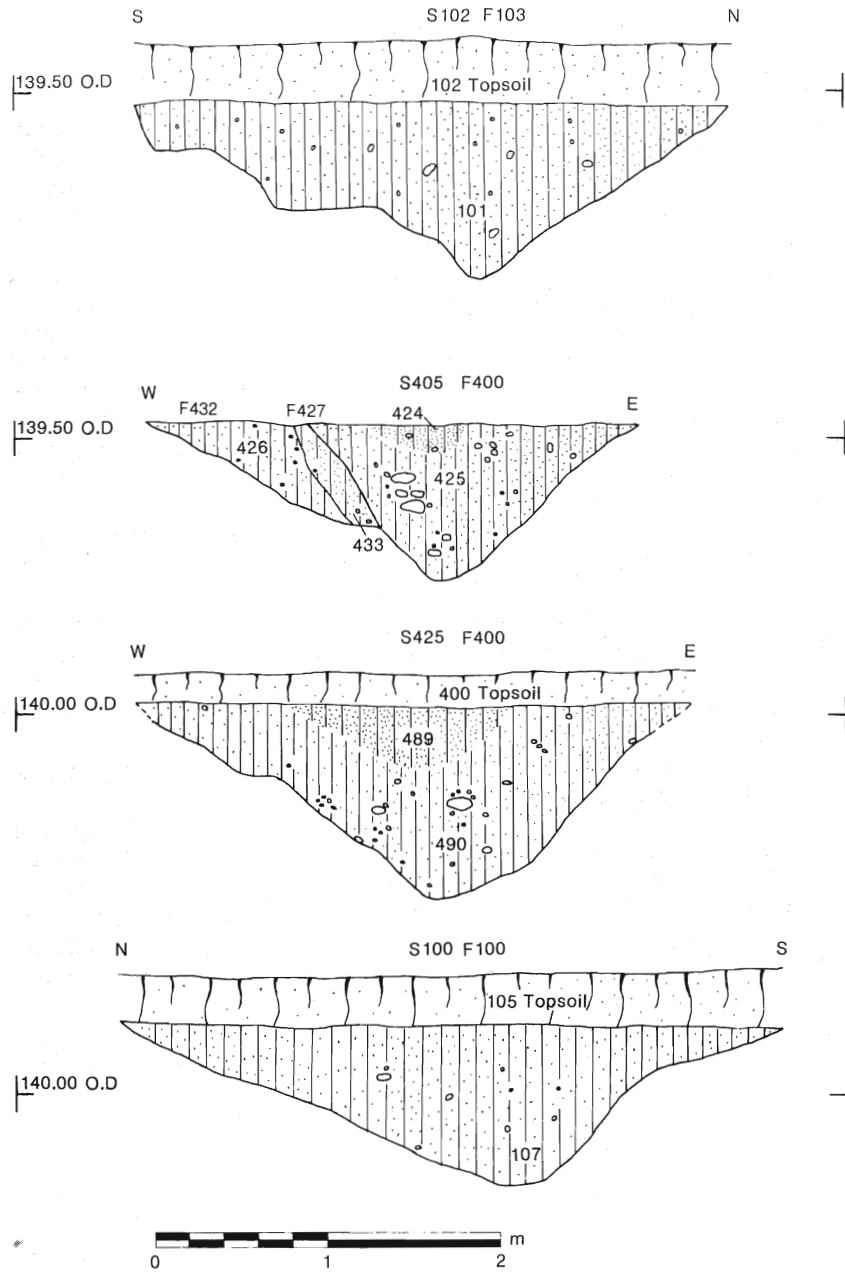
(i) The flint scatter could have been mixed with the ditch upcast which formed the bank material, and its deposition a result of the levelling down of the phase 2 bank during phase 3a. However, it is unlikely that the flint would have had such a linear dispersal pattern, taking into account the later ploughing activity further mixing these levelled down deposits.

(ii) A more likely interpretation is that the flint scatter was found *in situ* and had been effectively sealed in place by the levelling down of the phase 2 bank.

In area 4/1, ditches F432 and F427 probably also formed part of a large enclosure. If these ditches extended further than detected in area 4/1, and this enclosure was re-cut in phase 7, its size could have been as much as 90m by 90m, enclosing an area of 8,100 sq.m. The profiles of F400, F100 and F103 (illus.12) do seem to suggest that this enclosure may have existed before the phase 7 re-cutting. However, because F432 and F427 were detected only in section on area 4/1 the existence of this large enclosure during phase 2 cannot be proven.

Phase 3 Enclosure refurbishment; circular building (illus.11,13,14,20)

Area 3	
Enclosure ditch	F336, F369, F329, F993
Post hole	F370 (illus.13)
Area 3/1	
Structure	F998;
Post holes	F972, F962, F964, F989, F983, F978, F966, F984, F988, F969, F980
Gully	F957
Floor	F942 (illus.13)
Fenceline	F999; F958, F979, F961, F934, F967, F963



12. Sections through features in Areas 4/1 and 4/2.

Stake fence	F1000; F926, F927, F928, F929, F931, F932, F933, F934, F943, F944, F945, F946, F947, F948, F949, F950, F951.
Post trench	F907
Enclosure ditches	F971, F113, F925, F982
Linear trench	F955
& post holes	F991, F992
Gullies	F422; F423
Pit	F425,
Post hole	F415 (illus.11)
Area 5/1 and 5/5	
Ditches	F500, F503, F529, F524, (illus.14)

In the west of area 3, a shallow ditch, F336, with a slightly later continuation, F369, had a U-shaped profile, 10m long and 0.50m - 1.00m wide, running north-west to south-east from the western baulk for 10m.

A little further to the east, F329 ran north for a length of 8m into the northern edge of excavation while part of its line, F993, was detected in Trench J, a further 10m to the north. With a wide, bowl-shaped profile 2.60m wide and 0.80m deep, F329 re-cut, in part, the phase 2 enclosure line of F333. The two ditches F329/F993 and F336/F369, delineate the south-east corner and entrance of an enclosure. By this time part, if not all, of the earthen bank associated with the earlier ditch F333 had been levelled, probably infilling F333 as far as re-cut F329. However it is possible that a denuded bank was left standing along the line of F329 while being levelled further south.

Only one feature was found within this enclosure, a truncated pit/post-hole F370, (illus.7 and 13) 0.45m deep with steep sides filled with friable yellow silting deposits, derived from the natural. Situated near to the entrance of this phase 3 western enclosure, F370 may well have held a gate post.

Further north, in Trench M, a shallow linear gully or ditch F113, running south-east to north-west, had a widened V-profile, 1.20m wide and 0.60m deep. It followed the line of the larger phase 2 ditch, which it cut.

In area 3/1, the terminal section of a second enclosure ditch, F982, cutting F938 (phase 2), was observed to the east. This had a widened U-profile, was filled with brown silty sand 1236, and capped with dark brown material again probably resulting from the levelling down of the phase 2 bank during phase 3a, with an observed depth of 1.00m (illus.8). Cut through the southern terminal of the denuded phase 2 bank, fenceline F999 continued south for 5m before turning at 45° for 5m then inturning east for 3m and stopping. Comprising five post-holes, F958, F979, F961, F939/F967 and F963, fenceline F999 in conjunction with the standing bank, formed a crook around structure F998 (illus.13).

Two elements of F998 can be seen; the superstructure, represented by post holes F980, F969, F972, F989, F988, F984, F983/F978, F962 and F964, and a substructure represented by gully F957 and floor deposits F942. In total, 6m of F957 was excavated and recorded, with a shallow profile 0.15m deep; it probably formed a continuous sub-circular trench or gully, with a diameter of 11m. Due to the action of the plough, F957 had been largely truncated. Post holes F980, F969, F966, F972 and F989 follow F957's projected line, which would have represented the external wall of a circular structure; that wall having possibly been built of earth and turf between an external ring of posts. The roof may have been supported on a ring beam supported by posts F988, F984, F962, F964 and F983/F978 and may have also rested in part on the post, earth/turf wall represented by F957. Floor surface F942, comprised a patch of sandy clay (1113), overlying a compacted layer of small stones in a dark brown silty sand matrix (1114). Partially destroyed by plough action, the remains of F942 (1114) were irregular in shape and measured 5m east-west with a maximum north-south extent of 4m and were contemporary with the rest of structure. F998 was constructed and disused before the levelling of the phase 2 bank, and re-defined space delineated in part by the entrance to the phase 2 enclosure. To the south-west of F998, a shallow slightly curving gully F925 extended from the southern edge of excavation for 6.50m, but was only 0.20m deep. Within F925, there was a stake fenceline F1000, running north-south, which formed the south-western side of an enclosure subdividing the earlier phase 2 enclosure. To the

north, a second curving gully, F971, was located to the west of structure F998. F925 and F971 may have been formed two elements of an enclosure ditch separated by a west facing entrance.

Post trench F907, midway between fencelines F999 and F1000, was a substantial construction 3.80m long, 0.80m wide and 0.65m deep. The length of F907 and the size and shape of the packing it contained, suggest it once held three posts, a large probably square post, along with two smaller circular subsidiary posts. Given the location and form of F907, it is possible that it and the posts set within it would have supported a gate sealing the entrance to this phase of enclosure.

Directly to the south of structure F998, a linear bedding trench, F955, running east-west had steep sides, 0.32m deep, 1.00m wide and 6.50m long. Filled with stone packing in a dark brown sandy silt matrix (1194, 1196, 1198); F955 had the impressions of two posts F991 and F992 in its base. Carbonised wheat grains were recovered from the fills in this feature.

Other possible phase 3 activity was also noted in area 4.2 (illus.11). Situated in the north-east of the site, F422 was a gully 5m long, running east-west, truncated in the west by the phase 7 ditch F400. Filled with a brown sandy loam, F422 was a shallow flat bottomed gully with a vertical north face, varying in depth from 0.10m - 0.17m. To the east, a pit, F425, could relate to F422; with a north-south orientation, F425 was 2.16m long, 0.76m wide with gently sloping sides to a flat base 0.07m deep and filled with brown silty sand. To the south-west, F423 was a gully, extending from and cut by F400. It was 0.90m wide and 0.45m deep running for an observed length of just over 5m with a U-shaped profile, filled with yellow-brown sandy silts. These features may have represented some form of phase 3 enclosure subdivision and may in conjunction with structure F433 show a similar pattern to that observed in areas 3 and 3/1. Within the enclosure, there was a solitary post hole, F415.

In area 5/1 (illus.14), F500/503 was a shallow V-shaped ditch varying in width between 2.05m and 1.3m, with a depth of 0.60m running on a north-west to south-east axis (illus.10), for a recorded length of 32m, cutting the phase 2 enclosure F515 in the north-east. The fills of dark yellowish-brown sandy silt were probably naturally derived and contained pottery dating to the Iron Age. Some Romano-British pottery was recovered from the upper fills of F500/3. To the east, in area 5/5, ditches F524 and F529, appeared from aerial photographs to form the eastern boundary of an enclosure of which the northern boundary was formed by F500/F503. F529 ran from the northern bank for a length of 13.80m before terminating in the south, and had a broad, rounded base containing fills of brown silty sands. To the south, F524 appeared to cut the butt end of F529 and ran on the same north-east to south-west alignment continuing into the southern baulk. F529 had a rounded base with gently sloping sides and measured 0.80m across and 0.25m deep (illus.10).

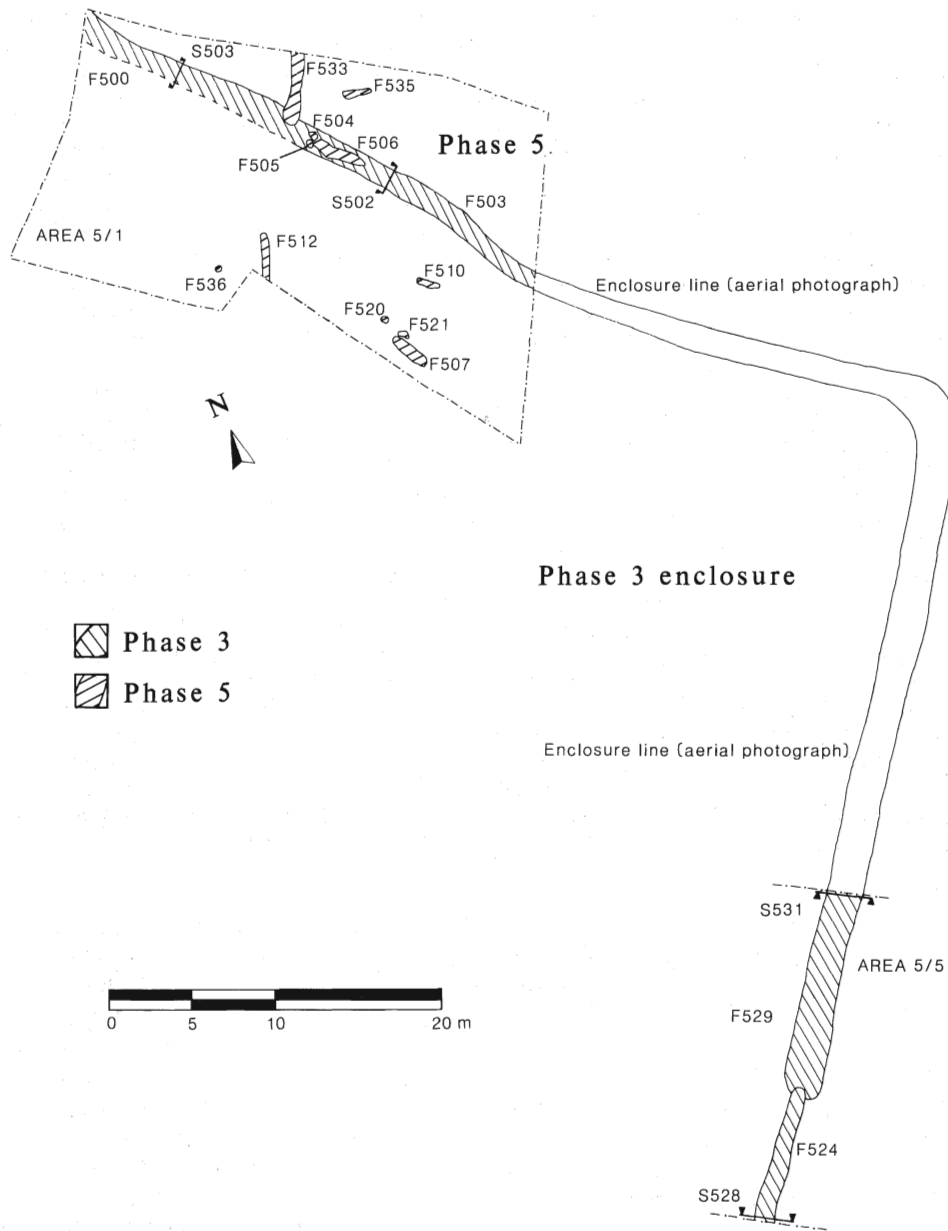
Phase 3a

Areas 3 and 3/1. This subphase is represented by a period of levelling down and infilling of ditches F329, F971 and F982, and the capping of ditch F938. The most likely date for this activity is immediately prior to the construction of the phase 4 enclosure. Finds from these deposits include Late Iron Age pottery and a copper alloy pestle (below p.49; illus.25.2).

Discussion of Phase 3

If phase 2 represents the well defined creation of enclosures, then phase 3 represents partial destruction, re-use and subdivision of those enclosures, coupled with evidence of occupation. In areas 3 and 3/1, the larger phase 2 enclosure is subdivided and its north-eastern boundaries, at least, are partially re-used. The denuded phase 2 bank and the later fence line addition F999 curve protectively around structure F998. The enclosure subdivision to the south-west defined by F925, F1000, F907, probably represents a yard area around the circular structure, while to the west another enclosure is created in the form of ditches F336, F369, F329, and F993.

The creation of the phase 3 enclosure, in areas 5/1 and 5/5, re-uses the north line of the enclosure created in phases 1 and 2, but encloses a greater area than in the



14. Phases 3 and 5/6 in Areas 5/1 and 5/5.

earlier phases. The re-use of existing enclosure lines and the subdivision of enclosures and other areas of land also occurs in area 4/2. If F432 and F427, the phase 2 ditches, did actually extend to form an enclosure, then this could be subdivided by F422 and F425. Similarly, F423 may have acted to subdivide land outside this particular enclosure and may also have drained water from the land into the larger ditch.

Phase 4 Settlement contraction (illus.13)

Areas 3 and 3/1

Ditch	F308/F936
Wall	F937, F389
Post 'Ghosts'	F960, F935, F924
Gully	F903
Bedding trench	F383
Pits	F328, F981

In area 3 and area 3/1, running south-east to north-west for 22m, a ditch, F308/F936, was 1.00m - 1.20m wide and 0.50m - 0.80m deep with a steep V-shaped profile. This appeared to join the less deep, more U-shaped, gully F903, which was 0.40m deep, 0.60m wide and curved to the north for 14m (illus.7). Much Iron Age pottery, a fragment of briquetage (below p.37) and carbonised wheat grains (below p.57) were recovered from the fills of this ditch.

F308/F936 cut phase 3 ditch F329, and was associated with a wall. In area 3, F389 provided only the remains of this wall and its associated cut. F937 consisted of placed water-worn stones on the north side of F936, which retained and reverted a low earth bank, the remnants of which, 1250, could be seen in section (illus.7, S.823). Adjoining this bank and ditch to the east, was a curving slot-like gully, F903, filled with water-worn packing stones, in which F924, F935 and F960 formed post ghosts, perhaps suggesting a fence line. At the western end of ditch F308, there was another small bedding trench F383, with steeply sloping sides becoming more vertical to form a distinct basal slot. F383 was aligned north-south, and was 1.12m wide, 0.46m deep and 3.14m long. The fill of yellowish-brown silty sand (816) contained frequent burnt stone. It is possible that F383 formed part of the western edge of the phase 4 enclosure.

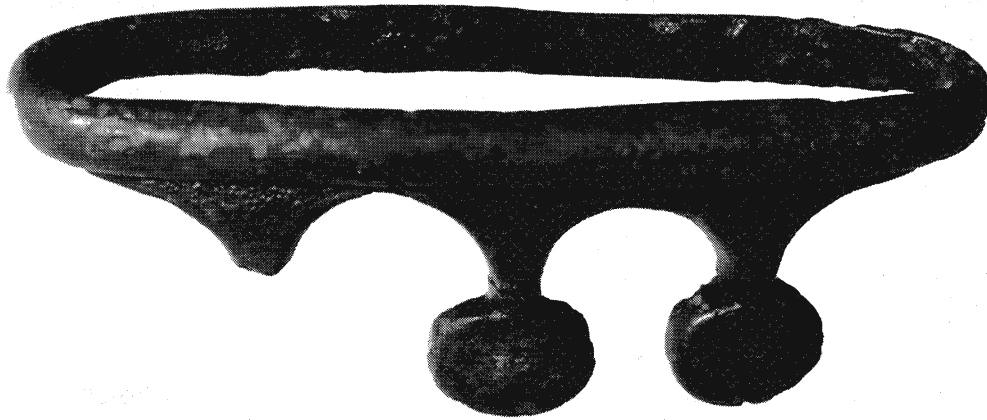
To the south, F328, cutting phase 3 ditch, F329, was an oval pit of uncertain function with an east-west length of 2.00m a depth of 0.40m and was 1.00m wide. Containing fills of brown sandy silt, the sides sloped gently to a rounded base.

Discussion of Phase 4

This phase differs dramatically from the preceding phases. Banks have been levelled down, and a new enclosure disregards the lines of both the phase 2 and 3 enclosures.

Although fairly small in comparison to the phase 2 enclosure, the phase 4 enclosure seems to have been well made, with retaining walls consolidating earth banks, and timber posts set in trenches. This marks a change in construction style probably reflecting a different use of the enclosure. It is likely that F383, F308/F936 and F903, in conjunction with the wall F937 and F389, formed the southern part of an enclosure.

The evidence for the enclosure going out of use might be indicated by two differing depositional processes; in area 3/1 the main section of the phase 4 enclosure ditch, F936, was left to infill naturally before F937 (1189) partially collapsed and tumbled into it (illus.7, S823). Also, the posts set in F903 (illus.7, S812), appear to have rotted naturally leaving their ghosts in the packing (F935, F960 and F925). However, in area 3 a different picture emerges; F308, while containing a degree of naturally derived silting, had been backfilled with the material from the associated bank and wall (illus.7, S341; fills 742 and 743). These two fills contained a relatively large quantity



15. Copper alloy scabbard mouth from Phase 4. Scale 2:1

of stone and primary breakage sherds of Iron age pottery, possibly incorporated to level up and consolidate the ditch, either immediately prior to, or during, the initial period of phase 5. It was in these fills that a late Iron Age scabbard fitting (Piggott type 5, 1950, 21) was found (illus.15 and 25.1).

Phase 5 Four-post structure (illus.16)

Area 3

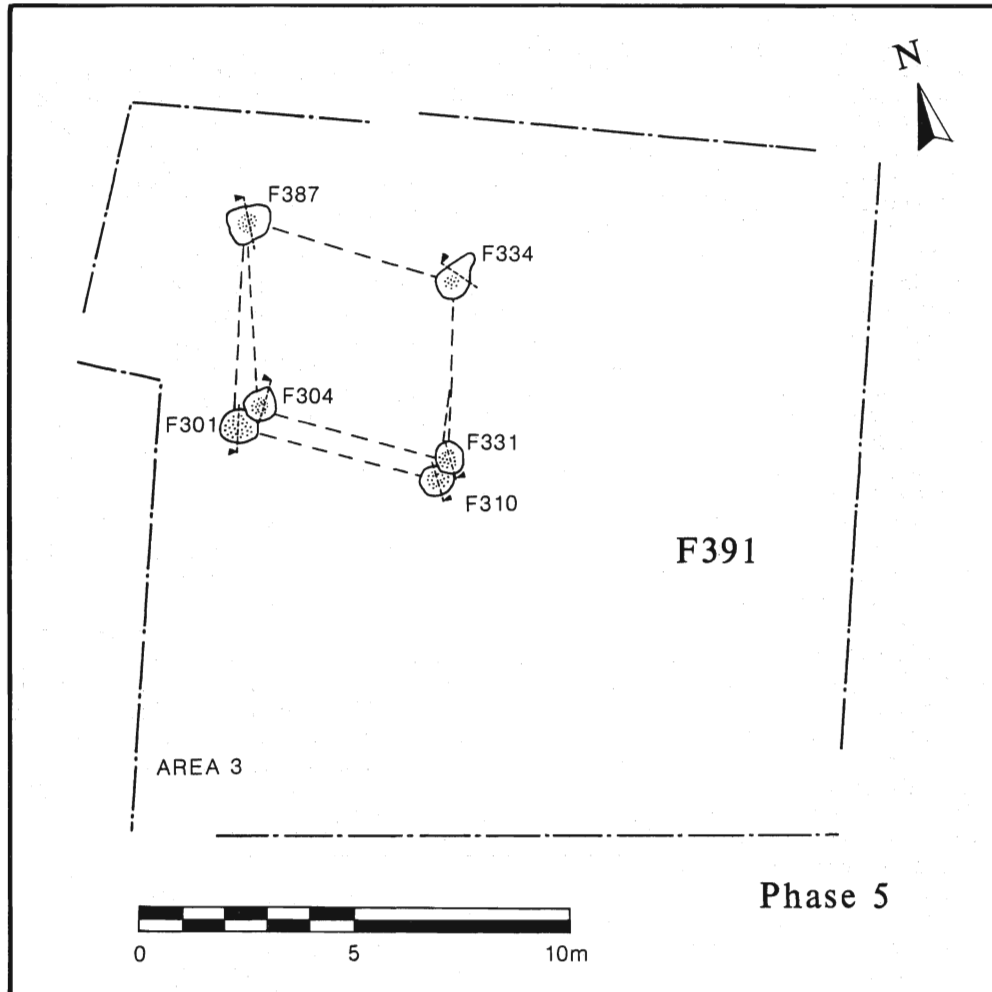
Four post structure F391;
Post holes 334, F387, F304, F301, F310, F331 (illus.17)

In the west of area 3, a rhomboidal building, measuring approximately 5m by 5m was seen to overlie the phase 4 ditch, F308, and associated wall, F389; the levelling up and consolidation of which provided structure F391 with a firm base. Consisting of single post holes F387 and F334 in the north, and re-cut post holes F304/F301 and F331/F310 in the south, structure F391 covered an area of 25 sq.m. Although it is possible that two phases of structure are represented, it is unlikely. F304/F301, and F331/F310 served as load-bearing posts supporting a monopitched roof, sloping to the north. No floor layers survived, either due to plough damage, or because the floor level was above ground surface.

Phase 6 Rectangular building (illus.17)

Area 3

Structure F392;
Post holes F388, F303, F302, F309, F325/F326, F307, F330, F324
Beam pads F312, F306
Pit F300
Fence F339



16. Phase 5 four post structure F391, Area 3.

Post hole	F352
Gullies	F353, F332
Ditch	F322 (illus.18)
Area 5/1	
Beam pads	F507, F510, F506
Pit	F535
Gullies	F533, F512,
Post holes	F536, F520, F521, F504, F505 (illus.14)

Structure F392, in area 3, was a sub-rectangular building, stratigraphically later than structure F391. F392 was constructed on a north-west to south-east axis, 10m long by 5.50 - 7.00m wide,

covering an area of approximately 62.50 sq.m. Evidence for the building comprised two differing structural elements, post holes and beam pads.

Post hole F388, with beam pad F306, formed the northern wall with the north-east corner post-hole being undetected. Post hole line F302, F309, F307/F330 formed a central line of posts, while post hole F303, beam pad F312, post hole F324 and post hole F326/F325, formed the southern wall. The eastern wall was formed by F326/F325 and F307/F330, both re-cut post holes. An alignment of post holes F303, F302 and F388 formed the western wall. Northern beam pad F306 was 4m long, 0.40m wide and 0.56m deep, and was well packed with water-worn stone, providing a raised platform on which to set a sleeper beam. Further south F312, 3.06m long, 0.20m wide and 0.22m deep had steeper sides but was constructed in the same way. F324, a post hole detected in the basal cut of F312, was also a structural component of the building. Of the main structural post holes, F302, F303 and F309 were all packed with stone. F307/F330 and F326/F325 also had some stone packing; they were cut through the fills of earlier ditches, the relative softness of which made necessary the more substantial re-cuts, F307 and F325.

To the north and south, two shallow gullies, respectively F353, a maximum 4m long, 0.14m wide, 0.12m deep, and F332, 3.96m long, 0.28 - 0.44m wide and 0.14m deep, seemed to flank and respect the eastern end of structure F392. Parallel with F332, a ditch F322, 0.76m deep with a V-shaped profile, extended 2.88m from the southern edge of excavation before terminating. It is likely that gullies F353, F332, and ditch F322 form an insubstantial enclosure partially containing structure F392 (see below). Within the enclosed area, a pit, F300, was located. It was 0.70m deep with an average diameter of 1.15m, and had steep sides with a flat base. It contained a fill of yellow-brown sandy-silt (303). Stake fenceline F339 ran along an east-west axis and seemed to have post hole F352 in association. This could indicate the subdivision of the area around the building into differing areas. Two lines of stake holes, F385 and F386, were also revealed within structure F392, representing an internal feature of the building, possibly a drying rack.

In area 5/1, some tenuous evidence emerged of another possible beam and post-built structure, similar to that in area 3. F510 in the south-west of area 5/1 was 1.60m long, 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep and had a broadly east-west alignment. Running almost parallel to it, but situated 4.50m to the south, F507 was 2.40m long, 0.60m wide and 0.13m deep. Both contained fills of dark reddish-brown sandy-silt. The fill of F507 contained Iron Age pottery. It seems likely that post holes F520 and F521 are associated in some way with F507, though no clear building plan is evident.

Further to the north, a shallow gully, F506, 2.90m long and 1.00m wide, seemed to be associated with post holes F504 and F505. It is possible that, together with shallow pit F535, which was 1.50m long and 0.50m wide on a south-west to north-east alignment, they form some sort of gate or entrance structure to a phase 6 enclosure, the western edge of which was defined by gullies F512 and F533. In the north, F533 ran on a north-south alignment for a distance of 4.25m from the northern baulk, before terminating. It was 1m wide, 0.25m deep and was filled with yellow-brown silty sands. On the opposite side of area 5/1, gully F512 extended from the southern baulk for 3m and was 0.35m wide and 0.25m deep.

Discussion of Phase 6

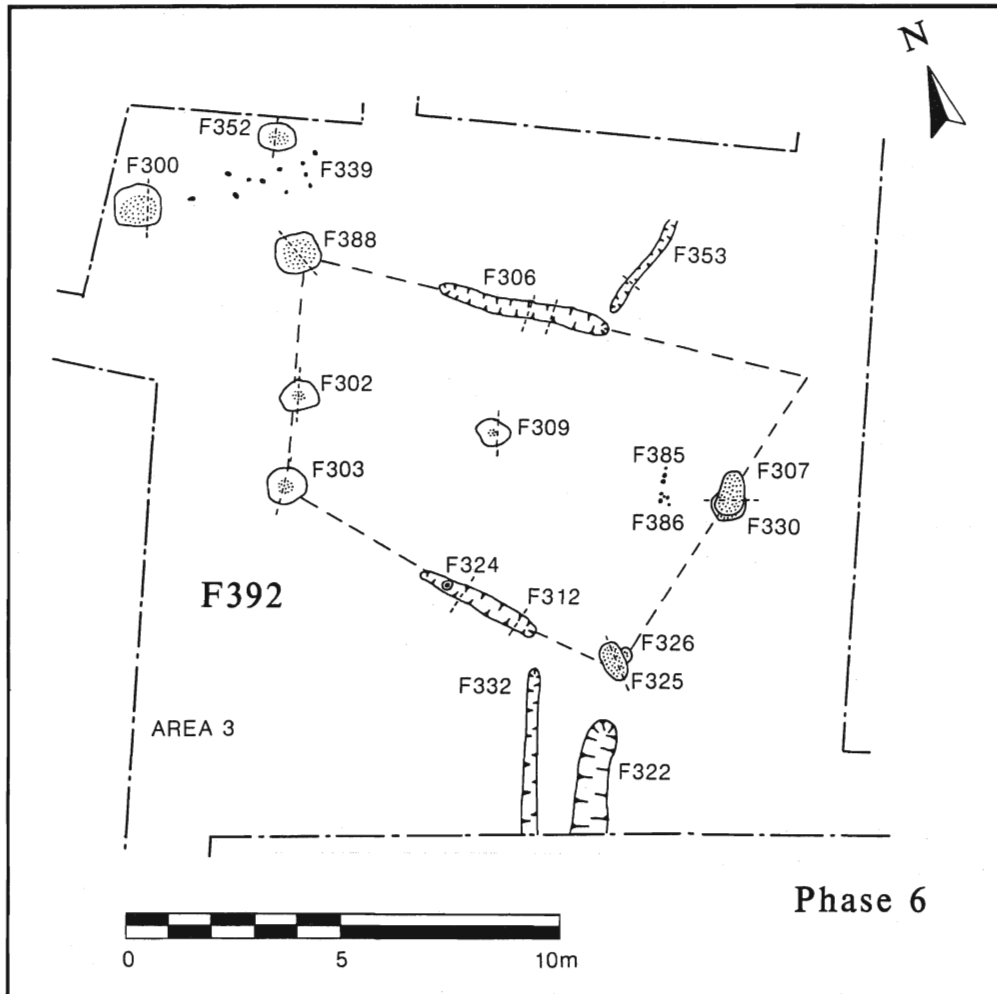
The most impressive and unusual features of phase 6 are the sub-rectangular structures of areas 3 and 5/1 (see below). These appear to be used during a period when the main enclosures of Phase 3 are replaced by open settlement and date to the Late Iron Age.

Phase 7 Roman activity (illus.18,19)

Area 4/2 and 4/2

Structure	F433
Post holes	F414, F421, F418, F416, F417, F424, F419, F413.
Ditches	F400, F103, F100 (illus.18)

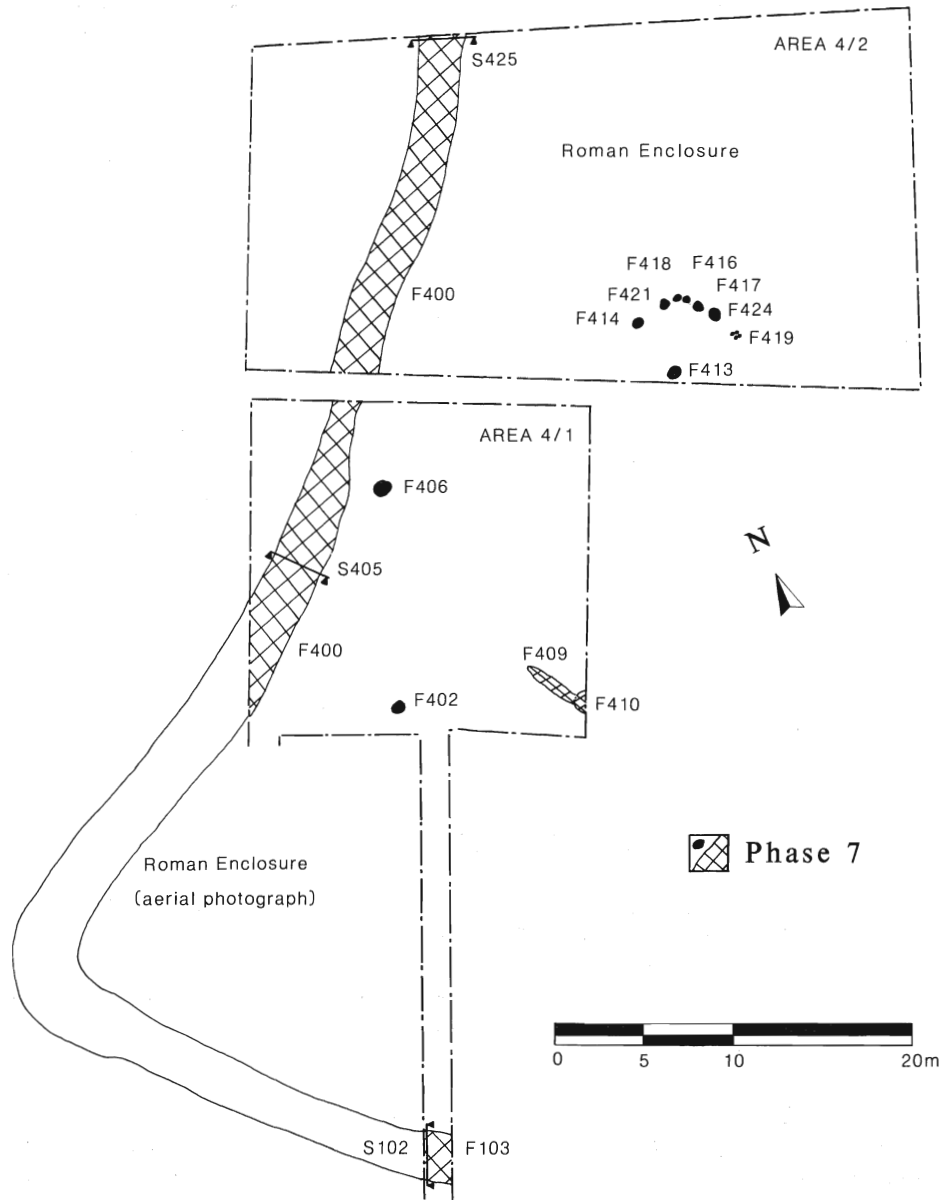
Structure F433 consisted of a series of post holes and post pads in a semi-circle within



17. Phase 6 sub-rectangular structure F392, Area 3.

enclosure, F400; F414, F421, F416, F417 and F424 consisted of shallow post holes between 0.05m and 0.10m deep with flat bases and steep sides, all filled with brown sandy loam, from which some Roman pottery was recovered. F433 was within a Roman enclosure, F400.

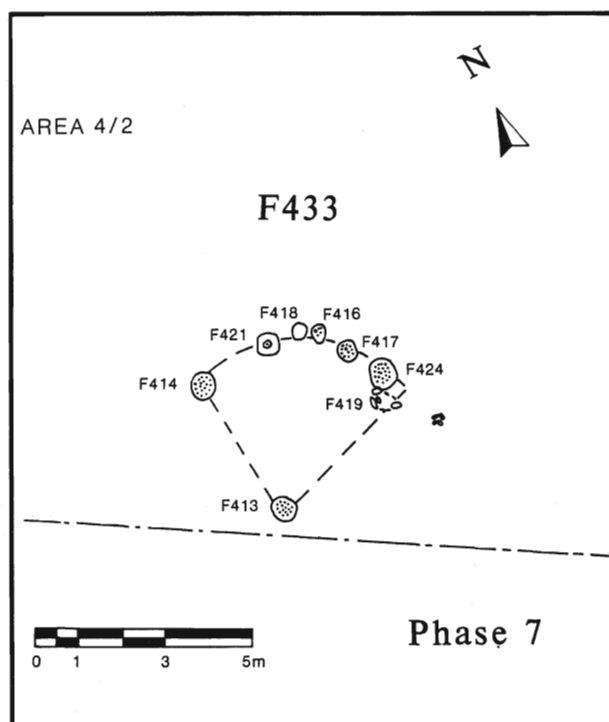
Extending across area 4/1 and area 4/2 on a north-west to south-east alignment, ditch F400 was 2.50m - 3.50m wide and was an average of 1.20m deep and had a V-shaped profile, containing yellow sandy silts. The line of F400 can be followed on the aerial photographs and be seen to return and follow an east-west alignment both to the north, and to the south. This was confirmed by excavation in area 4/1, F103, and in area 4/3, F100 (illus.3). The external edge of this enclosure ditch seems to be stepped and more elongated (illus.12; S102, S405, S425, S100), while the fills contained Roman pottery, including samian, dating to the first half of the second century A.D. A residual late La Tène brooch was also recovered from the upper fills of the ditch (see below p.49; illus.25.3).



18. Phase 7 in Areas 4/1 and 4/2.

Discussion of Phase 7

This Roman enclosure in the north of the site is the largest visible on the aerial photographs. Its western side measures 90m in length, its southern side a minimum of



19. Phase 7 semi-circular structure F433, Area 4/2.

50m and the northern boundary at least 30m, enclosing an area of more than 5,490 sq.m. The entrance to this enclosure appears to be at the southern end, and the excavated ditch line curves to the west (illus.18).

It is possible that F400, F103 and F100 form merely the latest recut of an enclosure line established in phase 2. The profiles of F400 seem also to lend weight to this interpretation, the elongated western side of F400 (illus.12, S405) being seen to show earlier cuts F432 and F427; although a similar profile was recorded in all the other sections, no earlier recuts were visible. This might suggest an element of continuity; an earlier ditch alignment, and the land division it represents, being re-cut and re-established during the Roman period. The existence of a phase 2 enclosure lends weight to this interpretation of area 4/2. The type of semi-circular structure possibly indicated by F433 is not unique in the Midlands, others, dating to the Iron Age, have been excavated elsewhere; the interpretations of which range from stock shelters to houses (Knight 1984 146-150)(see below p.34).

Unphased

Field 4 Trenches

Ditches

Trackway

Rut

F107, F108, F116, F115, F117

F114, F997

F119 (illus.3)

In Field 4, on the east of the site, two trenches were opened by machine to the level of surviving archaeological deposits. In the north trench, H, two small ditches were revealed, F107, a north-east to south-west aligned ditch ran for a length of 10m into the western baulk. It was 0.60m wide and 0.33m deep with a V-shaped profile containing fills of brown silty sands. To the south, ditch F108 was observed for a length of 1m. Filled with dark brown silty sands, F108 was 1m wide and 0.52m deep, with a U-shaped profile.

In Trench I, south of Trench H, a substantial and well made metalled surface was recorded consisting of tightly packed pebbles. F114 ran along a north-west to south-east axis with an observed width of over 3.00m. On either side of F114 ditches were apparent containing homogeneous brown silts. To the north, F117 was 1.00m wide and 0.54m deep, while to the south, F115 was 0.77m wide and 0.54m deep.

Further to the south, F116, a V-shaped ditch, was observed for a length of 2.48m running into the excavation baulks. Ditch F116 was 1.00m wide and 0.90m deep, filled with yellow-brown silty sands and ran north-west to south-east, probably forming part of the phase 2 enclosure of area 3/1, F938. Below F114, a shallow gully, F119 on a north-west to south-east alignment was located containing a build-up of cobbles in a silty sand matrix.

To the north-west of area 3/1, a machine cut was excavated across the probable line of F114 to the level of the natural, the resulting sections then being cleared by hand. A coherent layer of cobbles and waterworn stone on a north-east to south-west axis was again revealed. This layer was over 0.05m thick and 2.20 wide, concave in shape and seemed to slump into earlier unrecorded gully/rut-like features, while a thick layer of mixed top soil (1331) overlay it.

Discussion of Field 4 trenches

F997/F114, with associated drainage ditches F115 and F117, forms a trackway running north-west to south-east between the enclosures in areas 3 and 3/1 and that of area 4/1. From the aerial photographs this trackway extends as far west as the area 1 (Field 1) activity, which indeed could be its earliest phase, with the discontinuous gully enclosure in area 3 and 3/1 respecting the line of F114/F997. The trackway was almost certainly present during phase 2 with the area 3/1 enclosure opening out onto it, and from the aerial photographs it seems that the possible phase 2 enclosures in areas 3/1 and 5/1 also respected and opened out onto it.

The longevity of F997/F114 is suggested by the presence of ruts beneath the later phase of metalling, this cobbling possibly constituting a re-surfacing during the Roman period, the re-cut Roman enclosure of area 4/1 and 4/2 also respecting the line of this trackway.

It is possible that ditches F107 and F108 represent activity similar to those phase 1 gullies in area 5/1. However, the minute scale of the excavations in Field 4, and the absence of dating evidence, must prohibit the drawing of even the most tentative conclusions.

Discussion

Limitations of the evidence

From the areas investigated during 1990, a well stratified chronology of a series of enclosures has been revealed. Although only a small percentage of the total site was sampled, the results may cast some light on what must be seen as a complex settlement and enclosure system, the scale of which from aerial photographs alone seems to be both extensive and multi-phase. The Iron Age activity at Normanton le Heath represents a 'developing dynamic system of site and land organisation,' (Hingley 1990, p.99) rather than a system of superimposed settlements on a static landscape.

The data from the excavation has only been able to answer partially the original aims (above p.3). Detailed information on the economy and environment is lacking due, in part, to the absence of animal bone evidence from the site (below p.57). Small numbers of carbonised grains were recovered but in insufficient numbers to suggest the proportions of cereals in use or provide evidence of crop processing. Some iron working is suggested from the site (below p.60) and salt was being brought in, using briquetage as a container (below p.37).

The earliest activity on the site suggested by the flint material (below p.55) is of Later Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date. No features of this date were identified however. Date ranges for the enclosure sequences are similarly lacking. In the absence of C14 dates, dating relies on the pottery and a few other artefacts. This suggests a similar date range to the Iron Age settlement at Enderby (Clay 1992) beginning in the late second century B.C. until the mid first century A.D. Roman activity on the site appears to date from the early second century A.D. (below p.34), although whether there is evidence of a *lacuna* in the later first century A.D. is unclear.

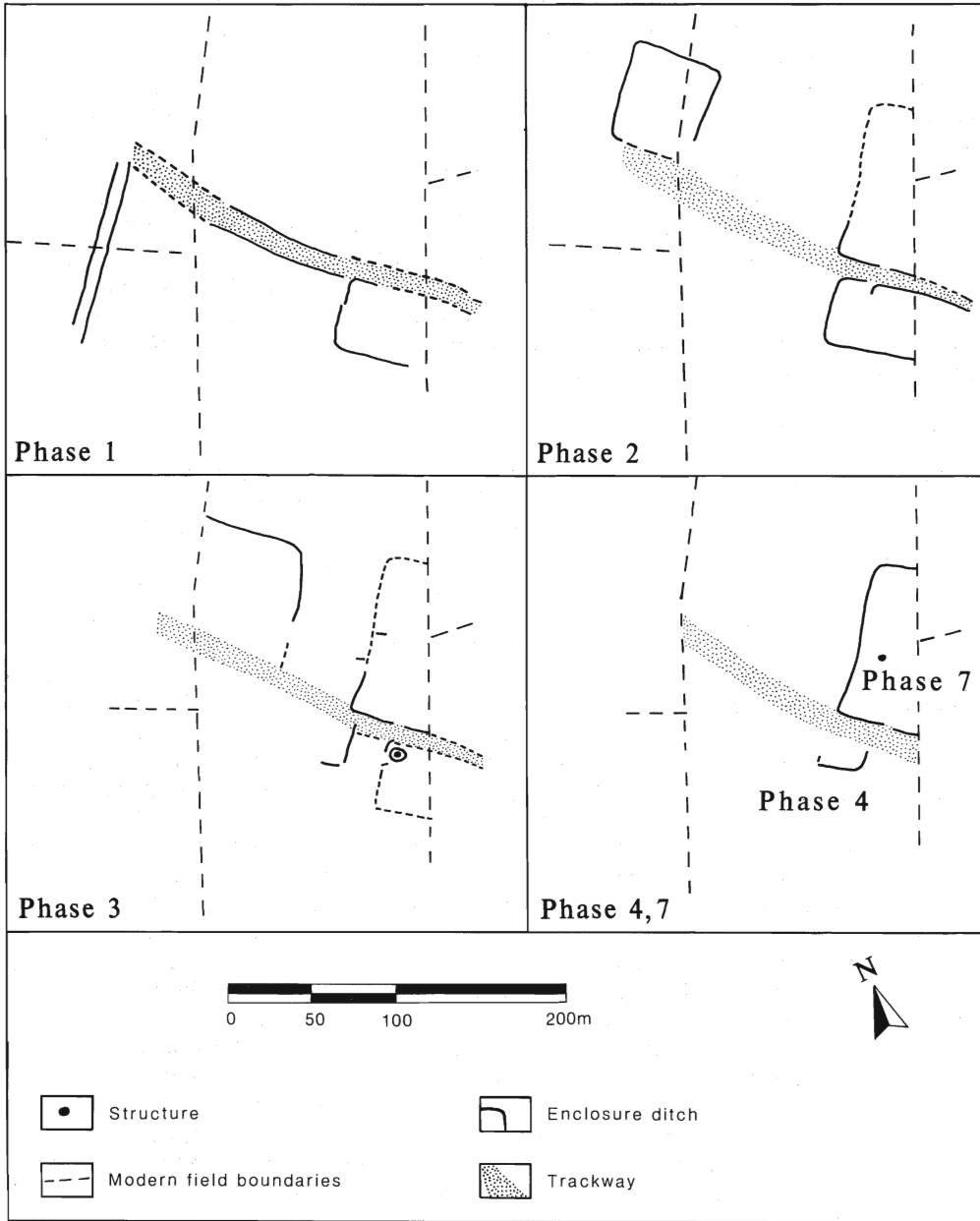
Iron Age Activity (illus. 20)

During the earliest phase, a series of shallow gullies and ditches which may have bounded arable fields was observed, most clearly in areas 3 and 3/1, but also in area 5/1, and possibly in Field 4. Similar 'discontinuous boundary features' (Knight 1984, p. 231) were noted at Twywell in Northamptonshire, Cats Water, Cambridgeshire and at Gamston, Nottinghamshire (Knight 1991, pp.129-132). A ditched trackway seen in Trench I and in section in Trench N, and also observed on aerial photographs extends to the west into the area of the earlier evaluation onto the higher sands and gravels. In this area a series of north-south linear ditches seem to demarcate the point where the trackway ends, with several circular features to the west, north-west and south-west observed from aerial photographs. This appears to represent a phase of open settlement on the gravels, the extent of which is unclear. However, this phase of activity can be compared with the period II occupation at Little Waltham (Drury 1978a, p.125) and the open settlement at Mucking (Jones 1974). Arable fields and stock grazing areas were probably situated to the east, access to which was provided by the east-west trackway. The enclosures of this phase can be seen as a settlement component rather than as delineating the settlement (Hingley 1984, p. 74).

Stock control, in which the trackway must have played a vital part, was an important factor in Iron Age settlement planning, demonstrated at Milton Keynes and at Weekley (Knight 1984, p.231). At Normanton le Heath it is the trackway that facilitates control during the earliest phase; the system of fields and enclosures is connected by the trackway to the settlement, which itself may be unenclosed. The landscape is organised into areas of domestic habitation and areas of economic activity, with the settlement situated outside the main enclosures.

The second phase sees enclosure in a much clearer and more imposing form. In areas 3 and 3/1, the enclosure lines of phase 1 are re-cut, deeper ditches are dug and an internal bank is formed, while in area 5/1, a large palisaded, and presumably defensible, enclosure is created.

The effort needed to create such an enclosure and to excavate the palisade ditch must indicate the mobilisation of group or community resources in its construction. The social implications of this are numerous, possibly providing evidence of social or economic factors resulting in a fundamental change in settlement pattern. It appears



20. Sequence of enclosures.

that the open settlement of phase 1 becomes more enclosed during phase 2; a similar situation to that at Little Waltham between period II and period III (Drury 1978 b pp. 125-127) and explained possibly in terms of a wish to indicate the 'boundedness of a local social group' (Hingley 1990, p.99).

A certain amount of continuity can be seen between phase 1 and phase 2. Space delineated by the earliest phase seems to be re-employed and defined on a greater scale. In addition, there is the construction of a possible settlement enclosure. This implies a re-working of a pre-existing enclosure pattern, with the large enclosure in area 5/1 providing a defensible settlement focus, while the east-west trackway led to the agricultural fields, also now more substantially enclosed.

During phase 3, a more open and less nucleated pattern seems to establish itself, although some elements of the previous settlement pattern are in evidence. In areas 3 and 3/1, the phase 2 enclosure line is partially re-used and subdivided, while elsewhere gullies mark out the enclosure line. Rather than enclosing groups of structures, the subdivided enclosure in area 3/1 seems to enclose a single structure, similar to the situation at Twywell 1 enclosure B.b. (Jackson 1975). However, at Normanton le Heath, other parts of the phase 2 enclosure are destroyed, the inturn of the enclosure is re-utilised and sections of the phase 2 ditch are re-cut by shallower gullies only partially following the original line. To the west, a gully running east-west (F336/F369) forms a subsidiary enclosure, possibly for stock grazing or arable farming.

In areas 5/1 and 5/5, a similar pattern of re-use of previous enclosure lines and re-working of the landscape in less monumental form is also evident. The line of the phase 2 palisaded enclosure is re-cut to the north by a shallow ditch which runs east-west and then returns north-south, presumably halting at the east-west trackway, and possibly enclosing a field.

During this phase a more dispersed settlement pattern is in evidence. In contrast to the enclosure system of phase 2, enclosure lines are obliterated and where they are re-cut they are shallower and less substantial. Individual structures are enclosed rather than groups of structures. Land is divided up in a much less visible and imposing way. Although partly denuded, a bank in area 3/1, is re-used with the space it originally enclosed re-defined to accommodate a structure. The east-west trackway was probably still in use, although not yet metalled.

In the first three phases there are elements of continuity, suggesting an organic and continuing dynamic rather than a 'stop - start' change in settlement pattern. A basic enclosure pattern, laid out in phase 1 is re-used and re-defined, but some ditch alignments, such as F333, F990, and F938, are preserved or re-cut first with deeper, then shallower, gullies. The bank remnant associated with the entrance to the phase 2 enclosure, was re-used in phase 3 but seems to have been levelled in other parts of the enclosure. Elsewhere the main ditches had been backfilled or had in part silted up; indeed, F427 in area 4/1 could represent a phase 3 cleaning of an existing phase 2 enclosure line.

During phase 4, there are major changes. Previous ditch alignments tend to be disregarded, although the entrance to the phase 4 stock enclosure is placed directly opposite that of the phase 2 and 3 enclosures of areas 3 and 3/1. The phase 2 re-used bank must by this time have been levelled, while the body of the phase 4 enclosure line ran at 90° to and across the western ditch of the phase 1, 2 and 3 enclosures. This phase 4 stock enclosure combines many different structural elements, including ditches, stone revetting walls, timber fence or palisade posts, and an earthen or turf bank. It is possible that this underlines the importance of stock control, but it also

signifies a departure in form from all earlier enclosures. A ditch or fence alone would suffice to enclose stock. The construction of this enclosure may be nothing more than a combination of these many elements for added security, but it could reflect a change in the economy of the landscape, with less emphasis placed on arable enclosures, and more placed on stock grazing.

During phase 5, as with phase 4, previous enclosure lines are disregarded and the phase 5 four post structure, F391, was set firmly over the phase 4 ditch, F308, which had now been infilled with stone and consolidated. This appears to be an open phase of settlement. The practice of building structures over previous ditch alignments has been noted before in Iron Age and Roman contexts, for example, at Winnall Down one of the huts in the open phase of settlement is placed directly over the entrance to the preceding enclosed settlement (Fasham 1985, fig. 9 and 15).

F391, consisting of two single and two re-cut post holes, in area 3 (illus.17), has certain similarities to rectangular structures at Little Waltham in Essex (Drury 1978). However, most of these examples seems to be considerably smaller than F391, enclosing somewhere in the region of 6 sq.m, whereas the Normanton le Heath building, measuring 5m by 5m, covered an area of 25 sq.m. The southern side of the building consisted of re-cut post holes, a feature which is mirrored at Little Waltham; Drury (1978, p.124) interprets this as indicating a mono-pitched roof, the deeper re-cut post holes supporting a higher wall. This would place the slope of the roof facing into the prevailing north wind, making the structure more weatherproof.

There has been much speculation as to the functions of Iron Age four post structures, (Knight 1984, p.154-155) ranging from raised granaries (Gent 1983) to small temples (Piggott 1968), from watch towers to animal pens. At Normanton le Heath there is no evidence either to refute or attest any of these interpretations. Although there is no evidence of a roof to structure F391, it does seem likely; the substantial nature of the posts indicated by the size of the post holes, and their regular 5m spacing, suggests something more than an open animal pen or drying rack. This building may have been some kind of store, although there is no evidence to indicate that it was a granary, a common interpretation for Iron Age structures. No detectable floor levels or internal hearths were observed, nor scattered spreads representing floor material dispersed by the plough, thus the possibility of a raised floor cannot be ruled out, perhaps for the storage of straw, fodder or legumes (Gent 1983, p.245-253).

The sub-rectangular structures of phase 6

These exceptional buildings use a combination of two structural components, both beam pads and post holes, a feature thus far unique in the Iron Age in the Midlands. The best preserved, F392 in area 3 (illus.18), measured some 10m by 5.80m-7.00m and had a central line of posts, indicating an axially pitched roof, with its long side walls constructed using posts resting on sill beam pads. Large post-built structures have been recognised at Glastonbury (Bullied and Gray 1911) and at Mucking (Jones 1974, p.190), using nine posts. The evidence for the use of sill beams has always been sketchy and badly demonstrated. An L-shaped gully interpreted as a sleeper gully was seen at Wollaston but the evidence was inconclusive (Knight 1984, p.156).

Beam and post-built structures were recorded at Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981, pp.37-42); like structure F392 at Normanton Le Heath, they were Late Iron Age, immediately pre and post conquest. Knight (1984, p.157) does not rule out the

possibility of sill beam structures resting on the ground. Sill beams, resting on pads, probably supporting vertical timber posts are clearly attested at Normanton Le Heath.

F392 was built over the smaller phase 5 structure. Although this was within a possible enclosure defined by two shallow gullies and a deeper ditch, phase 6 may still be seen as a period of comparatively open settlement. Similarly in area 5/1, there are one or possibly two structures, again of beam and post build, within a shallow gullied enclosure paralleling that in area 3.

The Phase 6 rectangular building may have had a purely domestic function. However similar structures from other sites have been interpreted as shrines. Post-built, sub-rectangular buildings from Little Waltham (Drury 1978, Figs.8;19; Wait 1985, Fig.6.6) and Maiden Castle (Drury 1980; Figs.3.2.8; 3.6.14; Wait 1985, Fig.6.7) have some affinities with the Phase 6 building while rectangular shrines are also known from South Cadbury (Alcock 1972, Figs.4,9,10; Wait 1985, Fig.6.8), Uley (Ellison 1980, Fig.15.1) and Stansted (Brooks 1988, p.269; Fig.4). There are problems in identifying shrines however (Wait 1985, p.156) and any interpretation of the function of this structure must be tentative.

Roman Activity

Later activity on the site is in evidence, in the form of the large early second century Roman enclosure in areas 4/2 and 4/1, which respects the east-west trackway and probably recuts a phase 2 and phase 3 enclosure line. This again may demonstrate some continuity between phases, despite an apparent absence of early Roman occupation on the site. The metalled phase of the trackway is believed to date to the Roman period, the solid construction representing repair of a feature that had been in use throughout the settlement history.

Structural evidence is restricted to the semi-circular building, F433 (illus.19), although brick and tile found in enclosure ditch F400 might indicate more typical and substantial Roman structures in the vicinity. The semi-circular arrangement of post holes in area 4/1 around post hole F413 has been paralleled elsewhere (Jackson 1982) and those excavated in the Midlands have been discussed by Knight (1984, p.146-150). Most of these structures have been dated by their ceramics to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods; however, pottery found associated with structure F433 suggests early second century A.D. use.

Fitting into Knight's 1a category (1984, p.146), structure F433 comprised six regularly spaced post holes of similar depth and diameter clustered around a central post hole/post pad F413. The main wall of the building, which would have given protection from the north wind, consisted of the semi-circular arrangement of posts. This is also paralleled by other structures; Knight (1984, p.149; Fig 40) found that the majority of buildings were sheltered to the north, the open end of the semi-circle facing to the south or south-east.

It is difficult to ascertain whether such a small structure would have a roof. Even a gable end construction set upon a horizontal beam across the terminal posts seems unlikely (Drury and Rodwell 1973, p.97). Given the boulder clay geology in that part of the site, an eaves-drip gully would have been necessary for a dwelling, so it seems more likely that F433 formed some form of shelter or windbreak for livestock.

The relationship between this Roman occupation of early second century date and the second-fourth century settlements at Jubilee Plantation 2 km (1.25 miles) to the north (Trimble forthcoming) and Ravenstone 2.5 km (1.5 miles) to the north-east (Lucas

1981) may prove to be significant. Throughout the settlement history, there is a gradual shift from the slightly higher ground in the west to the lower ground in the east, and an infilling of the landscape with enclosures between phase 1 and phase 4. This is not a linear progression from west to east so much as a general drift in that direction through out the seven phases, with the east-west trackway continuing in use during the life of the enclosure system. The activity recognised at Normanton le Heath represents a gradual evolution in response to the changing needs of a community.

The Iron Age Pottery

Sheila M Elsdon

When the size and complexity of the site is taken into account it is surprising that the pottery assemblage is comparatively small and homogeneous. There is a maximum of 215 Iron Age vessels represented with a weight of 20.394 kg. Phases 1 - 6 contained Iron Age pottery while Phase 7 contains a mixed assemblage of Iron Age and Roman pottery. Phase 4 contains by far the largest assemblage, mostly from the ditch F308/963; this would suggest either a longer, or a more intensive occupation in this period. Full details of the weights and composition of the pottery in the various features and phases are set out in the archive.

Decoration.

The majority of the pots are plain, but 43 out of 215 (22%) have some form of scored decoration which ranges from deep regular patterns to shallow, random lines. Details are as follows:

Six pots have deep and regular scoring, e.g. 5,8,35. Eleven pots have deep and random scoring, e.g. 24. Eight pots have shallow and regular scoring, e.g. 32 and 36 where it is diagonal. Eighteen pots have shallow and random scoring, e.g. 52.

This gives a slight preponderance of shallow scoring but the proportions are hardly large enough to have much significance. There is some evidence, although not conclusive, that deep scoring is an early third to second century B.C. feature of this type of pottery decoration (Elsdon 1992).

Two sherds have sharply incised groove decoration as on no.34. This is a flat sherd and could conceivably be part of a base with a cross decoration.

Only ten rims have finger impressions which are normally exceptionally deep (e.g. 1,32,45,54) and less often shallow (55) or fingernail impressions (48). One pot, 36 has very deep finger nail jabs. Some rims are pinched out from either side (e.g. 33) and one has deep impressions made by a round-ended stick which has been pushed in diagonally (18). All the decorated rims have been drawn which possibly gives a false idea of the assemblage as a whole as most of the rims are plain.

Surface treatment.

In addition eleven pots have light twig brushing to roughen the surface while several others have vertical finger smoothing on the lower part of the body, e.g. 13, 47. Finally, two pots have a very fine, highly burnished, micaceous surface finish, 11,40.

Forms.

There is apparently very little chronological progression in the forms of the pottery throughout the period of occupation of the site. Although there is only one complete profile, enough remains of rims, body and base sherds to be reasonably certain of the range of forms which were all well rounded with splayed bases. The reconstructions of the main forms (illus.21) are based on matching rim and base sherds either from the same pot or of similar fabric. For convenience

these are divided into large, medium and small-sized jars and they are drawn at one quarter natural size as are the actual pottery remains. As all the pottery is hand made, there is naturally blurring and merging of the different forms and these suggestions should be taken as a rough guide only. The main characteristics are rounded profiles, very deep and regular finger impressions on the rims and shallow scoring.

The large jars have a rim diameter of *c.*240mm and a height of 280mm. No.1 has a well formed shoulder and slightly everted rim with deep finger impressions. The decoration is light, regular scoring. Examples of this form are 1,17,18,32,45,54. No.2 is a thick-walled jar with everted rim, slack profile and normally without rim decoration. The surface finish is non-existent or light twig brushing. Examples are 12,42,48,52. No.3 is a slack form with a suggestion of a bead rim. The surface is roughened with twig brushing. There is one example, 2.

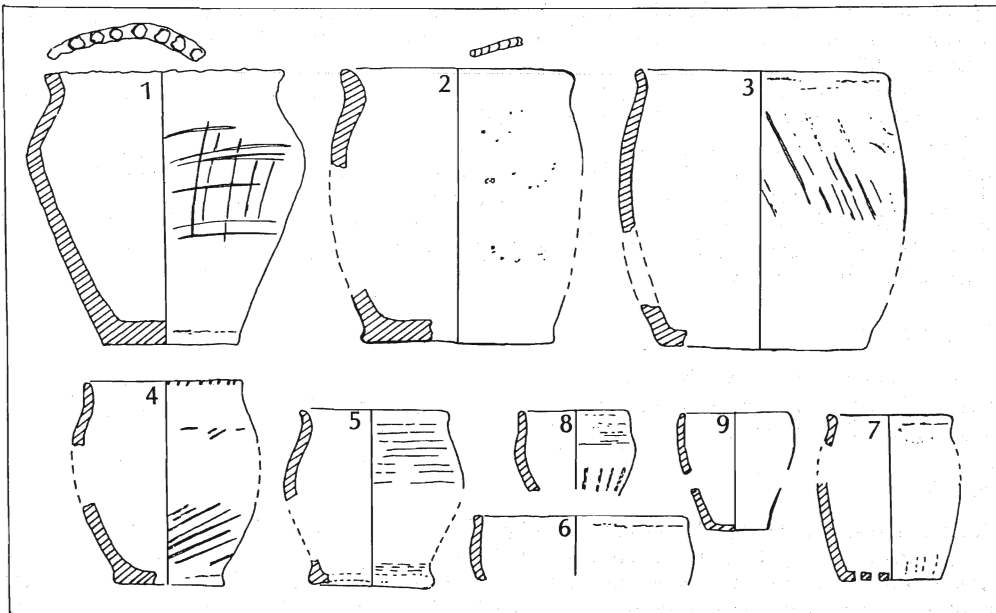
The medium-sized vessels are jars and bowls, rim diameter *c.*160mm and height *c.*180-200mm. No.4 is a well rounded jar with a slightly constricted, upright neck and a base foot. Decoration is very regular shallow scoring or, more often, the jars are plain. One jar has unusual and very deep finger nail impressions, e.g. 8,28,36. No.5 is a well rounded jar with foot-ring base. The surface finish is either smoothed or highly burnished, e.g. 11,38,39,40. No.6 is a plain bowl; e.g. 16. No.7 is a bead rim jar with perforations in the base; e.g. 60.

The small vessels are beakers, rim diameter *c.*100mm and height *c.*120mm. No.8 is a small jar with upright neck and surfaces smoothed both horizontally at the neck and vertically below. Examples 7,47. No.9 is a beaker in a fine, smoothed fabric. Examples 6,58.

Fabrics.

These were examined by hand and under 10x magnification and expert geological advice was given by R. Firman of Nottingham University Archaeology department.

1a. is a dense, sandy fabric with large (up to 4mm), angular quartz inclusions and pieces of sandstone. There are also crushed water-worn quartz pebbles which indicate a Sherwood Sandstone (Bunter) source. Type examples, F333 (859,372), Phase 2.



21. Iron Age Pottery: Main Forms.

1b. is a finer version of 1a; surfaces are often smoothed and possibly have a slip coating but the core is very coarse. Type examples, F371 (761), Phase 1.

2 is basically a sandy fabric with very occasional small quartz inclusions. Type example, F371 (710), Phase 1.

3 is a fine, thin, burnished fabric with small and profuse filler. Type example, F333 (859), Phase 2.

4 is a coarse fabric with profuse and large pieces of sandstone filler. There are some individual rounded quartz grains which again indicates a Sherwood sandstone (Bunter) source for the clay. Type example F333 (863), Phase 2.

These four fabrics are basically coarse and fine versions of the same one which is from a locally derived clay. 1a, 1b and 4, the coarse fabrics, are similar but 4 lacks the large angular quartz inclusions. Fabrics 1a and 1b are used for the large storage jars. Fabric 3 is much finer and is used for the small pots which could have been drinking vessels.

The overall proportions of the fabrics by weight are as follows 1a, 6907kg; 1b, 7518kg; 2, 4507kg; 3, 0163kg; 4, 1195kg.

In addition to the above fabrics there are three or four small sherds which contain large pieces of black chert. There is no indication as to what kind of vessel they formed a part of.

In Phase 1 Fabrics 1a and 1b are equally represented with minimal amounts of Fabrics 2 and 3.

In Phase 2 Fabric 1b predominates followed by Fabrics 2 and 1a in descending order and minimal amounts of both Fabrics 3 and 4.

In Phase 3 Fabric 1a predominates with smaller amounts of both Fabrics 1b and 2, followed by Fabric 4 with a minimal amount of Fabric 3.

In Phase 3A Fabric 1a is absent and Romano-British pot is comparatively well represented; this may be fortuitous as this is a levelling down phase.

In Phase 4 Fabric 1a predominates followed by Fabrics 2 and 1b in that order.

Fabric 4 is the next in line with minimal amounts of Fabric 3. As this is the largest stratified group on the site it may well represent the true picture of this late Iron Age assemblage.

In Phase 5 Fabric 1a is absent but the sample is very small.

In Phase 6 Fabric 1b predominates and there is more Roman pottery than in previous phases.

In Phase 7, of Roman date, Fabrics 1a and 1b are conspicuous by their absence.

A full analysis of this information can be found in the archive.

Other pottery artefacts.

There was one loomweight fragment, probably from a triangular weight. It was found, unphased, in Area 2.

An enigmatic find is an oval piece of baked clay (62), unphased in Area 3. It is very well fired and could be part of an oven or some kind of a lid, one surface is almost completely flat and the other is rounded; no parallels are known for this.

Briquetage.

A very interesting find is a small sherd of VCP (Very Coarse Pottery) from Phase 4 (F308). This is a widely flaring rim sherd with a pinched over internal ridge (63). It is probably part of a cylindrical container used in the evaporating process of salt manufacture and was used subsequently to transport the salt crystals (Morris 1985, Fig.8).

The fabric of this sherd is stony VCP which comes from an unidentified source in south-eastern Cheshire and the centre of salt production was probably in the area from Middlewich to Nantwich. Distribution of this type of VCP is widespread from North Wales to Staffordshire but it is not common in this area. Similarly isolated sherds have

been found at Fisherwick, Staffordshire (Smith 1979, p.53; Fig.14), Gamston, Nottinghamshire (Knight 1992, p.87), and Breedon-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire. All this gives concrete evidence of long distance trade in the Late Iron Age. The accepted date range for this type of briquetage is fifth century B.C. to mid first century A.D.

Discussion

There seems very little reason to doubt that this site belongs to the latest period of the Iron Age in rural Britain where the advent of the conquerors appeared to make little impact, at least in the earliest decades of the occupation.

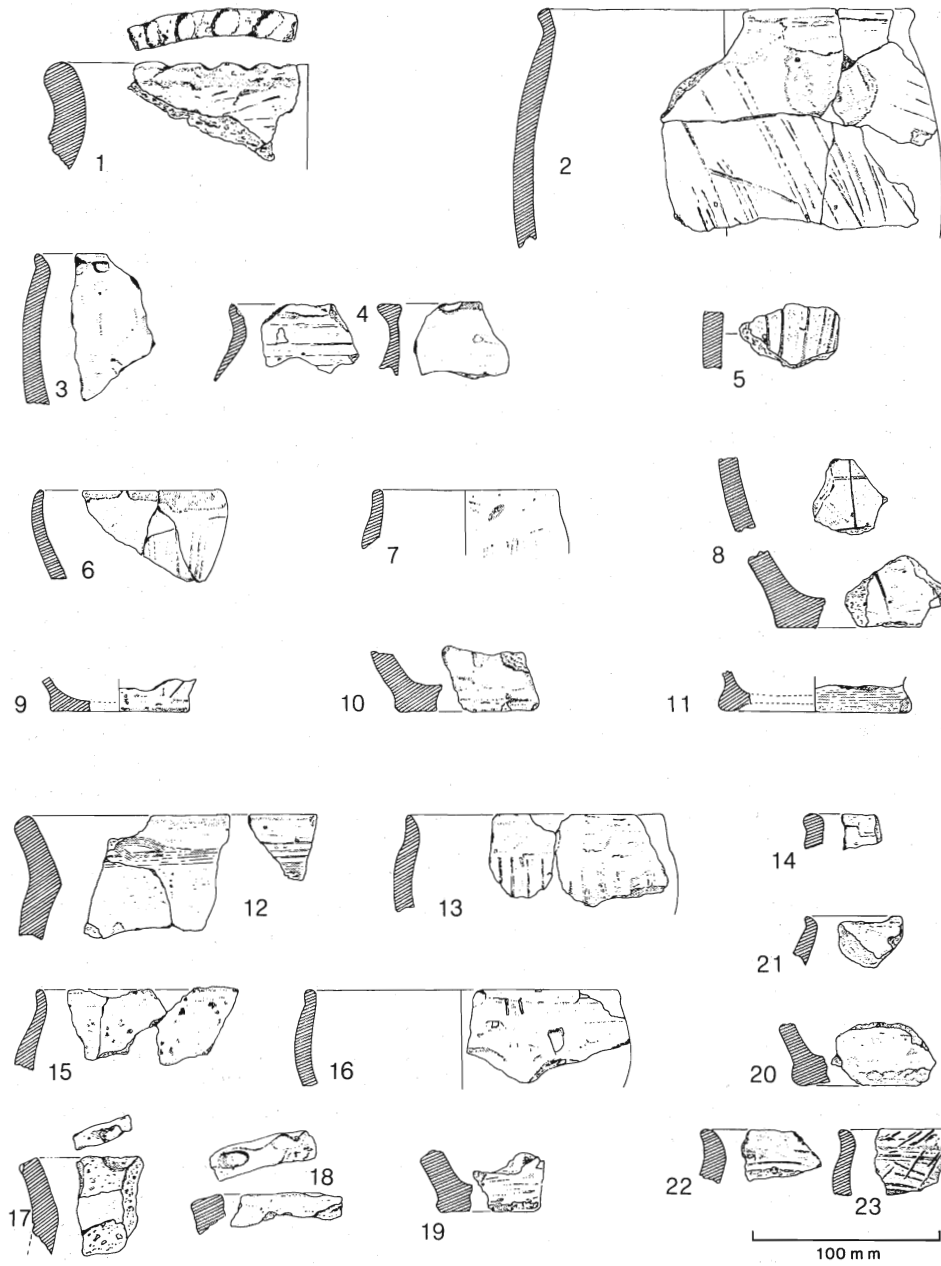
It is increasingly evident that in the Trent Valley and adjacent areas the scored ware style of pottery decoration or surface treatment, although it probably began in the mid third century B.C., continued in use for a long time and overlapped with the early Roman (Elsdon 1992a). The percentage of scored ware vessels here, 22%, is in line with other sites of the same period: Enderby, Leicestershire 29%; Breedon, 25%; Gamston, c.20%; and Weekley, Northamptonshire, 31%. The site lies within the accepted distribution area for this type of pottery decoration as it is fairly close to Breedon, one of the two original type sites for Ancaster Breedon ware as it was originally labelled. It can be noted however, that less than a quarter of the pottery at Normanton bears the distinctive scored decoration and this is also normal. This means that the bulk of the pottery is coarse and undecorated.

It also seems increasingly evident that deep finger impressions on widely flaring rims is a feature of the latest Iron Age period. This is not accompanied by similar decoration on the shoulders which seems to be confined to earlier periods. This type of late Iron Age decoration has been noted at Gamston. (Knight 1992, 17,19 group 2). It also occurs at Baldock, Hertfordshire, (Rigby, 1986, Fig.105,43; Fig.107,43; Fig.11,84). The two earlier examples at Baldock are dated early to middle first century B.C. and the later one to the pre-Claudian era of the first century A.D. It can thus be concluded that finger impressions on the rim of a vessel are not necessarily an indication of a middle Iron Age date as is undoubtedly the case at Ancaster and many other sites.

The pottery at Normanton has a preponderance of rounded and ovoid forms and there is good evidence of a preference for these forms in the East Midlands in the later part of the first millennium B.C., (Cunliffe 1991, p.85-8). The pottery from the pre-Belgic phases at Weekley. illustrates this well (Jackson and Dix 1987).

However, it is the pottery from a small enclosed settlement site at Grove Farm Enderby, Leicestershire which provides the closest parallels with Normanton. The two sites are only about 17 kms (11 miles) apart and between them they provide the beginnings of a good type series of later Iron Age pottery in the area to the east and south of Leicester. The Enderby forms of rounded and ovoid jars and bowls are almost identical to those from Normanton (Elsdon 1992, illus.24,25). A date range of c.175 B.C.- c.A.D.50 is suggested for the Enderby settlement.

The pottery seems to represent the normal requirements for a rural community of the period, storage of grain and beans in the larger vessels, and other items in the medium sized ones. The fine wares were possibly reserved for drinking purposes. Platters or plates do not seem to exist so presumably people helped themselves with their fingers from the stores in the larger vessels. Many of these are sooted on the outside so it is to be hoped that the food was hot! This site seems to provide a representative assemblage of pottery, therefore, from Late Iron Age rural Leicestershire from about the mid second century B.C. to the Roman conquest and after.



22. Iron Age Pottery: Phase 1, 1-5, Phase 2, 6-11, Phase 3, 12-23. Scale 1:4.

Descriptions of Illustrated Pottery.

Context numbers are in brackets. All pottery is hand made unless otherwise mentioned.

Phase 1

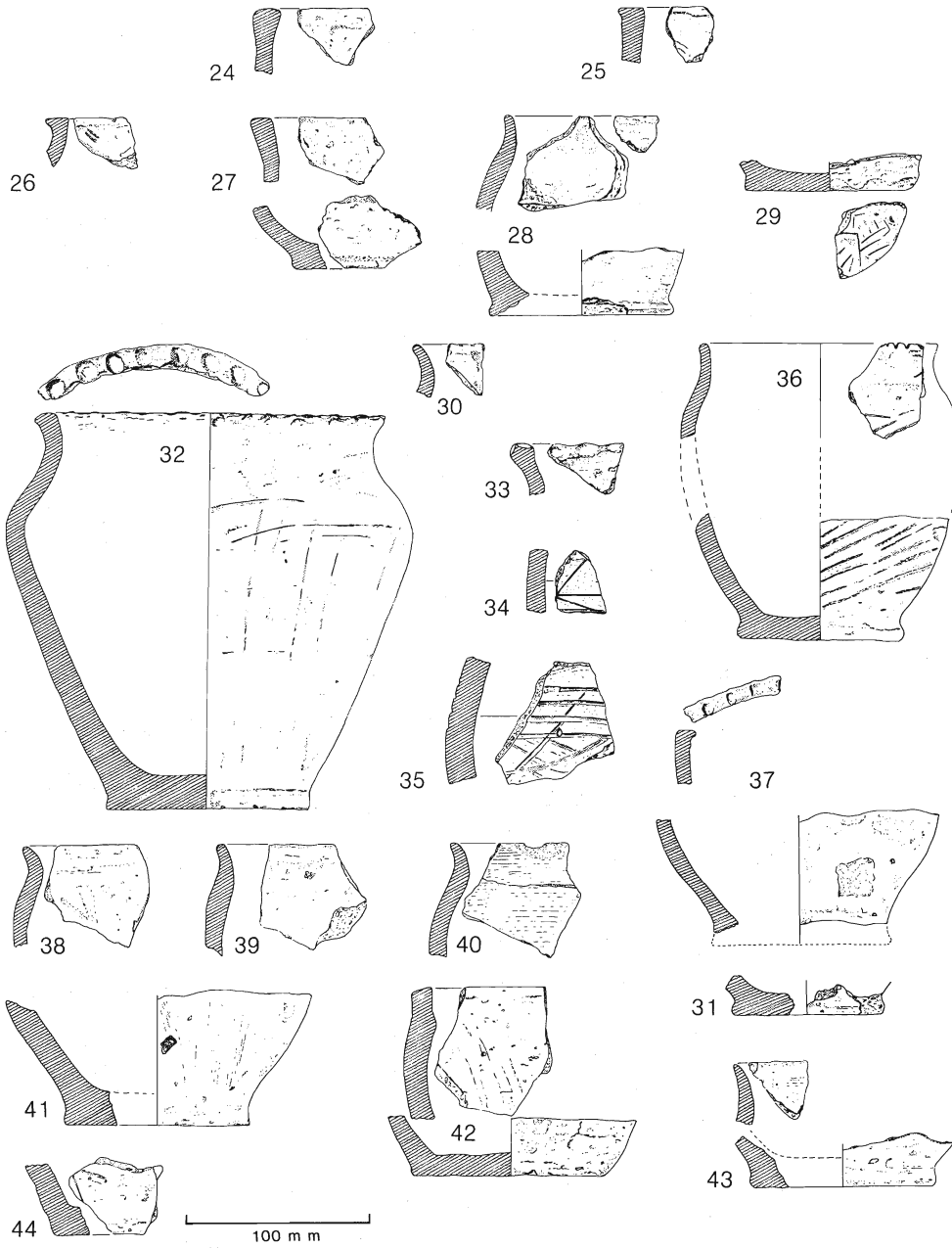
1. F390, (869). Rim and several body sherds of a large, heavy jar *c.*260mm diam. with deep finger impressions on the rim. Surface very rough with vertical wiping/brushing marks. Fabric 1a, dark brown.
2. F355, (784). Rim and body sherds of medium-sized jar. Finger impressions internally where rim has been pulled out. Possible slip on the surface which is much finer than the core. Diagonal light scoring. Fabric 1b, grey to brown surface with lighter core.
3. F390, (868). Rim with internal bevel and one body sherd. Smoothed surface but large pieces of quartz filler in the core. Fabric 2, light brown.
- 3a. F390, (868). Flared rim and body sherd in Fabric 2, dark grey. Vertical smoothing marks. Not illustrated.
4. F390, (868). Three rim and numerous body sherds of a crude, thick pot which is thinned out at the neck. Fabric 1a with quartz fragments breaking the surface. Crude smoothing marks and external sooting. Brown with red core.
5. F371, (761). Body sherd from a pot with shallow, regular vertical scoring. Red surface and grey core. Fabric 1a.

Phase 2

6. F333, (832). Small jar or bowl with rounded rim. Fabric 2, dark brown with red core. Vertical smoothing towards base.
7. F333, (863). Rim and body sherd of a small jar with a stubby, upright rim. Fabric 1b with large quartz grits but exterior surface dark brown and smooth, core and interior, red.
8. F333, (812). Thick base and body sherd with deep, regular scoring with the lines at right angles. Fabric 1b, smoothed, dark brown exterior.
9. F333, (859). Base and body sherd of small jar. Fabric 1b, dark brown with buff interior. One sharply incised line may indicate more decoration above.
10. F333, (859). Base of a large jar in Fabric 1a, dark brown.
11. F515, (543). Two base and one body sherd in the fine Fabric 3, burnished externally. The raised footring base is possibly wheel made. Dark grey.

Phase 3

12. F336, (372). Three rim sherds of a very large jar with rounded profile and flared rim. Fabric 1b, light brown surfaces and grey core. Decoration of combed lines in the neck angle.
13. F336, (372). Two rim sherds of a small jar with upright, tapered rim. Fabric 1a, dark grey with red interior. Very large quartz grits protruding internally, exterior smoothed. Deep vertical smoothing indentations below the neck angle.
14. F336, (372). Stubby rounded rim, probably slightly everted. Fabric 1a, red, exterior smoothed.
15. F336, (372). Two rim and one base sherd of jar with well rounded profile and tapering rim. Fabric 2, dark grey with external sooting.
16. F336, (372). Rim sherd of bowl with rounded profile. Fabric 1a, red. Very large grits breaking the surface. Some vertical smoothing below the shoulder.
17. F336, (372). Rim and body sherd of a very large jar with a sharply everted rim. Horizontal finger smoothing internally. Deep finger impressions on pinched out rim. Fabric 1a, very coarse, red.
18. F336, (372). Flat rim sherd; break shows that it was applied as a separate coil. A rounded



23. Iron Age Pottery: Phase 3a, 24-25, Phase 4, 26-44. Scale 1:4.

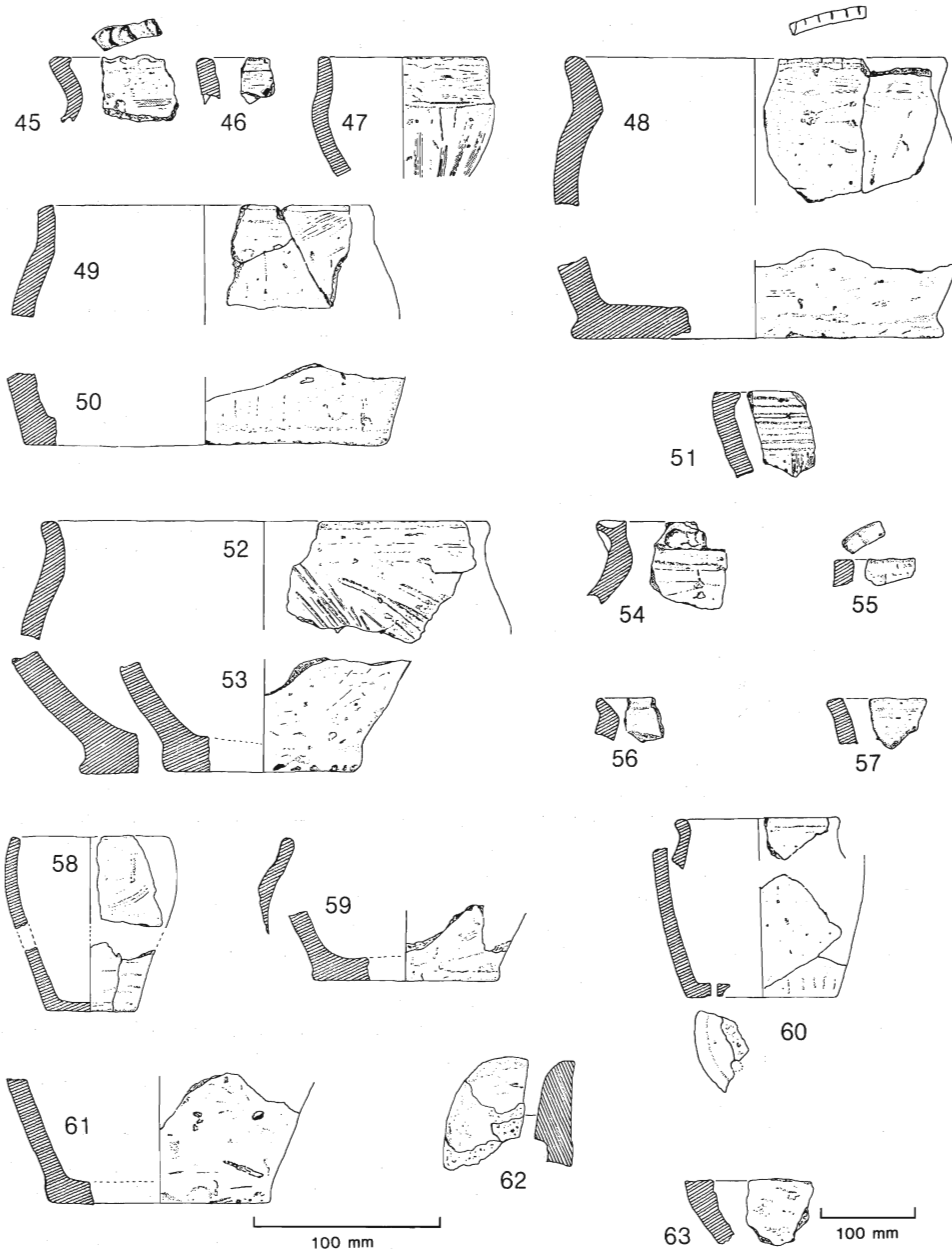
- stick has been pushed diagonally into the flat surface of the top. Fabric 1a, dark brown.
19. F336, (372). Base sherd of large jar. Sandy Fabric 2, dark brown with red core. Surface very uneven both internally and externally.
 20. F907, (969). Three base and one body sherd; Fabric 1b, light red with grey interior. Base pinched out.
 21. F329, (353). Rim sherd in Fabric 2, dark brown with red interior. Deep random scoring on both rim and body. Rounded profile.
 22. F500, (513). Everted, rounded rimsherd; Fabric 4, dark brown.
 23. F957, (1158). Rim sherd in Fabric 2, dark brown with red interior. Deep random scoring on both rim and body. Rounded profile.

Phase 3a

24. F329, (351). Flat, thickened rim sherd of a very large jar. Fabric 1b, red with grey core.
25. F329, (351). Thickened, upright rim sherd. Fabric 1b, brown.

Phase 4

26. F328, (356). Expanded rim sherd of large jar with upright neck. Fabric 1b, dark brown; smoothed surface but large grits in core.
27. F937, (1151). Rim and base sherd from the same pot, a large jar with rounded body and upright rim. Fabric 2, red.
28. F981, (849). Rim, base and body sherds of jar with rounded profile and upright, tapered rim. Coil built. Fabric 2, dark brown exterior and red interior. Sooted externally.
29. F389, (849). Base sherd in Fabric 1b, dark brown. Probably grass marks on the exterior rather than deliberate scoring.
30. F308, (744). Rim sherd of a small jar with rounded profile. Fabric 1b, dark grey exterior and light brown interior. External sooting.
31. F903, (1144). Base sherd of jar with rounded profile, Fabric 1a, dark grey. Exterior of base very uneven.
32. F308, (742 853). Rim, base and body sherds forming a complete profile. Jar virtually complete. Thickened rim with very deep finger impressions. The scoring is shallow and regular. Breaks indicate a slab construction. Fabric 2, but with sparse large quartz inclusions, light brown exterior and black interior. Sooted both internally and externally.
33. F308, (742). Rim sherd from a jar with flared rim. Rim pinched from each side to form the impressions. Fabric 4, chocolate brown with red core.
34. F308, (742). Almost completely flat sherd, possibly a base. Sharply incised decoration. Fabric 1b, black exterior and dark red interior.
35. F308, (742). Very thick body sherd with deeply scored, random pattern. Fabric 1b, red.
36. F308, (742). Almost complete small to medium sized jar with rounded profile and upright rim. Rim tapers and has deep, finger nail indentations. The scoring is wide, shallow, diagonal and regular. The exterior is heavily sooted. Fabric 1b, dark brown to black.
37. F308, (742). Rim and body sherds of rounded jar with possible flared rim (see no.47). The impressions on the rim are made by the thumb and finger nail while fingers 1 and 2 of the other hand support the rim. Fabric 4, black to brown exterior and brown interior. Sooted externally.
38. F308, (853). Rim sherd from elegant jar of rounded profile with everted neck and tapered rim. Fabric 1b, red with grey core. Beginnings of wide, shallow scoring on the shoulder.
39. F308, (742). Plain jar of rounded profile. Fabric 4, black exterior and buff interior; sooted externally.



24. Iron Age Pottery: Phase 6, 45-50, Phase 7, 51, Unphased 52-62. Scale 1:4. Briquetage Phase 4, 63. Scale 1:8.

- 40. F308, (853). Rim and body sherds in very fine Fabric 3 with burnished, micaceous surface. Everted, tapering rim and well rounded profile. Dark brown.
- 41. F308, (742). Base sherd of jar with rounded profile. Fabric 1b, red. Faint traces of vertical twig brushing.
- 42. F308, (742). Rim and base sherds of large, barrel-shaped jar. Rim everted with sharp line of demarcation, possibly a lid seating. Traces of diagonal, light scoring or twig brushing. Fabric 2 colour?
- 43. F308, (74). Rim and base of medium-sized jar with rounded profile and tapered rim. Fabric 1b, red.
- 44. F308, (742). Base of a large jar similar to no.32. Fabric 1b, red.

Phase 6

- 45. F300, (303). Sharply everted rim sherd with finger impressions. Fabric 1a, red.
- 46. F307, (314). Rounded rim sherd with slight internal groove. Probably from a barrel-shaped jar. Fabric 1a, dark brown; sooted externally.
- 47. F388, (755). Rim and body sherds of a well made small jar with upright rim. Vertical finger smoothing marks start at the shoulder and above are horizontal ones (see no.13, Phase 3). Fabric 1b, dark brown exterior and red interior.
- 48. F388, (775). Rim and base sherds of a large jar of rounded profile and everted neck. Shallow thumb nail impressions on the rim and finger smoothing marks on the body. Fabric 1b, red.
- 49. F388, (775). Rim and base sherds possibly from the same large 50. F388, (775). jar, barrel-shaped with everted rim (as no.48). Finger smoothing externally. Fabric 1b, red.

Phase 7

- 51. F401, 404). Unusual sherd; rim of probable large bowl. Fabric 4, dark brown. Wide, shallow, horizontal scored lines near the rim and vertical ones below.

Unphased

- 52. (14), Area 1. Large jar with shallow, random scored decoration. Horizontal smoothing on the neck. Fabric 2, dark grey exterior and buff interior.
- 53. F27, (56), Area 1. Three base sherds possibly from the same pot. Finger pinching marks at base. Fabric 1b, brown to buff; sooting internally.
- 54. (118), Area 1. Everted rim of large jar (probably the same shape as no.34). Very deep indentations on the rim. Fabric 1b, red.
- 55. (903), Area 3. Rim and body sherds. Flat rim with very shallow finger impressions. Fabric 2, light brown to red.
- 56. (928), Area 3. Stubby, slightly everted rim. Fabric 1b, black exterior and red interior.
- 57. F952, (1141), Area 3:1. Flat, slightly everted rim. Fabric 1b, red.
- 58. F922, (961), ? Area 3. Rim and base of a small, beaker-like vessel. Fabric 3, black and smoothed externally. Also body sherd in similar fabric with a thick, black internal deposit.
- 59. F32, (67), Area 1. Rim and base of medium-sized jar of rounded profile. Fabric 1b, dark grey and smoothed externally.
- 60. F203, (205), Area 2. Rim and base of jar with embryonic bead rim. Perforated base with footring. Fabric 2, black.
- 61. F203, (205), Area 2. Base of jar, undecorated Fabric 2, light brown exterior and red interior.
- 62. (337), Area 3. Oval or sub-circular piece of baked clay; reasonably flat on one side and rounded on the "top", ? lid, Fabric light and vesicular, probably over fired heated, ? part of an oven.

Briquetage.

Phase 4

63. F308, (742). A rim sherd of Stony VCP; tall, cylindrical vessel with a flaring rim, diam. 18-23 cm.

The Roman Pottery

Patrick Marsden

Methodology

The pottery was catalogued using macroscopic and hand-lens (20x magnification) examination to compare it with the fabric type series developed for Leicester by the Leicestershire Archaeological Unit (L.A.U.) (codes given in brackets), and classified according to the L.A.U. form type series, accessible in archive form at the Unit's offices. Quantification was by sherd count and weight: a summary is presented (Tables 1 and 2). Illustration was felt to be inappropriate owing to the abraded condition of the sherds, the parallels with the larger assemblage from the 1991 excavations at Jubilee Plantation (Marsden forthcoming) and the existence of a large corpus of illustrations from Leicester which either is, or will be, published (e.g. Kenyon 1948; Pollard 1994 and forthcoming).

Phase 7

The Roman pottery from this phase comprised 89.6% of the sherds from the site at this period; by weight, also 89.6%. F400 contained most of the diagnostic sherds from this phase (88.7% of the pottery by number; 84.7% by weight) including samian from South Gaul (a Drag. 18 plate) of late first century date, and a Drag 18, 31 bowl of Hadrianic - early Antonine date (from Central or East Gaul).

F400 yielded 0.719 kg of 'oxidised grey ware', comparable to material from a possible kiln at Jubilee Plantation in form - wide-mouthed straight-necked jars or bowl jars, and characteristic bases - and in fabric; these were thought to date to within the period mid second to early to mid fourth century at the latter site, but associations in F400 suggest production in the earlier second century also. Other types in this ware, all present in F400, comprise a necked jar with sinuous profile (late first to second century); jars with ledged-everted and short to medium everted rims (not later than second century); and a flanged segmental bowl (second century). The grey wares from F400 embrace all of the types in 'oxidised grey ware', with, in addition, narrow-mouthed jars and a carinated beaker, of similar date, the latter not later than mid third century. The ledged-everted rim jar also occurs in a grogged white fabric common in north Northamptonshire (see comparable vessels in both fabric and form in MacRobert 1988) and south-east Leicestershire (L.A.U. fabric WW1).

F416 contained a substantial portion of a calcite gritted ware jar (CG1A), also ledge rim, comparable in fabric and form to a Harrold example of late first century date (Brown forthcoming no.43), but with a range extending into the second century at Leicester. There were 46 sherds, weighing 0.620 kg, of this vessel present.

The lack of BB1 and Derbyshire ware, which both occurred in significant quantities at Jubilee Plantation, together with the absence of colour coated wares of Lower Nene Valley type, points toward a date in the earlier second century for the Roman activity, with an overall range of c.A.D. 100-150.

The Wares

Samian ware: identified by R.J. Pollard.

In addition to the two pieces from F400 - above - a South Gaulish Drag. 37 of Flavian date was identifiable. The sample is too small to permit significant conclusions to be drawn. However, it should be noted that first century samian is an uncommon find on rural, farmstead sites in Leicestershire, and that the possibility of early second century introduction of these vessels to

the site cannot be discounted in view of the potentially long periods of use of vessels demonstrated at Leicester (Pollard 1994 and forthcoming).

Mortaria.

A single sherd of Mancetter-Hartshill ware was recovered. This is in the fine fabric (MO4) developed during the first half of the second century but dominant only from the second half, and produced down to the mid-late fourth century. This source provided the bulk of the mortaria present at Jubilee Plantation.

'White' wares.

Diagnostic vessels comprise two ledged-everted rim jars in the north Northamptonshire coarse fabrics (MacRobert 1988) which contain grog and variable amounts of quartz (WW1A-B).

Grey wares.

These constituted the largest group, amounting to 70.3% of the sherds (66.3% by weight) from F400. Types absent from F400, but present elsewhere, include vestigial-neck beaded and carinated bowls and a platter, none necessarily later than the first half of the second century.

The very pale grey fabric with dark surfaces associated with the Lower Nene Valley but also present at Mancetter-Hartshill (GW4/7), is represented by a single neckless ledged rim jar, probably of first century date.

The dominance of wide-mouthed necked jar bowl-jars at this site and at Jubilee Plantation is in contrast with the contemporary situation at the production site of Little Chester, Derby, where the everted rim jar form was the most common (Birss 1986,91).

'Oxidised grey ware'.

F400 contained the full range of types present on the site.

Calcite gritted ware.

Harrold type ware (CG1A in the Leicester series) is present, but generally the poor state of preservation of these low-fired wares militates against source ascription. The distinctive 'Bourne-Greetham' ware (CG3B), of south Lincolnshire and east Rutland origin and traded to Leicester from the mid second century into the third, could not be identified. The presence of this ware at the Jubilee Plantation site, where activity did not start until the later second century, would support the case for Phase 7 at Normanton le Heath dating to the first half of the second century.

The small size of the assemblage imposes strict limits on the level of interpretation that can be achieved. Fine wares and imports are generally rare in the first half of the second century, perhaps too rare to make a showing in such a small assemblage. Flavian and Hadrianic to early Antonine Samian ware, in contrast, traded in great quantity, and finds of the former, although rarely in bulk, are not unknown from sites accorded 'farmstead' status. No amphora sherds were recovered. The rarity of mortaria may be a reflection of the site's date, for at Jubilee Plantation mortaria are only present in large quantities from the third century.

The 'kitchen' wares are overwhelmingly in 'oxidised grey' and grey fabrics, the former in some cases at least probably being grey vessels with oxidised margins whose reduced surfaces have been destroyed by the acidity of the soil. The prevalence of jars may be related to site function, but jars were the main class produced in grey ware in the region in the first half of the second century. The presence of traded ledge rim jars may indicate an element of competition, or the purchase of foodstuffs from sources further afield, the fabrics being characteristic of the south-east Midlands (WW1, CG1A).

Diagnostic products of the Ravenstone kilns (Boyer 1989 and Marsden 1992) are not apparent, again perhaps because of the site's period of occupation, but 'oxidised grey ware' may come from close at hand.

The mid second century saw a partial reorientation of trade in the north-west Leicestershire - Derby region, with Derbyshire ware and south-east Dorset BB1 supplanting some grey ware as well as the south-east Midlands grog tempered and calcite gritted wares. Large quantities of BB1 are present at Derby (Birss 1986), and it is possible that the Jubilee Plantation settlement acquired its BB1 there rather than from Leicester; there is no hard evidence for direct contacts between the local populace in what is now Normanton parish and the cantonal capital. The presence of imported pottery suggests a community existing above the subsistence level, able to produce a surplus beyond the requirements of the tax collectors, but whose luxuries were modest.

Table 1: Roman pottery: wares, total sherd numbers and *weight*(g) by phase

	Phase 7		Unphased		Unstratified		Topsoil		Totals	
Samian	3	24	6	37					9	61
Mortaria (MO4)	1	17							1	17
White Wares (WW1A)	3	62					4	14	7	76
(WW1B)	15	86							15	86
(WW)	2	19							2	19
Grey Wares (Local)	417	3197	2	17	1	1	26	243	446	3458
(Oxidised Local)	95	738			2	7	5	71	102	816
(4/7 Nene Valley/ Mancetter/Hartshill)			2	18					2	18
Calcite Gritted Wares										
CG1a	46	620							46	620
CG1	1	5							1	5
CG	5	37							5	37
Misc Coarse Ware 2			1	8					1	8
Sandy Ware 4	3	7					1	1	4	8
Total	593	4823	11	80	9	44	49	436	662	5383

Objects of copper alloy

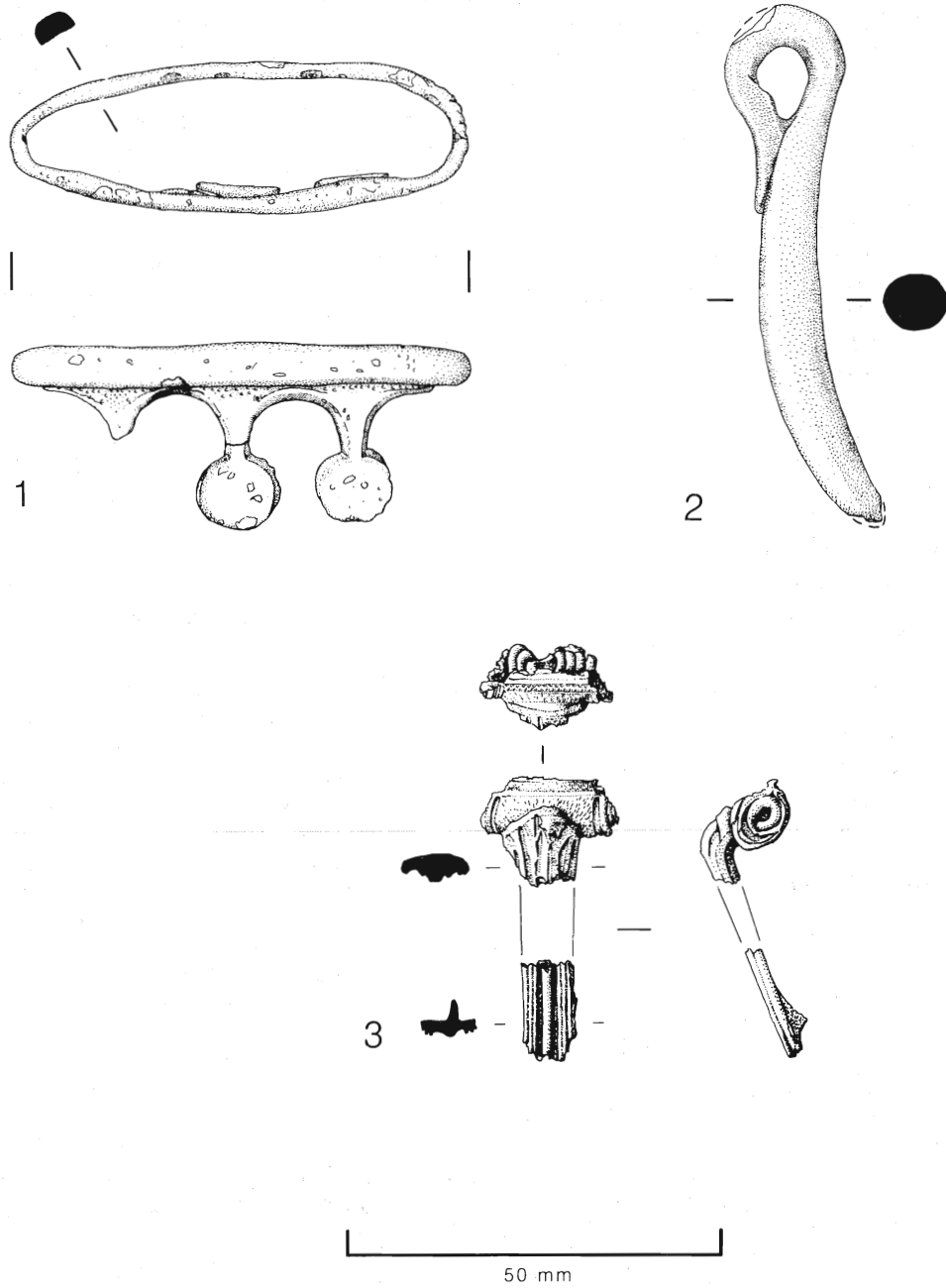
A.P. Fitzpatrick

Illus. 25.1

A cast hilt or mouth-guard, 75mm wide by 20mm deep, for a sword scabbard. The guard is a simple oval sectioned band which originally had three lobes at the front, one of which is now lost. The guard would have helped clasp together the front and back plates of a metal or wooden scabbard, and any sheet metal mounts which may have decorated them. A159.1990: Phase 3 F308 (742)

The closest affinities for this guard are with the decorative mounts from later Iron Age sword scabbards of Piggott's Group V (Battersea type) (Piggott 1950, p.21-2; MacGregor 1976, p.83-4). The wide, square shouldered, and otherwise plain mouths of the scabbards of this group often had metal mounts which were frequently decorated. This decoration could be engraved or incised (e.g. Brailsford 1962, p.1, Fig.1, A2-5), inlaid with coloured glass ('enamel'), or, as in the present example, be openwork.

Perhaps the most similar piece in terms of the openwork decoration is the front facing mount from the eponymous piece from the River Thames at Battersea



25. Objects of Copper Alloy (1-2): Late La Tène brooch (3). Scale 1:1.

(Piggott 1950, Fig.10, 6a). That piece, however, has birds heads flanking the central lobe which echo the decoration on chape bridges on continental European mid-La Tène swords (de Navarro 1972, p.30). A more elaborate openwork mouth-guard (quite probably of British manufacture), is also known from Lambay, Co.Dublin, Ireland, (Rynne 1976, pp.237-8, pl.xxxv, 1; Raftery 1984, p.73, Fig.47, 2).

The contrasting pattern created by the different metals or materials of the mouth-guard and scabbard may have reflected the images of the incised and engraved decoration or those of the coloured glass and its background on other scabbards of this Group.

Iron Age swords from Leicestershire are rare finds (Challis and Harding 1975, 87) but Group V swords and or scabbards are known from Thrapston, Northamptonshire (Megaw 1976), Isleham Cambridgeshire (Stead *et al.* 1981), and two from the River Witham, Lincolnshire (Stead *et al.* 1981, pp.72, 74, n.10), so there is no reason to suppose that the Normanton le Heath find is of anything other than local manufacture.

Swords of Group V are generally taken to be earlier first century A.D. date, but a date in the first century B.C. should not be excluded (Stead 1985, pp.29-31; Stead *et al.* 1981, p.73).

Illus 25.2

A virtually complete end-looped 'pestle' from a 'Cosmetic Set', damaged at both terminals. The casting is simple and in contrast to some examples there is no indication that the terminal was zoomorphic. Length 69mm. A159.1990: 901, Phase 3a (1088)

The 'pestle' is one half of a well-defined pair of objects; the 'pestle and mortar' of the so-called 'cosmetic sets' of first and second century A.D. date which might have been used for preparing cosmetics (Jackson 1985, pp.168, 182-4, Fig.6. 40-56). The types are relatively widely distributed in southern and eastern England.

Although a number of these objects have been found in contexts of Late Iron Age or Romano-British date; Colchester - *Camulodunum*, Gussage All Saints, Hod Hill, Hunsbury, and St.Albans - King Harry Lane (Jackson 1985, nos.1,38,50-1,81), none have yet been found in contexts certainly of Iron Age date. The Late Iron Age date proposed by Jackson for the King Harry Lane set, the crucial pieces in his proposed chronology, (1985, p.175) was revised in the published report on that site to be potentially, rather than certainly, of pre-Conquest date (Stead and Rigby 1989, p.84, 104).

The Normanton le Heath find further suggests a Late Iron Age origin for these sets without conclusively demonstrating one.

Late La Tène Brooch

D.F.Mackreth.

Illus 25.3

The spring-case was made by wrapping two flaps cast on the head of the bow round the separately-made spring. On the front of the case is a panel defined by two sunken ridges on each side and the top. The panel is filled by fine lines radiating from the head of the bow. This is off-set from the case by a beaded cross-moulding. The bow is reeded in three groups of three, the central element of each being beaded. Only the stub of part of the catch-plate survives. A159.1990: 400, Phase 7 F400 (403).

Although not precisely the same in every detail, this is essentially a Langton Down as defined by Wheeler (Wheeler and Wheeler 1932, pp.71-74, fig.10). It lacks the

extra mouldings on the head as the main groups splay out to take up the width. It is also beaded whereas the basic Langton Down is not. However, this is a typological feature: the beading is early. The only site at the moment which yields any kind of satisfactory dating for the Langton Down is the King Harry Lane cemetery (Stead and Rigby 1989). The following list is of those which have reeding basically like the present specimen; the occurrence of beading is indicated by (B): Phase 1, G71.3.4, G97.5(B), G287.5(B).7(B), G309.5(B), G413.3.4; Phase 2, G255.2, G361.4(B), G399.2; Phase 3, G41.3, G68.5.6(B), G156.2.3.4, G184.2, G370.4(B).5. Crude though these statistics may be, they do show that there is a higher percentage of beaded and reeded brooches in Phase 1 than later. If other beaded varieties of Langton Down are also looked at, the same sort of incidence is also found: Phase 1, G202.8, G287.6; Phase 2, G289.3; Phase 3, G117.5. To some extent, the care taken over the beading should also be taken into account as there is a high probability that it became more cursory, passing through a stage where it was represented by cross-cuts before being abandoned altogether. In the present case, therefore, a date in Phase 1, and possibly running into Phase 2, of the cemetery may be suggested.

The dating of the phases is not entirely secure. While the earliest likely date for the cemetery is admitted to be 15 B.C. (Stead and Rigby 1989, p.83), the writers preferred a more conservative scheme: Phase 1, A.D.1-40; Phase 2, 30-55; Phase 3, 40-60; Phase 4, 60+ (Stead and Rigby 1989, p.84). Over half the burials should therefore be statistically later than the Roman conquest. However, the samian report (Stead and Rigby 1989, p.113) comments that it is surprising that there should be only six vessels: three earlier than 25, none dating to 25-50, two dating 45-65 and the last being much later. Looking at the published dating, it is remarkable that there should be only one Colchester Derivative (G316,4) and no fully formed Hod Hill, both types well represented in Verulamium scarcely 500 metres away. If the earliest date is set, however, at 15 B.C. most of the problem is removed and the following ranges are suggested: Phase 1, 15 B.C. - A.D.30; Phase 2, 20-40; Phase 3, 35-50/55. Phase 4, 45+. Most of the burials would then become pre-conquest. The end-date of 50 55 for Phase 3 was arrived at by using general evidence for the dating of Colchesters as they would be subject to the same rules of residuality which governs all material not melted down or otherwise removed from a normal site assemblage. As it happens, the same terminal date applies to Langton Downs as well. In the case of such a specialised collection as that from King Harry Lane, the writer would be happier with a terminal date for Phase 3 of 40/45.

The Flint

R. Young and D. O'Sullivan.

Fieldwalked material

A total of 76 pieces of flint was recovered in the course of fieldwalking in 1989. The material has been accessioned by Leicestershire Museums Service, A59 and A60. 1989.

Condition of material

All of the flint retrieved seems to derive from pebble flint. Sixty-two (81.58%) retain cortex to a greater or lesser degree. Fifty-nine (95.16%) of those pieces with cortex have smooth surfaces; three (4.84%) retain hard, pitted cortex. Cortex colour is generally fawn or grey, although there are some white and red-brown examples. Fifty-four pieces (71.05%) show recortication: on 21 of these (38.89%) this is heavy, although only one flint is totally recorticated. Many of the pieces show clear signs of plough damage; four pieces (5.6%) show thermal damage.

Typology

The total collection of field-walked material can be categorised as follows:

Type	Number	%
Cores	1	1.32
Primary Flakes	0	0.00
Secondary Flakes	28	36.84
Tertiary Flakes	8	10.53
Retouched Secondary Flakes	2	2.63
Retouched Tertiary Flakes	1	1.32
Chunks	29	38.16
Chips	1	1.32
Scrapers	3	3.95
Barbed and Tanged Arrowhead	1	1.32
Plano-Convex Knife	1	1.32
Retouched Blade	1	1.32
Total:	76	100.00

Table 2: Types of flint from fieldwalking.

Recognisable tool types thus make up 7.92% of the assemblage.

Technology

Primary Knapping: Cores and related material.

Primary knapping is represented by a single small keeled core in light grey flint, weighing 8.2g, with a small patch of smooth ginger cortex on one face. The core is of Clark's type C. (illus.26.1). There is also one primary flake. It is not possible to establish if any of the chunks and chips relate to primary knapping.

Secondary Knapping. i) Implements and retouched pieces.

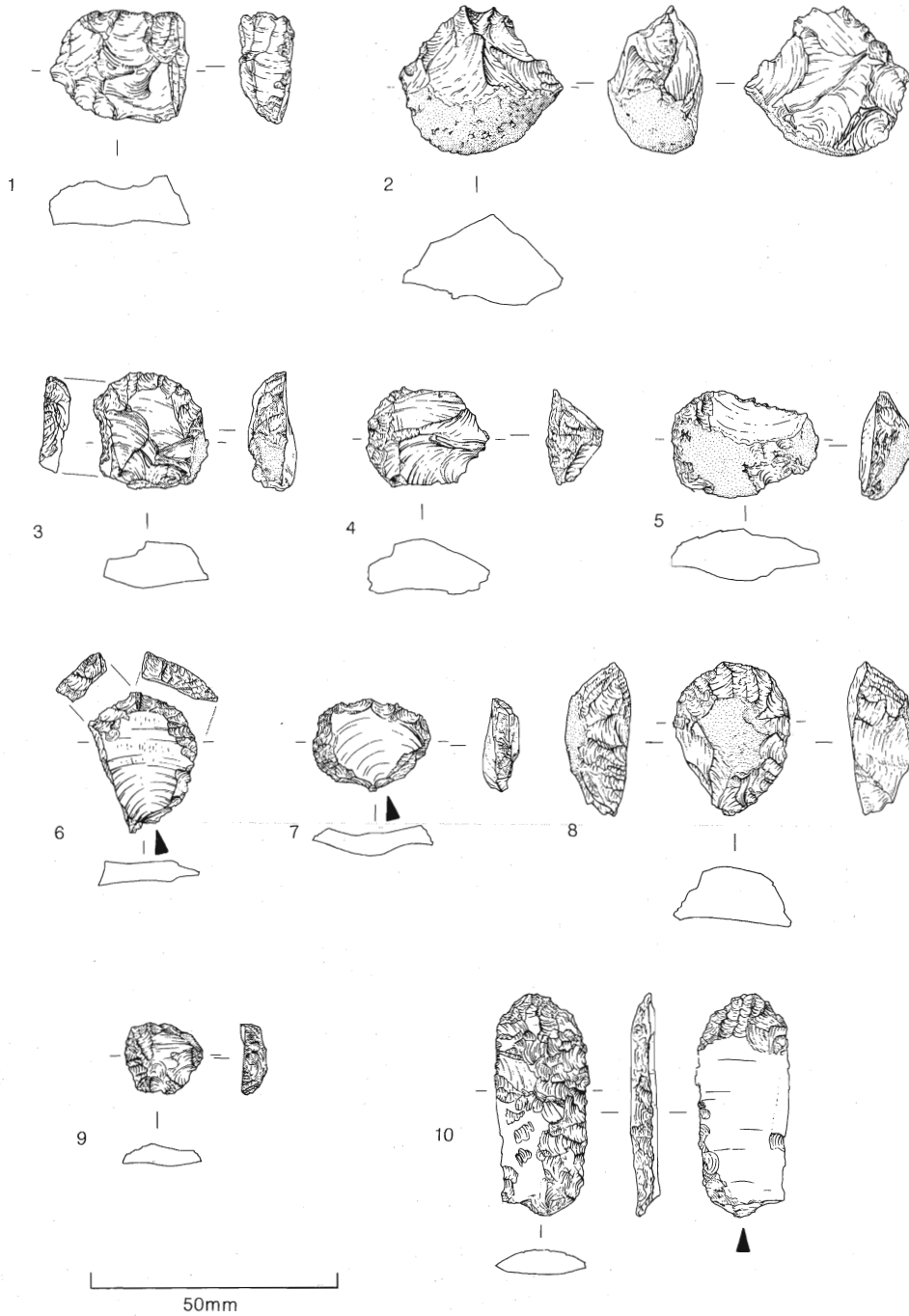
The three scrapers show edge modification, probably by direct percussion. Two (illus.26. 3,4) are short end-scrapers, of Clark Type A (Clark *et al.* 1960, 217); The third (illus.26.5) is technically a long side-scraper (Clark Type Di). Nos.3 and 5 are both on secondary flakes; No.4 was struck on a thick, heavily carinated inner flake (angle of retouch: No.3:67°; No.4:60°; No.5:67°).

The plano-convex flint knife (illus.26.10) shows invasive scale-flaking, probably from pressure work on the dorsal face. The piece has been snapped across the long axis, at the bulbar end, leaving a characteristic scar. The left edge (bulbar face) and distal end (bulbar face) show evidence for shallow flake removals. However, the most interesting feature of this artefact is the exceptionally fine polishing that is visible on both surfaces of the right edge. This has obviously taken place after the pressure-flaking of the dorsal face as some of the visible flake scars have had their edges smoothed and bevelled in the polishing process. Small flakes and chips have been removed from the polished edge, possibly through use.

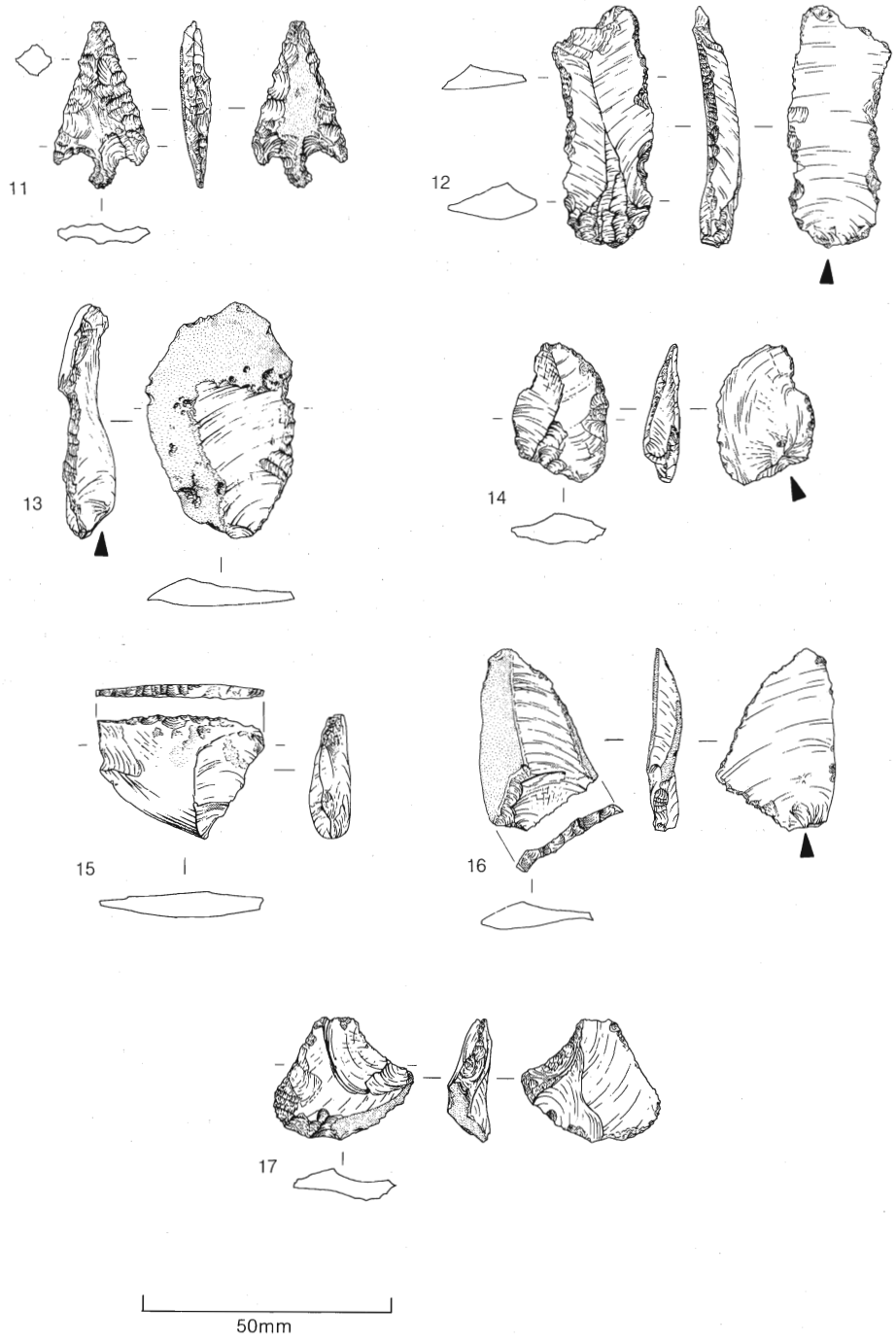
The barbed and tanged arrowhead (illus.27.11) is on a grey secondary flake. Both faces show retouching, probably by direct percussion. The barbs and asymmetrical tang have also been created by direct percussion. The tip is broken, transversely. The arrowhead is of Green's Sutton Type C (Green 1980, p.119).

The retouched blade (illus.27.12) has a faceted butt and a pronounced bulb of percussion. It is broken irregularly at the distal end. Both edges show retouch utilisation, in the form of fine flake removals. However, both edges also show the characteristic, notch-like scars of plough damage.

Of the three retouched flakes, two (illus.27.13,14) have plain butts and pronounced bulbs of percussion. The third is on the distal end of a secondary flake which has been broken irregularly.



26. The Flint 1-10. Scale 2:3.



27. The Flint 11-17. Scale 2:3.

No.13, a secondary flake retaining hard, buff pebble cortex on the dorsal face shows irregular retouch on the left edge, possibly by direct percussion. The inner flake (No.14) has a large hinge fracture at its distal end and very fine, regular, shallow retouch at this point. The third retouched flake (illus.27.15) has crude retouch on the left edge and some battering and crushing at the distal end. The right edge (dorsal face) retained hard, smooth fawn grey cortex.

Secondary Knapping. ii) Waste material.

Of 36 unretouched waste flakes, 19 secondary and three tertiary flakes are complete. The majority have plain butts and pronounced bulbs of percussion, suggesting that hard-hammer flaking prevailed. Very few flakes attain blade-like proportions ranging in length from 15mm - 50mm, and in breadth from 10mm - 60mm, the majority falling within the range of 20mm - 40mm in length and 15 - 30mm in breadth.

Excavated material

A total of one hundred and forty-four pieces was recovered in the course of excavation (Acc. No. A159. 1990).

Condition of the material

Ninety-two pieces (63.89%) retain some cortex. Of these, eighty-five (92.39%) have smooth cortex; seven (8.24%) have pitted, rough cortex. Fifty-eight (40.28%) flints are patinated; in thirty cases (65.52%) this is heavy, but it is only total in 14 (9.72%) instances. Seven pieces show signs of thermal damage. One of these has clearly been burnt; the rest show frost spalling.

Much of the unphased flint shows considerable evidence for plough damage. Material from phased contexts is generally fresh; there is some slight evidence of recortication. Flint colour generally ranges from light to dark grey; some grey-brown, white and pink flint is also present. Cortex colour is generally grey or fawn.

Typology.

The excavated material can be broken down into the following categories:

Type	Number	%
Cores	1	0.69
Primary Flakes	3	2.08
Secondary Flakes	53	36.81
Retouched Secondary Flakes	3	2.08
Tertiary Flakes	35	24.31
Retouched Tertiary Flakes	3	2.08
Natural Flakes	3	2.08
Chunks	22	15.28
Chips	4	9.72
Scrapers	4	2.78
Gunflint	1	0.69
Unretouched Blades	2	1.39
Total	144	100.00

Table 3: Types of flint from excavation, Normanton.

Only five items (3.47%) can be considered as recognised tool types, and of these one (the gunflint: see below) must be of fairly recent origin.

Technology

Primary Knapping: Cores and related material.

The single core and three primary flakes are the only evidence of primary knapping in this assemblage. The core (illus.26.2) is a single platform example, of Clark's class Aii (Clark *et al* 1960, p216). It weighs 17.1gms and is made from dark grey flint. It retains hard, pitted off-white pebble cortex on the unworked part of its circumference. The striking platform and part of the worked face show evidence for plough damage and incipient cones of percussion on the striking platform probably mark episodes of plough striking.

Secondary Knapping i) Implements and retouched pieces.

The four scrapers are all in grey flint. One of these is on the distal end of a tertiary flake which has been broken along almost its full length on the right edge (illus.26.6). As a result bulb and butt data cannot be determined (angle of retouch:46°).

Illus.26.7 is a short oval scraper on an inner flake, retouched around all of the circumference except the bulbar end. It has a plain butt and pronounced bulb of percussion (angle of retouch:62°).

Illus.26.8 is on a pear-shaped secondary flake, which retains a patch of hard fawn cortex on its dorsal face. A small splinter has been removed at an acute angle at the bulbar end, making identification of bulb and butt type impossible. The scraper retouch is very steep (angle of retouch:70°). The piece is the largest and heaviest scraper recovered from the excavation.

Illus.26.9 is on a very small secondary removal, with a small patch of white cortex on its dorsal face. The piece has been retouched around the whole of its circumference (angle of retouch:58°).

Six retouched flakes were found in the course of the excavation, of which three were secondary and three were tertiary removals. Only two are illustrated (illus.27.16,17). No.16 is a short, squat light grey tertiary flake with plain butt and diffuse bulb. It shows convincing retouch across its distal end. No.17 is a translucent grey secondary flake with inverse retouch on the left edge, bulbar end. It has a faceted butt and pronounced bulb of percussion, and retains hard fawn cortex on its dorsal face.

Secondary Knapping ii) Waste material.

The waste material consists of 94 secondary and tertiary flakes, of which 45 secondary and 22 tertiary flakes are complete; two broken, unretouched blades and 36 chunks and chips. The length and breadth data of this larger sample mirrors that for the fieldwalked assemblage; the great majority of the flakes fall within the range of 0.15mm - 40mm in length and 15mm - 35mm in breadth. The general tendency is towards short, squat flakes, and the majority have plain butts and pronounced bulbs of percussion.

Discussion

Taken as a whole the field walked collection would not be out of place within a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date range. The polished plano-convex knife and barbed and tanged arrowhead clearly fall within this timespan. The marked lack of cores and primary flakes would seem to indicate that, whatever the material derives from, primary working was not a significant element. Much of this flint may therefore have been introduced to the site in a ready-dressed state.

Table 4: Distribution of flint by Phase.

Type	Phase							Unphased
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Cores								1
Primary flakes		2						1
Secondary flakes	3	8	6	1	1		1	33
Retouched secondary flakes								3
Tertiary flakes	4	16	2			1		12
Retouched tertiary flakes		1					1	1
Natural flakes		3						
Chunks	1	4						17
Chips		10						4
Scrapers	2	1						1
Gunflint								1
Unretouched blades								2
Total	10	45	8	1	1	1	2	76
% of total assemblage	6.94	31.25	5.56	0.69	0.69	0.69	1.39	52.78

As Table 4 shows, the majority of the flint from the excavation (52.78%) comes from unphased contexts, including the core, one of the scrapers, and four of the retouched flakes. Phases 4-7 contain negligible amounts of flint, and no recognised tool types or evidence for primary knapping. However, a substantial proportion of the assemblage (31.25%) was found within stratified contexts in Phase 2, and there are also a reasonable number of flints from Phase 1 and Phase 3. This material deserves a fuller consideration, as does the possibility that the flint is actually contemporary with the use of the site in the Iron Age.

At the broadly contemporary site of Grove Farm, Enderby, a number of fresh, unabraded flints were associated with occupation debris from the drainage gullies around structures (Young and O'Sullivan 1993), and it was postulated that at least some of the flint was possibly contemporary with the use of the building. The case for this argument at Normanton is less convincing, however.

Material from Phase 1 consists of two scrapers, a chunk, and seven unretouched waste flakes. All of the material comes from gullies, which are part of the earliest phase of occupation on the site. There is nothing to encourage the presumption that the flint is anything other than residual in this phase, the scrapers are of a type usually attributed to the second millennium B.C.

Two of the three primary flakes in the assemblage are from Phase 2, and the quantity of flint from this phase is slightly more susceptible to analysis, but most of it seems to come from ditch fills with the exception of one secondary flake, which was found in a post hole. There is only one retouched piece, the rest of the material consisting of waste flakes, chips and chunks. A greater proportion of chips and chunks were retrieved from this phase, but this may be a consequence of a more intensive finds collection strategy.

The eight pieces from Phase 3 include a scraper and some waste flakes. Two secondary flakes come from floor deposits (F942) within structure F998. The rest of the material comes from ditches and gullies. On balance it seems likely that possibly all and certainly most of the flint from Normanton is residual.

The Bone

Ian L. Baxter.

Very little bone has been preserved from the site owing to acidic soil conditions. However, fragments of a single cattle lower molar tooth from Iron Age phase 3 and a few calcined fragments identifiable as cattle and sheep/goat from Romano-British phase 7 indicate the former presence of the more common domestic livestock.

The Plant Remains

Angela Monckton.

Samples were taken from Iron Age and Roman features on a judgemental basis in order to recover evidence of crop plants and environment. Evidence for Iron Age crop plants is sparse for the county and the East Midlands in general (Moffett 1991) so although the site was truncated by ploughing it was considered important to sample for carbonised plant remains. Other evidence of the economy or environment of the site in the form of animal bone had little potential for survival in the acidic soil conditions.

Method.

Seventy-nine soil samples ranging from 1 - 20 kg in size were wet-sieved with flotation in a sieving tank using 1mm mesh and 0.5mm flot sieve. A total of 660kg was processed, including 57 samples (342kg) from Iron Age phases and 18 Roman samples (200kg). The residues were all sorted and small amounts of calcined bone, finds, and charcoal were recovered. All the flots were sorted using a stereo microscope at x10 magnification for seeds and cereal remains.

Results.

Carbonised plant remains were found in low concentrations in 25 of the Iron Age and 13 of the Roman samples, chaff of wheat (*Triticum* spp) was present in some of the Iron Age samples represented by glume bases, spikelet forks and one rachis fragment (Table 5). The remains were very abraded which made detailed identification difficult.

In phase 1, only context (1192) produced remains including emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) and spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and a possible rye grain (cf *Secale cereale*).

In phase 2, F515 had weed seeds including possible heath grass (cf *Danthonia decumbens*) with F333 having one glume base of wheat only.

Phase 3 included wheat grains and a possible spelt glume base from F955, cereal grains from F415, F500 and F958 with a spikelet fork of glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) from F979; F978 had only evidence of carbonised grass seeds (Gramineae).

Phase 4 evidence was found only from F308 consisting of wheat grains with glume bases of emmer and possible spelt. A few seeds of weeds and grasses were also found.

Phase 6 produced wheat grains from F322 and F536 and cereal grains from F322, F332 and F507.

Samples from the Roman features of phase 7 produced plant remains mainly from F400, which had the largest number of cereal grains from the site including wheat and barley together with legume fragments. Evidence of weeds of disturbed or arable ground was found including wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.). Buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) and sedges (*Carex* spp.) were also found.

F414 produced cereal grains and with seeds of disturbed or arable ground. F416 produced a single seed of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*).

Unphased F406 and F203 produced only 1 item each while F102 had a carbonised elder seed (*Sambucus nigra*) and 2 cereal grains present.

Uncarbonised seeds were found in many of the samples including black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus* L.) and persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia* (L.)) which were the most numerous and were not found carbonised. Seeds of sedges (*Carex* spp) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp), which also occurred carbonised, were found and a seed of poppy (*Papaver* sp). These uncarbonised seeds are most probably modern contaminants although little is known about how long seeds survive in the soil (Moffett 1991).

Discussion.

Iron Age samples produced evidence of wheat on the site which could be identified as emmer and spelt. This is the first Iron Age site from the county where the identification of the wheat has been possible. In the Iron Age in the south of England, spelt is usually the most abundant wheat present where it occurs with sporadic finds of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.) and emmer (Greig 1991) as was the case at Gamston, Nottinghamshire (Moffett 1991, 1992). Unfortunately there are too few remains from this site to make meaningful conclusions about the proportions of the cereals.

The glume wheats (emmer and spelt) are processed by firstly threshing to break up the ears into spikelets, winnowing and then coarse sieving to remove larger contaminants. In this type of wheat the grain is held tightly in the glumes. The spikelets can then be stored and processed in smaller quantities as required. A final process involves parching and pounding to free the grains from the glumes and then fine sieving to remove the chaff and weed seeds. Accidental charring or deliberate burning of waste can preserve the remains by carbonisation. The type of remains in a sample can indicate the stage of crop processing (Hillman 1981).

Although there were insufficient numbers for detailed analysis, the remains from the Iron Age features consisted mainly of glumes, grains and weed seeds samples from F308, phase 4, possibly including waste from the final preparation of the grain as the glumes outnumber the grains. It should be noted that interpretation of this small number of remains is insecure and the deposits appear to contain only redeposited material. This type of waste can only suggest the domestic use of the cereals as they could be produced elsewhere, however waste from the first threshing is rarely found and evidence from this small assemblage is inconclusive, so the cereals could have been produced locally.

The weed seeds present in the Iron Age samples include possible heath grass, now only found on heathland, but thought to have been a weed of corn fields in the past. This perennial grass can survive cultivation by ard plough but was probably eradicated from arable fields by changes in cultivation methods (van der Veen 1992).

The Roman samples produced wheat grains but no chaff and the poor condition of the grains meant that they could not be identified further, although the presence of free-threshing (naked) wheat could not be excluded. This type of grain separates easily from the chaff on first threshing. Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was also present as an additional cereal. Weeds of disturbed or arable ground included wild radish, which first appeared as an arable weed in the Iron Age (Greig 1991). Other cultivated food plants indicated by fragments only, are possibly peas or beans, and the only evidence of gathered food was blackberry.

Conclusions

Late Iron Age features produced evidence of charred wheat grains and chaff which could be identified as emmer and spelt, together with a few weed seeds. The small number of remains appeared to originate from redeposited rubbish which possibly included waste from the preparation of grain for use. Insufficient numbers were found to make conclusions about the proportions of the cereals or give evidence of crop processing. Roman features produced evidence of wheat and barley together with weeds of arable or disturbed ground. Although carbonised plant remains were few in number and in poor condition, as the site was truncated by ploughing, identification of the cereals was possible showing emmer and spelt to be in use in Late Iron Age Leicestershire and wheat and barley in the Roman period.

Table 5: Carbonised plant remains.

	PHASES.						
	1	2	3	4	6	7	
Weight (Kg)	75.4	37.6	90.0	30.8	40.4	178.5	
Number of samples	6	2	9	2	6	13	
CEREALS.							
<i>Triticum</i> spp	3	—	2	2	2	5	Wheat
<i>T. cf dicoccum</i>	—	—	—	1	—	—	cf Emmer
<i>T. cf free-threshing</i>	—	—	—	—	—	3	cf Bread Wheat
<i>T. dicoccum</i> Schübl. (gl)	1	—	—	3	—	—	Emmer
<i>T. cf dicoccum</i> (gl)	—	—	—	1	—	—	cf Emmer
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (gl)	1	—	—	—	—	—	Spelt
<i>T. cf spelta</i> (gl)	—	—	1	1	—	—	cf Spelt
<i>T. dicoccum/spelta</i> (gl)	3	1	—	7	—	—	Glume wheat
<i>T. dicoccum</i> Schubl. (sf)	—	—	—	1	—	—	Emmer
<i>T. dicoccum/spelta</i> (sf)	—	—	1	3	—	—	Glume wheat
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (rachis)	—	—	—	1	—	—	Wheat
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	—	—	—	—	—	2	Barley
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. hulled	—	—	—	—	—	1	Hulled Barley
cf <i>Secale cereale</i>	1	—	—	—	—	—	cf Rye
<i>Avena</i> / <i>Gramineae</i>	—	—	1	—	—	—	Oat/Grass
Cereal indet	4	—	9	2	4	49	Cereal
GRASSES.							
<i>Bromus</i> sp	—	—	1	1	—	1	Brome Grass
Gramineae (large)	—	1	3	2	1	4	Grass
cf <i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	—	1	—	—	—	—	cf Heath grass
Gramineae (medium)	1	1	—	—	—	5	Grass
Culm Gramineae/Cereal	—	—	2	2	—	—	Stem
OTHER PLANTS							
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp	—	—	—	—	—	1	Buttercup
Chenopodiaceae	—	—	—	—	—	2	Goosefoot family
Caryophyllaceae (small)	—	—	—	—	—	1	Pink family
<i>Polygonum</i> cf <i>aviculare</i>	1	1	—	—	—	—	Knotgrass
<i>Rumex</i> sp	—	—	—	—	—	2	Docks
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.	—	—	—	—	—	5	Wild Radish (p)
<i>Brassica</i> (small)	—	—	—	—	—	2	Cabbage family
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	—	—	—	—	—	1	Bramble
<i>Vicia</i> / <i>Pisum</i> fragment	—	—	—	—	—	2	Pea/Bean?
Leguminosae indet.	—	—	1	1	—	5	Legumes small
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> type	—	—	—	1	—	—	Plantain
<i>Cirsium</i> / <i>Carduus</i>	—	—	—	—	—	1	Thistle
<i>Carex</i> spp (c)	—	—	6	—	—	6	Sedges
Flower head part	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Stem frags	1	2	3	—	—	6	
Buds, woody	—	1	5	3	—	7	
Rhizome	—	2	4	1	1	3	
Cereal sprout	1	—	1	—	—	2	
Cereal frags	+	—	+	+	+	+	
Indet charred seeds	1	1	2	—	1	3	
Uncarbonised seeds	+	+	+	+	+	+	

Key: All remains are seeds or grains except where specified.

(gl)= glume base, (sf)= spikelet fork, (c)= capsule. (p) = pod segments. *T.* = *Triticum*.

Industrial residues

G.C. Morgan.

As a whole this material suggests some form of furnace or hearth activity, probably iron working. The presence of coal is of note as it adversely affects iron when used as a fuel. No evidence of its use was found on the site and it may have been introduced accidentally from the nearby deposits.

Table 6: Industrial Residues

Phase 1 F371 (734)	Fired sandy clay (3.5gms)
Phase 2 F333 (721)	Oak charcoal (30mm; 25 rings)
F429 (426)	Coal (fragments)
Phase 3 F907 (969)	Partially slagged and vitrified fired clay - furnace or hearth lining (174 gms)
F939 (1002)	Coal (6.5 gms)
Phase 4 F328 (355)	Coal (fragments)
Phase 7 F400 (416,418,441)	Hearth bottom fayalite slag (1.285 kg)

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