



**ARCHAEOLOGY
WARWICKSHIRE**

From Late Roman Farmscape to Solar Park

**Archaeological investigations at Aston Flamville,
Leicestershire in 2025**

Archaeology Warwickshire
Report No 2613.3
March 2026



Warwickshire
County Council

From Late Roman Farmscape to Solar Park

Archaeological Investigations at Aston Flamville, Leicestershire in 2025
March 2026

Commissioned by:	RPS Group Ltd on behalf of Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd
Site Code:	AF25
Planning reference:	22/00739/FUL/22/0048/FUL
Planning authority:	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council/Blaby District Council
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Date:	March 2026
Version:	3
Report reference:	Dixon, A, and Ward, J, 2026 From Late Roman Farmscape to Solar Park: Archaeological investigations at Aston Flamville, <i>Leicestershire, in 2025, Archaeological excavation (strip, map, sample) and evaluation</i> , Archaeology Warwickshire Report 2613.3.

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SUMMARY

It is widely accepted that southern Britain had largely acceded to the Roman market economy by the 3rd Century AD. This is often apparent when examining the remains of the houses and settlements that developed in this period, but it is often less obvious in the agricultural hinterland. Recent work at Aston Flamville, necessary for the installation of infrastructure for a new solar park by Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd, has revealed evidence that relates to this rarely appreciated aspect of agricultural history.

Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned by RPS Group Ltd to carry out trial trenching and mitigation excavations ahead of the development of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm together with associated equipment, infrastructure and ancillary works in 2025.

The initial evaluation identified a cobbled surface to the north of the site alongside evidence of Roman agricultural activity, in the form of a rectilinear system of ditched enclosures, towards the centre of the site. These areas were thereafter tested by two trial trenches targeting the cobbled surface, with two strip, map and sample areas targeting the Roman features.

The evaluation successfully identified the continuation of the cobbled surface in both trenches and most likely represents an attempt at deliberate ground consolidation in a boggy area, though its date and precise function remains unclear: its patchy form makes its potential interpretation as a trackway or road uncertain. Its alignment with nearby Roman and medieval features further complicates efforts to determine its relationship to the surrounding historic landscape. No dating evidence was recovered from the surface, although its form and position in relation to the adjacent medieval ditch, as well as the ridge and furrow, tentatively suggest a medieval or post-medieval date.

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The excavations revealed a Late Roman enclosure defined by substantial linear boundary ditches located in the northern and southern extents of the area examined, which possibly formed part of a large enclosure. Within this area, a series of parallel internal subdivisions formed by slighter ditches and gullies, enclosing a small number of pits and possible ring-gullies, is indicative of an activity area within this presumed field system. The enclosure system examined forms part of a wider agricultural hinterland associated with an area of Roman occupation located on the higher ground to the north. Although most of the enclosure features had fallen out of use by the early Saxon period, the northern ditch remained extant and continued to act as a boundary to the settlement. This alignment was maintained by successive generations into the medieval and post medieval periods.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (22/00739/FUL) and Blaby District Council (22/0048/FUL) for the erection of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm together with associated equipment, infrastructure and ancillary works, in Aston Flamville, Leicestershire (hereafter referred to as 'the site').
- 1.2 Condition 26 of the planning permission required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to determine if there are any significant archaeological remains within the site, in accordance with a Method Statement approved by the Planning Authority (Ward 2025).
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire (AW hereon) have subsequently been commissioned by Richard Smalley of RPS, on behalf of Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd, to initially carry out an archaeological evaluation followed by a strip, map and sample excavation centred on archaeological remains mainly dating to the Roman period. This report presents the results of that work.
- 1.4 The archaeological evaluation was completed in September 2025, and the excavation took place between November and December 2025. As well as excavation trenches, two evaluation trenches were also positioned either side of a previous evaluation trench that was part of Worcester Archaeology's earlier archaeological evaluation (Trench 4; Nicholson 2025) in order to investigate an area of stone metalling uncovered during this work.
- 1.5 The project archive is detailed in Appendix F and will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums under accession number X.A32.2026, with digital data deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

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- 1.6 The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Universal guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2023a), *Standard for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2023b), *Standard for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2023c), and *Universal guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2023d).

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2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located 500m west of Aston Flamville, Leicestershire, and south of Aston Lane. The archaeological evaluation area forms a trapezoidal plot within a larger triangular field under arable cultivation. The field is relatively flat, lying at around 97m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.2 The archaeological excavation site comprises an c. 1ha L-shaped parcel of land on the south side of Lychgate Lane, Aston Flamville, and to the east of the M69. It is approximately 315m west of the Soar Brook, a tributary to the River Soar. The two rectangular excavation areas were positioned along the eastern edge of a field under arable cultivation. The ground slopes gently southwards from approximately 105 m to 96 m aOD.
- 2.3 The site lies within the rural southwest of the 'Upper Soar' area, an elongated basin, generally characterised as an 'open and gently rolling' landscape, with low-cut hedges, hedgerow trees, woodland and medium-large scale farms (Marshall *et al* 2017). The southwestern end is defined by a series of northeast to southwest elevated ridges, which rise above the more open and flat landscape to provide a clear view of the area and beyond. The agricultural land is described as a mixture of 'very large post-war fields and piecemeal enclosures of various shapes', with some areas of remnant ridge and furrow (Marshall *et al* 2017).
- 2.4 The British Geological Survey (BGS 2025) records the geology within the site as Mercia Mudstone Group with superficial deposits of Bosworth Clay Member.

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1 Excavation area facing southeast (reproduced from Clarke 2022)

Solar Development, Aston Flamville, Leicestershire

Archaeological excavation (strip, map and sample) and evaluation

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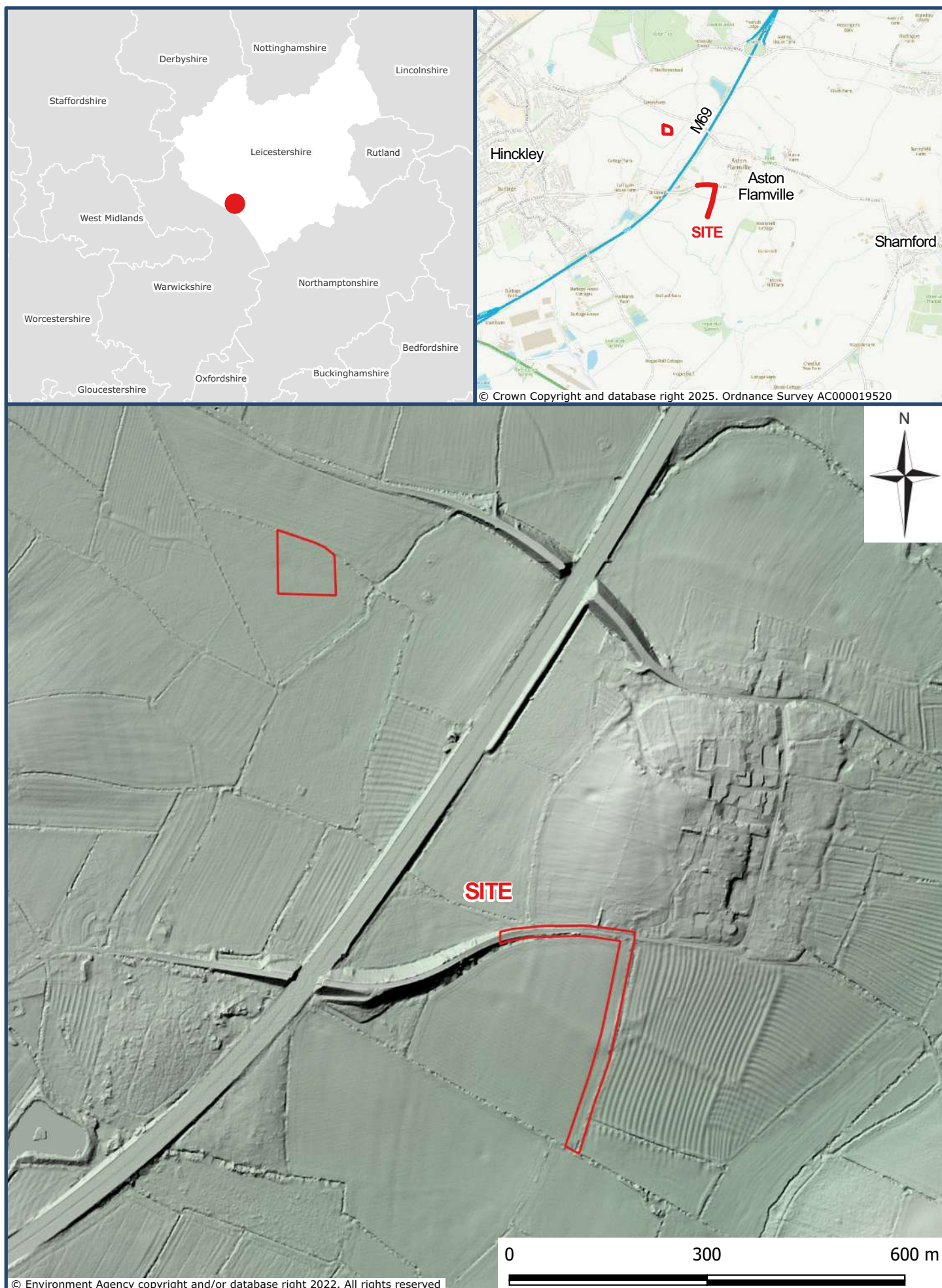


Fig 1: Location of site

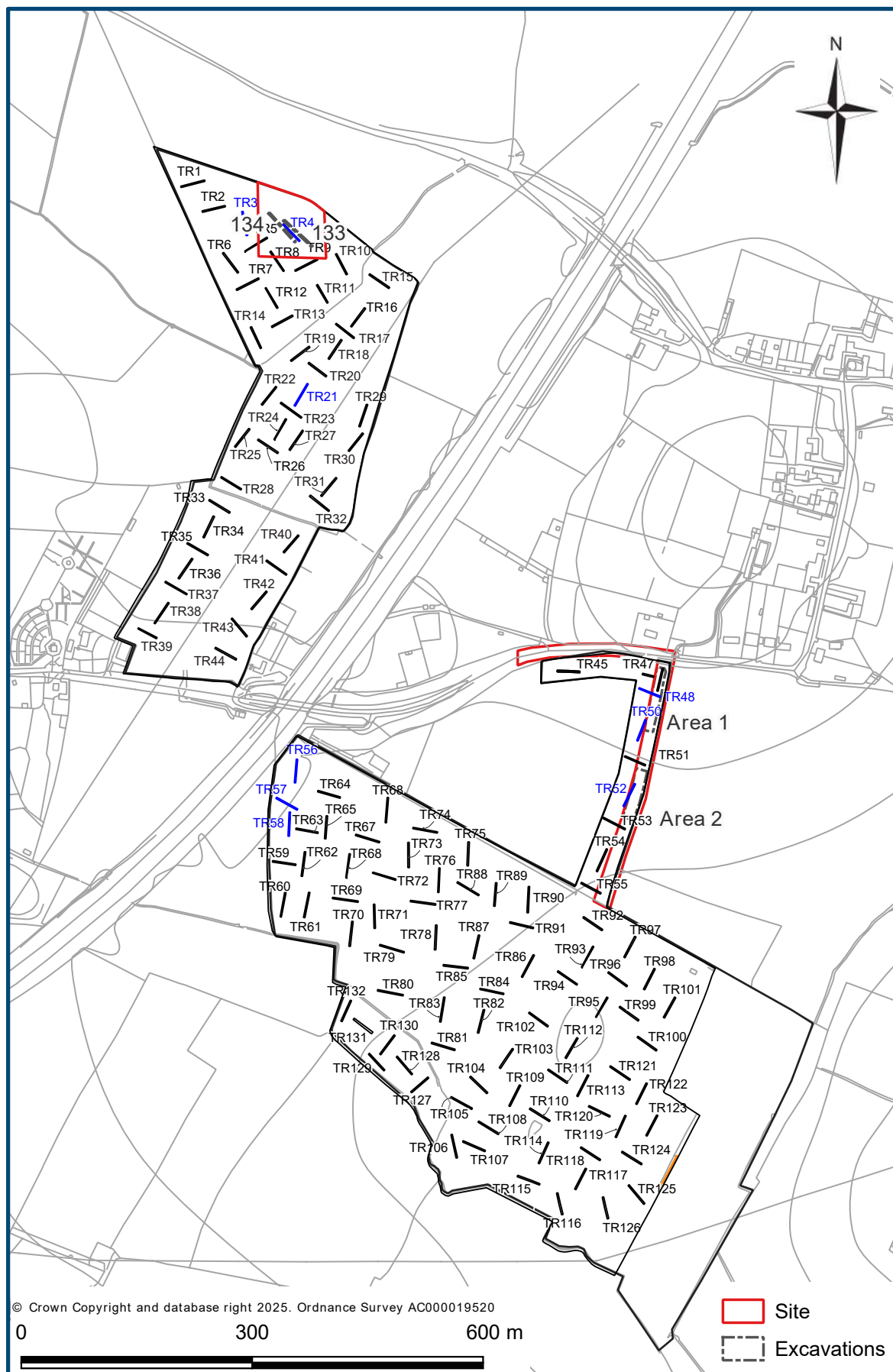


Fig 2: Location of excavations and previous Worcester Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS) trenches

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3 BASELINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

- 3.1 The baseline archaeological data relating to the site was described in the archaeological desk-based assessment of 2022 (Clarke 2022), and the salient aspects of which are presented below.

Previous Archaeological Investigation

- 3.2 A geophysical survey of both the northern and southern area was undertaken during 2023. The magnetometry survey results were largely inconclusive but were able to identify two areas with possible archaeological features, one of which may be Roman in origin. Medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow was also detected throughout most of the survey area, along with two former field boundaries (Manktelow 2023).
- 3.3 An archaeological evaluation comprising of 132 trial trenches was undertaken between March and April 2025 (Nicholson 2025). This work largely supported the geophysical survey results, albeit revealing evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity, along with extensive medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow, and a post-medieval field system. Iron Age and Roman activity was concentrated in the southern part of the evaluated area and was characterised by field boundary ditches and a small number of pits with limited evidence for localised domestic activity. The overall distribution and character of the features (ditches and pits) and absence of any structural remains suggested that this area formed part of an agricultural hinterland, rather than a settlement core. A metallated stone surface in one of the northernmost trenches (Trench 4), appeared to suggest the presence of a trackway or an area of consolidated ground, possibly of medieval or post-medieval date (Nicholson 2025).

Prehistoric

- 3.4 Two flint scatters were recorded east of the site, near Mickle Hill, between 1913 and 1917. These finds include cores, blades, flakes, scrapers, and piercers. The descriptions of these early 20th-century finds, noting "long

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ridged flakes", "pygmy character", alongside scrapers, a leaf-shaped point, and a fabricator, hint at a transient Mesolithic presence nearby.

3.5 The Leicestershire HER notes Neolithic finds near the site, including a flint leaf-shaped arrowhead at Mickle Hill and further prehistoric flints northeast of it. A Neolithic arrowhead was also found near Fields Farm, southwest of the site, and several flint assemblages were recovered west of the northern parcel of the site during utility works.

3.6 The only evidence for Iron Age activity within the vicinity of the site is from a quern-stone found north of Church Farm in Aston Flamville.

Roman period

3.7 Evidence for Roman period occupation is indicated by 1st-2nd century AD mortaria and coarse ware pottery found during clay extraction at Lychgate Lane, Burbage (later destroyed by the M69 road scheme). A beehive quern top was also found during preliminary work for the motorway. Scattered finds of coins, metal objects (including a brooch), and undated pottery sherds within the vicinity of the site indicate some evidence for non-intensive occupation activities.

Medieval

3.8 Medieval sites within the vicinity of the site include the Church of St Peter and earthworks likely to represent medieval settlement. While the earthworks remain uninvestigated, there is a Norman window in St Peter's. Ridge and furrow ploughing is evident west of the site, on aerial photographs and Lidar data covering the surrounding area (see Fig 1).

3.9 Fourteen other medieval monuments are recorded in the HER at Aston Flamville, including two fishponds, a hollow way and the historic settlement core of Aston Flamville itself, known as 'Erston' by 1209, meaning 'the east or eastern settlement'.

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Post-medieval and modern

- 3.10 The HER records numerous post-medieval monuments and buildings surrounding the site, including listed buildings. The 1851 Tithe Map (not reproduced here) identifies the northern and southern portions of the site as 'Aston Flamville Glebe,' indicating church ownership. The southern field of the northern site was owned and occupied by John Smith Crosland.
- 3.11 The 1886 Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced here) shows the southern parcel of the site as agricultural fields with internal boundaries and a small agricultural structure. The northern portion is partially visible as enclosed fields. Field Cottage is present, but few other houses are shown along Lychgate Lane. Subsequent OS maps (1904, 1964; not reproduced) show little change. The construction of the M69 motorway between 1984 and 1988 significantly altered the surrounding landscape, dividing the two parcels of the site, which remained in agricultural use. LiDAR data reveals no unknown anomalies within the site.

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4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any significant archaeological that would be impacted by the development, to collate the fieldwork records into an archaeological archive and present the results of the fieldwork for dissemination.
- 4.2 Site specific themes include:
- a. to investigate the function and chronology of the previously recorded ditches;
 - b. to explore what the spatial relationships of this site and other sites nearby can tell us about the development of the area;
 - c. to further characterise the cobbled surface identified in Trench 4 in the previous evaluation (Nicholson 2025)
- 4.3 Specific aims of the work are to identify and address appropriate research themes set out in the East Midlands archaeological research framework (Knight *et al.* 2024). Relevant research questions to this site include:
- i. How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?
 - ii. What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?
- 4.4 This report will describe and discuss the extent, character and dates of all archaeological remains exposed and place the results in their local and regional contexts.

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- 4.5 Two trial trenches, each measuring 50m by 1.8m, were excavated either side of the previously excavated evaluation trench containing the metallated surface (Trench 4; Nicholson 2025; Fig 2).
- 4.6 A programme of strip, map and sample excavation was carried out targeting features recorded in the previously excavated trenches 47-52 (see Fig 3; Nicholson 2025). Area 1 (Fig 4) measures 90m by 30m and Area 2 (Fig 8) measures 75m by 30m.
- 4.7 During excavation, pit 128 was considered a shallow linear and was sampled in this way. This feature, along with gullies 126 and 134 were considered too shallow to provide significant information at their termini.
- 4.8 Topsoil, former ploughsoils and demonstrably modern overburden were removed by an appropriate machine using a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Ground reduction continued in shallow spits until the uppermost archaeological horizon, or the geological natural, was reached (whichever the higher). Excavation then continued by hand.

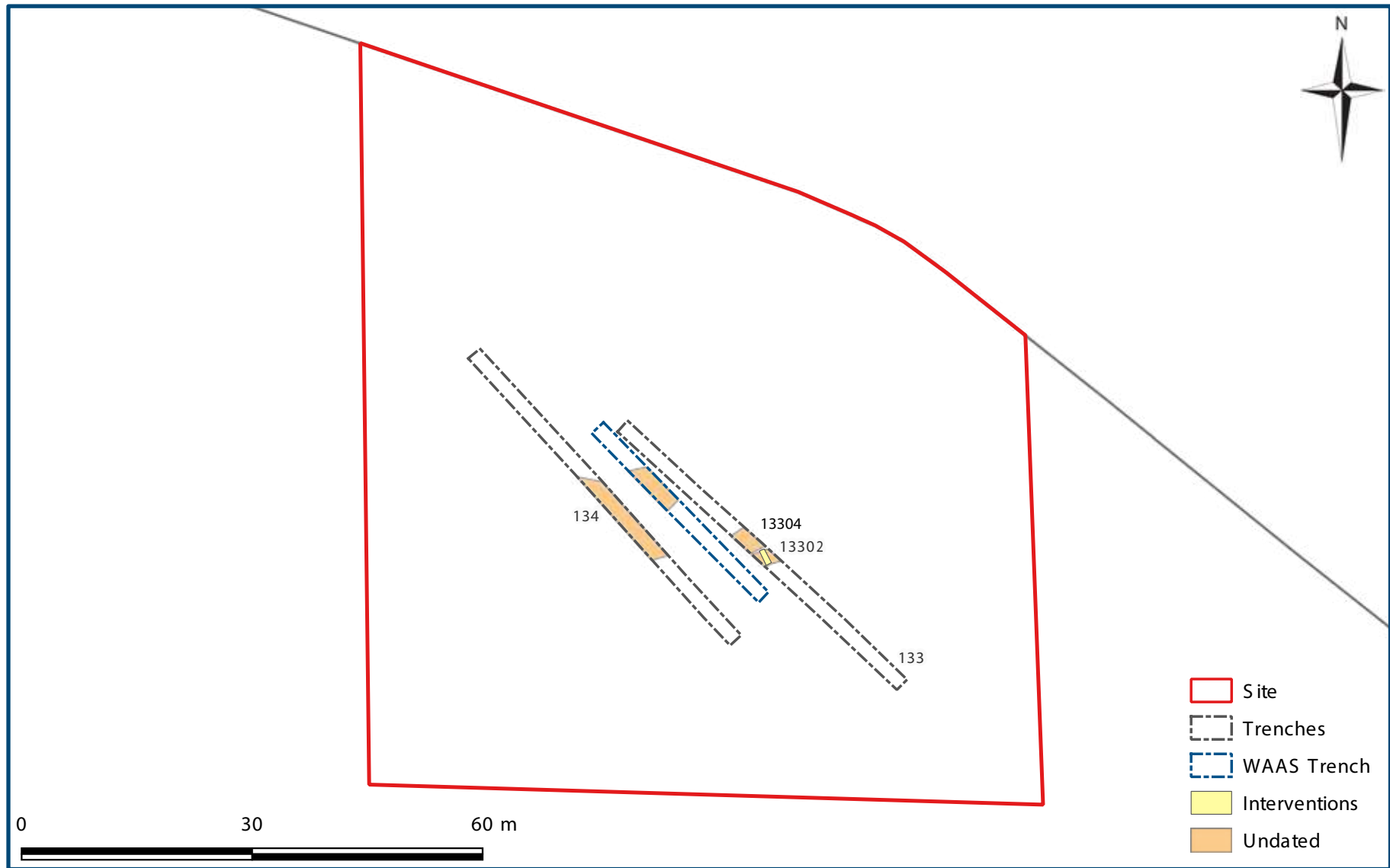


Fig 3: Location of trial trenches with Worcester Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS) trench 4

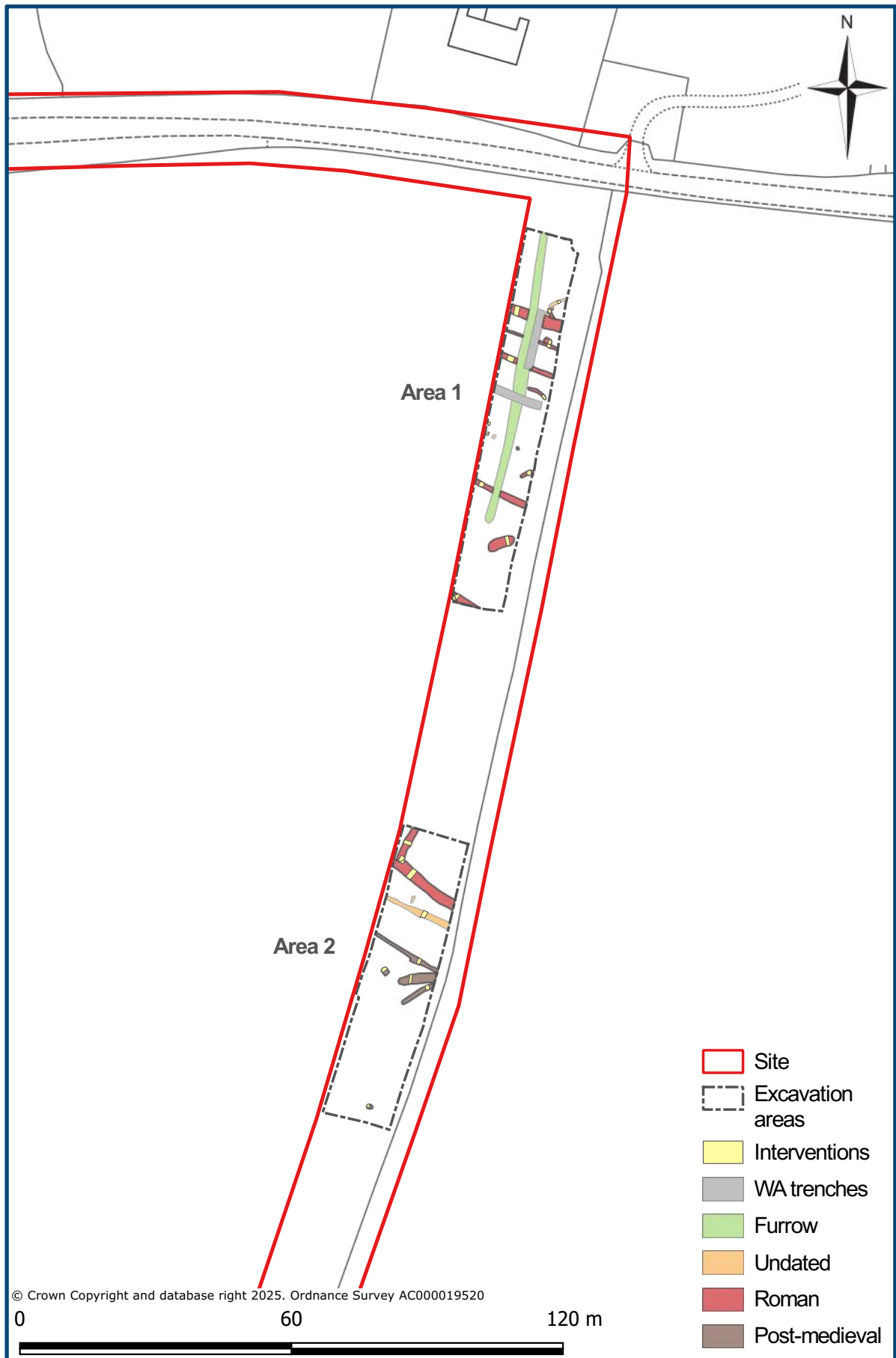


Fig 4: Location of strip, map and sample areas

5 RESULTS

Geological natural and depositional sequence

- 5.1 The uppermost geological stratum in the northern evaluation area was a yellowish-brown sandy clay (13301, 13401), exposed 0.3-0.4m below the current ground surface. In the southern excavation area, the uppermost geological stratum was a light yellowish-brown sandy gravel (101, 202), exposed 0.35-0.55m below the current ground surface.
- 5.2 Where not disturbed by anthropogenic activity, the natural substrate was overlain by a plough-derived topsoil, 0.3-0.4m thick (13300, 13400, 101, 201). An earlier plough-derived subsoil was observed in the excavation area, 0.25-0.45m thick.

Excavation Results

Introduction

- 5.3 The excavated evidence is primarily characterised by late 3rd-4th century AD Roman activity, with limited evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity. The cut features comprised linear and curvilinear ditches, gullies and pits. The finds assemblage from the features is dominated by late 3rd-4th century AD Roman pottery, animal bone, and a small quantity of mid-late Saxon pottery.
- 5.4 The evaluation exposed medieval, or more likely post-medieval activity, possibly represented by a cobbled surface for an area of ground consolidation.

Roman Features

- 5.5 Roman activity on site is bounded by a large ditch at the northern end of Area 1 and two others aligned at right-angles 120m to the south in Area 2. It is possible that they represent a large enclosure. Features associated

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with the boundaries include two curvilinear gullies, three pits, and a series of smaller parallel ditches.

Ditches and Gullies

- 5.6 Ditch 114, aligned northwest-southeast, was the most northernmost of the Area 1 Roman features (Photo 2; Fig 5). The feature measured 2.18m wide and 0.91m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. Two fills were identified; a brown silty sand (115), 0.91m thick, overlain on the southwest side by a dark brown sandy silt (116), 0.38m thick. Two greyware sherds from the lower fill, one of which was a possible jar/bowl fragment along with charred wheat grains. The upper fill, which yielded thirty-three sherds of hand-built Anglo-Saxon pottery, must have accumulated much later. Other finds include animal bone and a coin from the Roman Gallic Empire, 260-274 AD.



2 Southwest facing section of ditch 114

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- 5.7 This ditch was recorded in the previous evaluation (4803) with a recut (4806; Nicholson 2025), however no evidence of a recut was evident in this investigation.
- 5.8 Ditch 207, aligned northwest to southeast at the northern end of Area 2, was 2.45m wide and 0.73m deep (Photo 3; Fig 8). A sequence of seven fills was recorded within the feature, however the overall similarity in character and dimensions of this ditch with ditch 114, suggests the two had a similar function. At the base of the ditch, on the northeastern slope, 0.13m of dark brownish silty clay (208) was sealed by a 0.08m thick lens of light greyish brown clayey sand (209). This part of the feature may represent an earlier ditch, though it was not recorded as such. On the southwestern slope, 0.13m of light greyish brown clayey sand (210) was overlain by 0.10m of light brownish yellow sand (211). A secondary fill 0.69m thick of light grey clayey sand which yielded charred barley (212) was overlain with 0.32m of mottled grey and reddish-brown clayey sand (213). The final fill was 0.35m of mid grey clayey sand (214). Animal bone was recovered from (206) and two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from (214).

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3 Southeast facing section of ditch 207

- 5.9 Abutting ditch 207 at the west end of the trench was northeast-southwest ditch 215/219, which terminated against the north edge of 207 (Photo 4: Fig 9). It was 1.65m wide and 0.6m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (Photo 4; Fig 8) and contained three fills. A basal fill of light grey sand (216/221) was overlain by brownish grey silty sand (217), and thereafter 0.35-0.41m of dark greyish brown silty sand (218/220). Two sherds of pottery (greyware) were recovered from upper fill 218. Whilst closely associated, the section through both features showed no stratigraphic relationship between ditch 215/219 and ditch 207.

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4 Northeast facing section of ditch 215

5.10 Northeast-southwest ditch terminus 136, at the north end of Area 1, shared an unclear relationship with ditch 114 and truncated undated ditch 139. It was 0.61m wide and 0.9m deep and had near vertical sides and a rounded base with two fills. The earliest 0.58m was dark brownish grey silty sand (138), whilst the upper fill was greyish brown silty sand (137). The lower fill yielded animal bone, while the upper fill yielded a single sherd of greyware.

5.11 The most southerly ditch, 120, at the southwestern end of Area 1, was 1.5m wide and 0.49m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (Photo 5; Fig 5). It contained mid greyish brown clayey sand (121), which produced five sherds of pottery (greyware and oxidised ware). This ditch was recorded in the previous evaluation as 5003 (Nicholson 2025).

5.12 Aligned northwest-southeast, gully 118 truncated the southwestern bank of ditch 120. It was 0.49m wide and 0.28m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (Photo 5; Fig 5) and filled with dark greyish

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brown clayey sand (119), which yielded a single sherd of pottery (greyware bowl).



5 Northwest facing section of ditch 120 (centre) and gully 118 (right)

- 5.13 Gully 103 was located c. 3m south and ran parallel to Ditch 114. The feature measured 0.55m wide and 0.2m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (Fig 6). It was filled by a single deposit of dark greyish brown clayey sand (104), which contained animal bone, pottery, including a mortarium sherd and two greyware jar/bowl fragments, and CBM. It was located immediately adjacent to pit 105, but no clear relationship could be determined between the two.
- 5.14 Ditch 122 was similarly aligned parallel to ditch 114 and gully 103, sited 5m south of the latter. The ditch was 1.15m wide and 0.61m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (Photo 6; Fig 5). It was filled by 123, a dark brownish grey clayey sand, which yielded a single sherd of white ware (mortarium) and 42 fragments of animal bone. Sample 4 was

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taken from the deposit which yielded a single charred wheat grain and awn fragments.



6 Southeast facing section of ditch 122

5.15 Continuing the parallel alignment of ditches, ditch 107 was located towards the southern end of Area 1 and 27m south of ditch 112. It measured 1.09m wide and 0.52m deep and held steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (Photo 7; Fig 5). It had a simple sequence of two deposits; a 0.52m thick mid-greyish brown clayey sand (109) overlain by a dark greyish brown clayey sand (108), 0.27m thick. Animal bone was recovered from both fills, while a large assemblage of pottery, including three sherds of Samian ware, likely a bowl, was recovered from 108, along with black-burnished ware jar sherds and greyware. Sample 2 was taken from fill 109, which yielded indeterminate charred grain remains, awn fragments and legumes.

5.16 The similarity in profile and fill composition between Ditch 122 and Ditch 107 may indicate contemporaneity and form part of an enclosure that

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continues beyond the limits of this excavation. Alternatively, these ditches may represent internal land divisions within a larger field system.



7 Northwest facing section of ditch 107

1 Summary of Roman Ditches and Gullies

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fills</i>	<i>Dimensions (width x depth) (m)</i>	<i>Finds</i>
103	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	104, dark greyish brown clayey sand	0.55 x 0.2	Animal bone, pottery, CBM
107	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base	108, upper fill, dark greyish brown clayey sand 109, basal fill, mid greyish brown clayey sand	1.09 x 0.52	Animal Bone, pottery

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114	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base	116, upper fill, dark brown sandy silt 115, basal fill, brown silty sand	2.18 x 0.91	Animal bone, pottery
118	Linear in plan, V-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	119, dark greyish brown clayey sand	0.49 x 0.28	Pottery
120	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	121, mid greyish brown clayey sand	1.5 x 0.49	Pottery, CBM
122	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base	123, dark brownish grey clayey sand	1.15 x 0.61	Pottery, animal bone
136	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with vertical sides and a rounded base	137, upper fill, mid greyish brown silty sand 138, basal fill, dark brownish grey silty sand	0.61 x 0.9	Animal bone, pottery
207	Linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base	214, upper fill, mid grey clayey sand 213, secondary fill, mottled grey and reddish-brown clayey sand 212, tertiary fill, light grey clayey sand 211, small sealing deposit overlying 210, light brownish yellow sand 210, basal fill on SW side, light greyish brown clayey sand 209, small deposit overlying 208, light brownish yellow silty sand 208, basal fill on NE side, dark brown silty clay	2.45 x 0.73	Pottery
215	Linear in plan, with V-shaped profile, moderately sloping sides and a tapered base	218, upper fill, dark greyish brown silty sand 217, middle fill, brownish grey silty sand 216, basal fill, light grey sand	1.65 x 0.6	Pottery

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219 (continuation of 215)	Irregular in plan, with U-shaped profile, moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	220, upper fill, dark greyish brown silty sand 221, basal fill, light grey sand	1.6 x 0.6	None
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Curvilinear Gullies

- 5.17 Two curvilinear gullies were located to the centre of Area 1, south of ditch 122 and north of ditch 107. These may represent the footprint of circular buildings.
- 5.18 Gully 124, 3.5m south of ditch 122, was 4.7m long, 0.56m wide and 0.11m deep, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base (Photo 8; Fig 6). It was filled with dark brown sandy silt (125) yielding pottery, including a sherd of a black-burnished ware jar, and animal bone.
- 5.19 Gully 126, in Area 1, was 1.08m wide and 0.28m deep, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base (Fig 6). It was filled with brown sandy loam (127) which contained eight sherds of pottery, primarily tablewares, including fragments of a greyware jar/bowl and mortarium.

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8 Southeast facing section of gully terminus 124

2 Summary of Roman Curvilinear Gullies

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fills</i>	<i>Dimensions (width x depth) (m)</i>	<i>Finds</i>
124	Linear in plan, curving to the south, U-shaped profile, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base	125, dark brown sandy silt	0.56 x 0.11	Pottery, animal bone
126	Linear in plan, curving to the south, U-shaped profile, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base	127, brown sandy loam	1.08 x 0.28	Pottery

Pits

- 5.20 Sub-circular pit 105 in Area 1, was immediately adjacent to gully 103, although no relationship was apparent. It measured 1.68m long, 1.10m wide and 0.26m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled with dark greyish brown clayey sand (106) and animal bone and CBM was recovered along with charred grain fragments.

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- 5.21 Oval pit 110 was located towards the centre of Area 1 and measured 0.7m long, 0.41m wide, and 0.13m deep, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base (Photo 9; Fig 6). It was filled with dark greyish brown clayey sand (111), from which four sherds of Samian ware, were recovered.



9 Southeast facing section of pit 110

- 5.22 Irregular pit 128, located towards the south of Area 1, was 6.1m long, 2m wide but only 0.08m deep (Photo 10; Fig 6). It was filled with dark greyish brown silty clay (129), which yielded several sherds of 4th-5th century AD pottery, including a mortarium fragment, animal bones, an iron nail and a coin, broadly dated between the late 3rd and 4th centuries (SF3).

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10 East facing section of pit 128

3 Summary of Roman Pits

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fills</i>	<i>Dimensions (length x width x depth) (m)</i>	<i>Finds</i>
105	Regular sub-circular in plan, U-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	106, dark greyish brown clayey sand	1.10 x 0.55 x 0.2	Animal bone, CBM
110	Irregular oval shape in plan, U-shaped profile, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base	111, dark greyish brown clayey sand	0.7 x 0.41 x 0.13	Pottery
128	Irregular in plan with gently sloping sides and an uneven base	129, dark greyish brown silty clay	6.1 x 2 x 0.08	Animal bone, pottery

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Medieval Features

- 5.23 There is scant direct evidence for medieval activity on site, with only one furrow recognised in Area 1. This was aligned north–south and measured between 1.7m–3m wide and filled with dark greyish brown sandy silt.

4 Summary of Medieval Features

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fills</i>	<i>Dimensions (width x depth) (m)</i>	<i>Finds</i>
Furrow	Linear in plan	N/A	1.7–3m, unknown depth	None

Post-Medieval Features

- 5.24 The only evidence for post-medieval activity was seen within central and southern portions of Area 2.
- 5.25 Ditch 224, aligned east-west, measured 1.36m wide and 0.36m deep, with steep sloping sides and an uneven base (Photo 11). It was filled with black loam (225), containing glass and ceramic tile. This feature was previously recorded in the evaluation as 5205 (Nicholson 2025) and aligns with a field boundary present on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Fig 9).
- 5.26 Ditch 222 was aligned east northeast-west southwest and was 0.97m wide and 0.27m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled with dark greyish brown clayey sand (223). Although no finds were recovered from the feature, its similarities in character, profile and its spatial relationship with other post-medieval features suggest contemporaneity.

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11 West facing section of ditch 224

- 5.27 Irregular and amorphous pit 228 measured over 10m long, 2.16m wide and 0.08-0.24m deep, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base. It was filled with dark greyish brown clayey sand (229). Recovered finds include animal bone, post-medieval pottery and glass and CBM.
- 5.28 Pit 230 was located c. 3m to the west of pit 228m. The feature was sub-square in plan and measured 1.6m long, 1.28m wide and 0.54m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a single deposit of dark brownish grey clayey sand (231), from which animal bone and post-medieval pottery was recovered.
- 5.29 Oval pit 226 was located at the southern end of area 2 and measured 1.34m long, 0.94m wide and 0.14m deep, with gently sloping sides on the southern side and more steeply sloping sides on the northern side and flat base. It was filled by a single deposit of black loam (227).

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5 Summary of Post-Medieval Features

Context	Description	Fills	Dimensions (length x width x depth) (m)	Finds
222	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	223, dark brownish grey clayey sand	0.97 x 0.27	None
224	Linear in plan, with steeply sloping sides and an uneven base	225, black loam	1.36 x 0.36	CBM, glass
226	Oval in plan, with gently (south side) to steeply (north side) sloping sides and a flat base	227, black loam	1.34 x 0.94 x 0.14	None
228	Irregular in plan, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base	229, dark greyish brown clayey sand	> 10 x 2.16 x 0.08-0.24	Animal bone, pottery, glass, CBM
230	Irregular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	231, dark brownish grey clayey sand	1.28 x 0.54	Animal bone, pottery

Undated Features

5.30 Undated features were recorded across Area 1. These features include a series of three gullies north of ditch 114, and two pits located to the centre of the area, west of pits 110 and 126. Two undated ditches were recorded in area 2, one immediately south of the Roman ditches, the other in the immediate vicinity of the post-medieval features.

Ditches and Gullies

5.31 Gully terminus 132, aligned north-south, was located at the northern end of area 1. The feature measured 0.43m wide and 0.26m deep, with

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moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a single deposit of brown clayey sand (133).

5.32 Northeast-southwest gully 134 measured 0.76m wide and 0.35m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a single deposit of dark brown sandy loam (135). The feature's terminus was perpendicular to ditch terminus 136, possibly forming a corner of a small enclosure, and truncated gully 132.

5.33 Gully 139 was aligned northwest-southeast and located immediately south of and parallel to gully 134 and was heavily truncated by Roman ditches 114 and 136. The surviving part of the feature measured 0.39m wide and 0.39m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand (140).

5.34 Ditch 203 was aligned northwest-southeast on a parallel alignment to Roman ditch 207 and post-medieval ditch 224, c. 4m south of the former. The feature measured 1.98m wide and 0.55m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a tapered base. Three fills were identified; the lower fill comprised a dark brownish black loam (204), 0.28m thick. The middle fill was a blueish grey clayey sand (205), 0.22m thick. The upper fill was a light brown silty sand (206), 0.16m thick, which contained animal bone. Environmental Sample 1 was taken from the lower fill which yielded a single rachis segment and a charred legume (Fabaceae).

6 Summary of Undated Ditches

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fills</i>	<i>Dimensions (width x depth) (m)</i>	<i>Finds</i>
132	Irregular terminus in plan, U-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	133, brown clayey sand	0.43 x 0.26	None

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134	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	135, dark brown sandy loam	0.76 x 0.35	None
139	Linear in plan, U-shaped profile, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base	140, mid greyish brown silty sand	>0.39 x 0.39	None
203	Linear in plan, V-shaped profile with steeply sloping sides and a tapered base	206, upper fill, light brown silty sand 205, middle fill, blueish grey clayey sand 204, basal fill, dark brownish black loam	1.98 x 0.55	Animal bone

Pits

- 5.35 Sub-circular pit 112 was located towards the centre of area 1 and measured 0.87m long, 0.7m wide and 0.1-0.16m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a single deposit of dark greyish brown clayey sand (113).
- 5.36 Situated c. 2m south of the above, was oval pit 130. The feature measured 0.72m long, 0.51m wide and 0.17m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown clayey sand (131).

7 Summary of Undated Pits

Context	Description	Fills	Dimensions (length x width x depth)(m)	Finds
112	Irregular, sub-circular in plan, U-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	113, dark greyish brown clayey sand	0.87 x 0.7 x 0.1-0.16	None
130	Irregular oval shape in plan, U-shaped profile, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	131, mid greyish brown clayey sand	0.72 x 0.51 x 0.17	Animal Bone

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Evaluation Results

- 5.37 The evaluation exposed a metallated surface which appears to indicate the appearance of a disturbed consolidated surface which was present in Trenches 133 and 134.
- 5.38 A shallow east-west ditch 13302, which was 2.05 wide and 0.16m deep, had moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Photo 12). In the base of the ditch, cobbled surface 13304 was concentrated along the southern edge and base of the feature. It was overlain by dark greyish brown silty clay (13303). The cobbling was also evident in Trench 134 as surface 13403 which, albeit less complete, measured 2.68m wide (Photo 13). No dating evidence was apparent.



12 West facing section of shallow ditch 13302 containing cobbled surface 13304

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13 Cobbled surface 13403, looking northwest

8 Summary of Evaluation Features

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fills</i>	<i>Dimensions (width x depth) (m)</i>	<i>Finds</i>
13302	Regular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base	13303, dark greyish brown silty clay 13304, cobble surface	2.05 x 0.16	None
13403	Regular in plan, comprising of small to medium cobbles	N/A	2.68, unknown depth	None

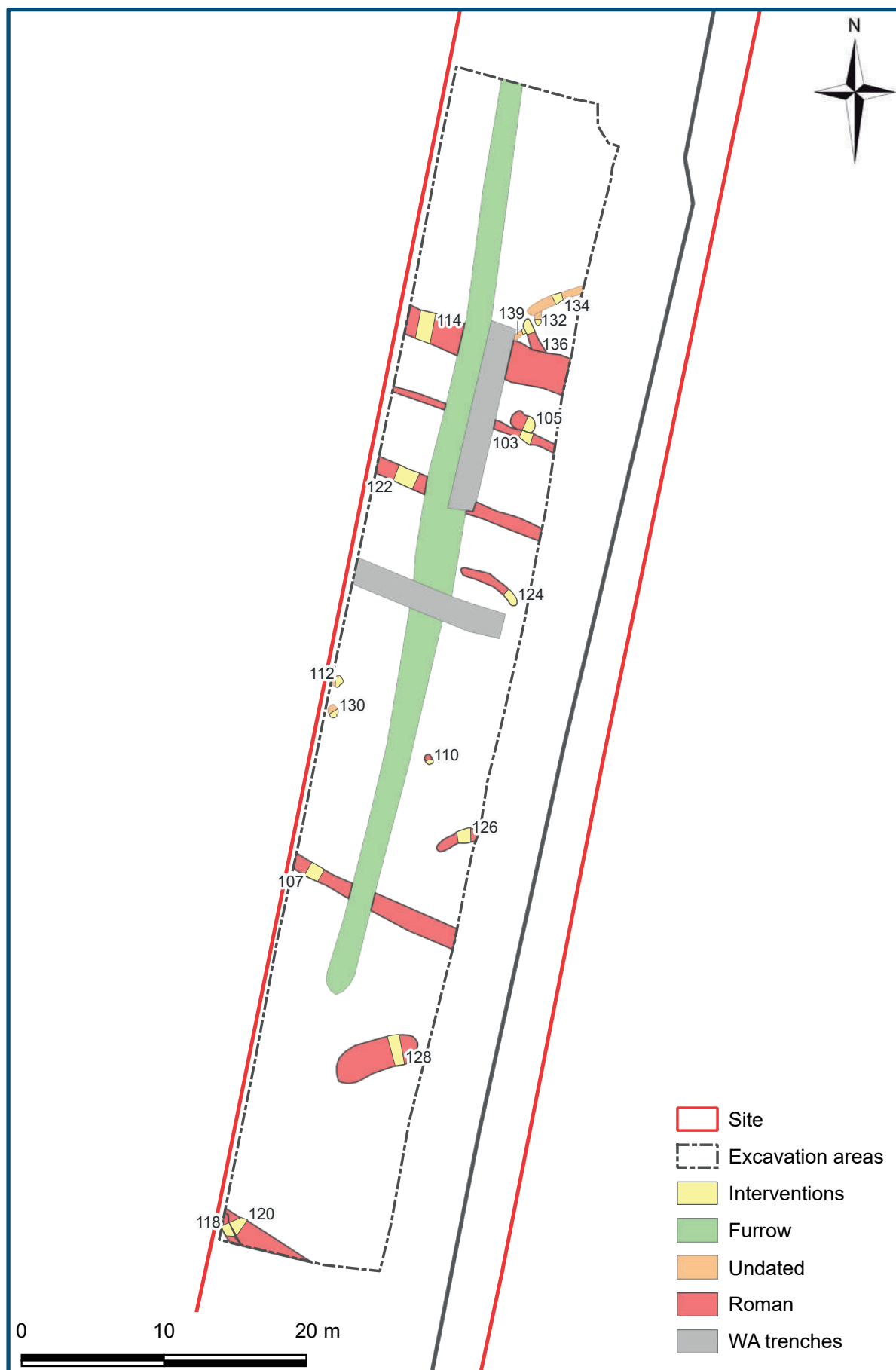


Fig 5: Detail of strip, map and sample Area 1

Solar Development, Aston Flamville, Leicestershire

Archaeological excavation (strip, map and sample) and evaluation

March 2026

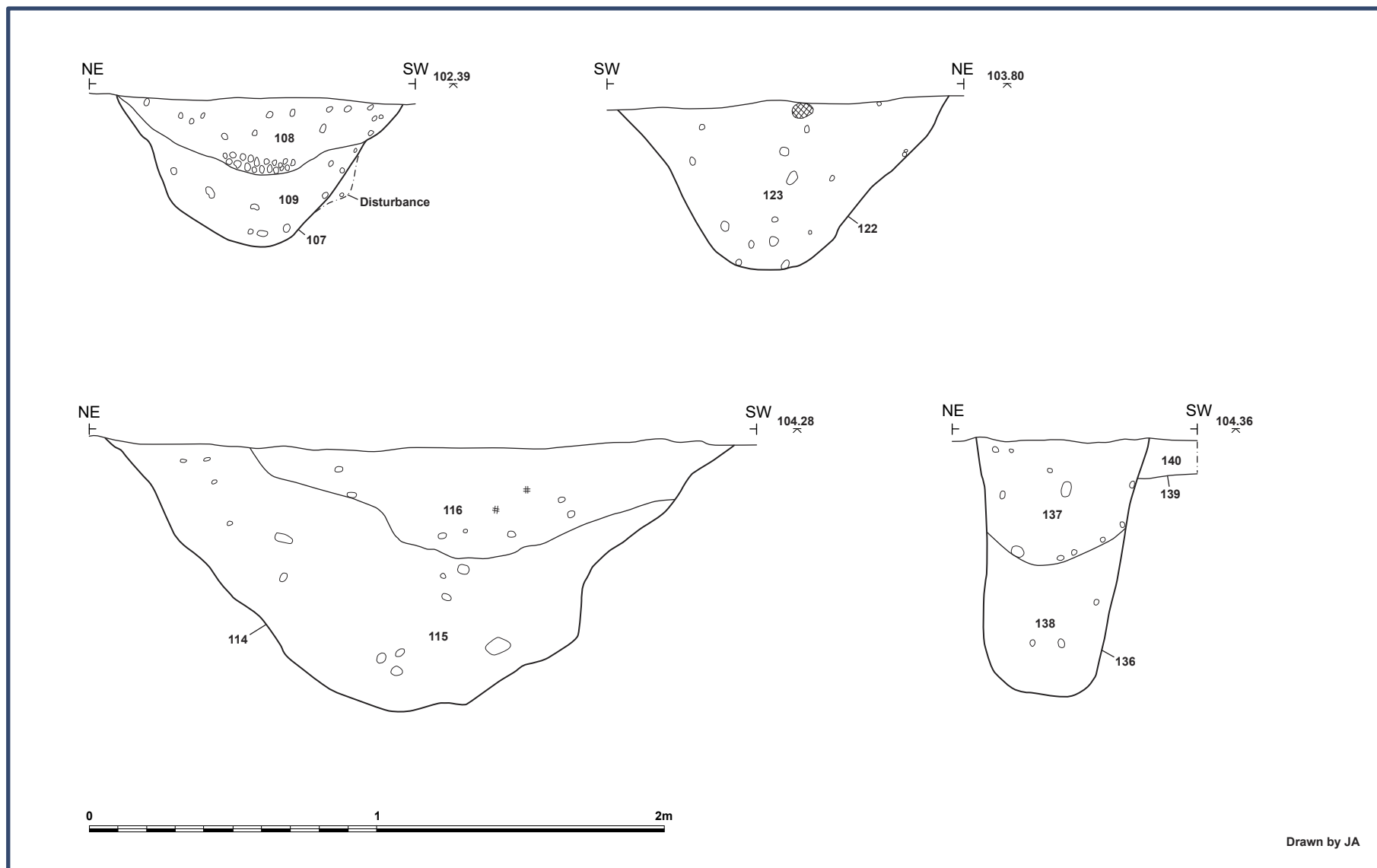


Fig 6: Area 1 Roman sections

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Archaeological excavation (strip, map and sample) and evaluation

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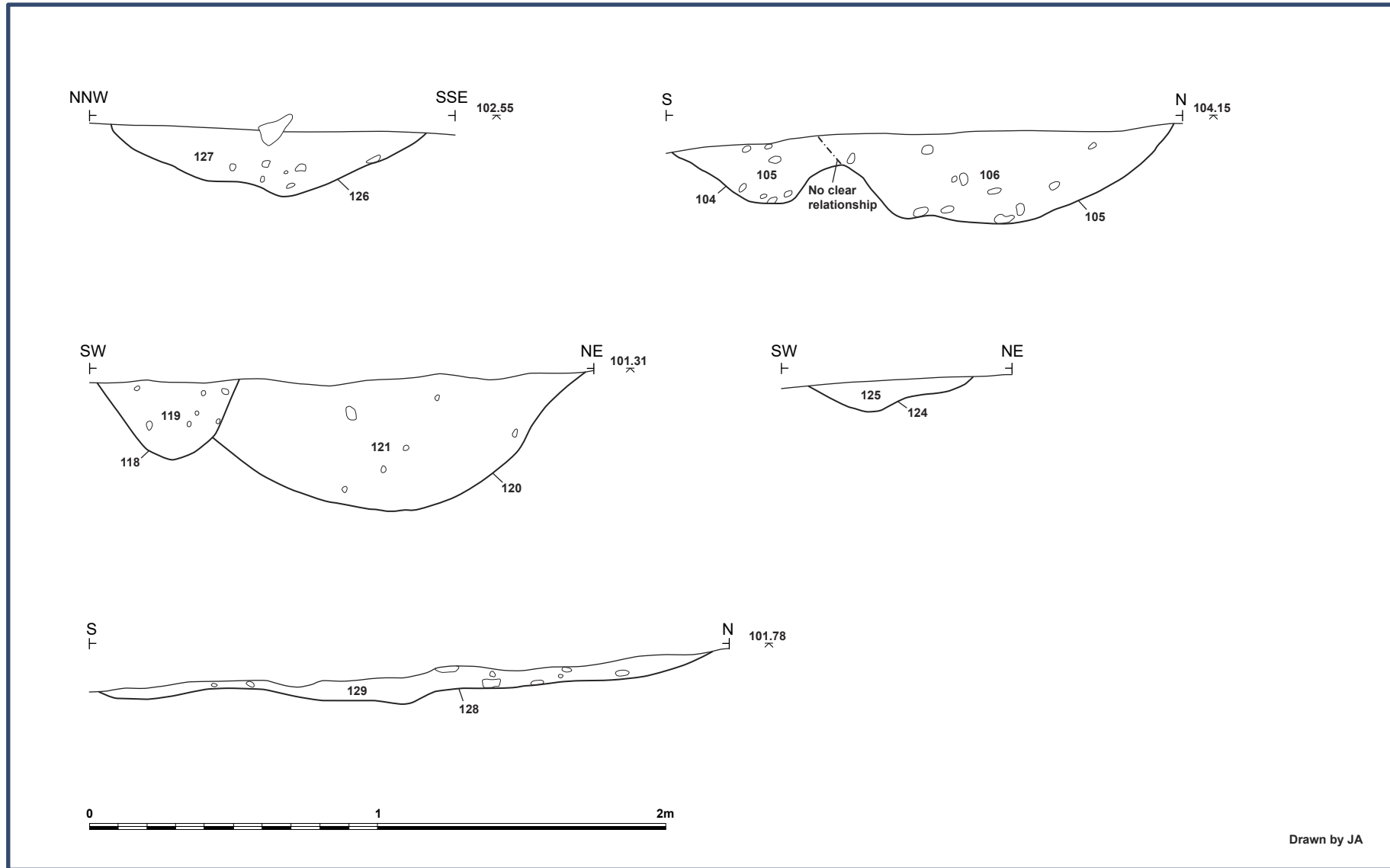


Fig 7: Area 1 Roman sections

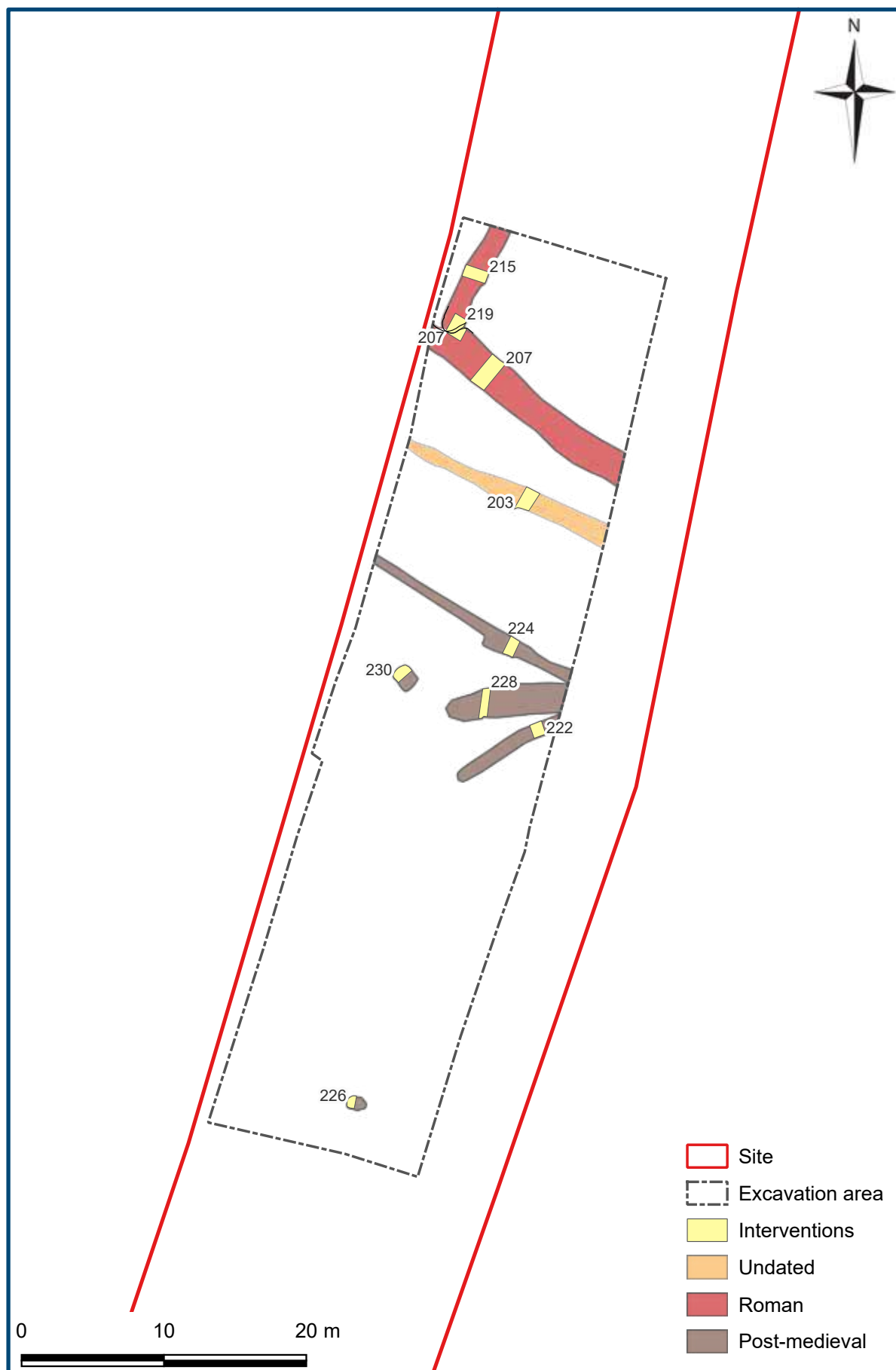


Fig 8: Detail of strip, map and sample Area 2

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Archaeological excavation (strip, map and sample) and evaluation

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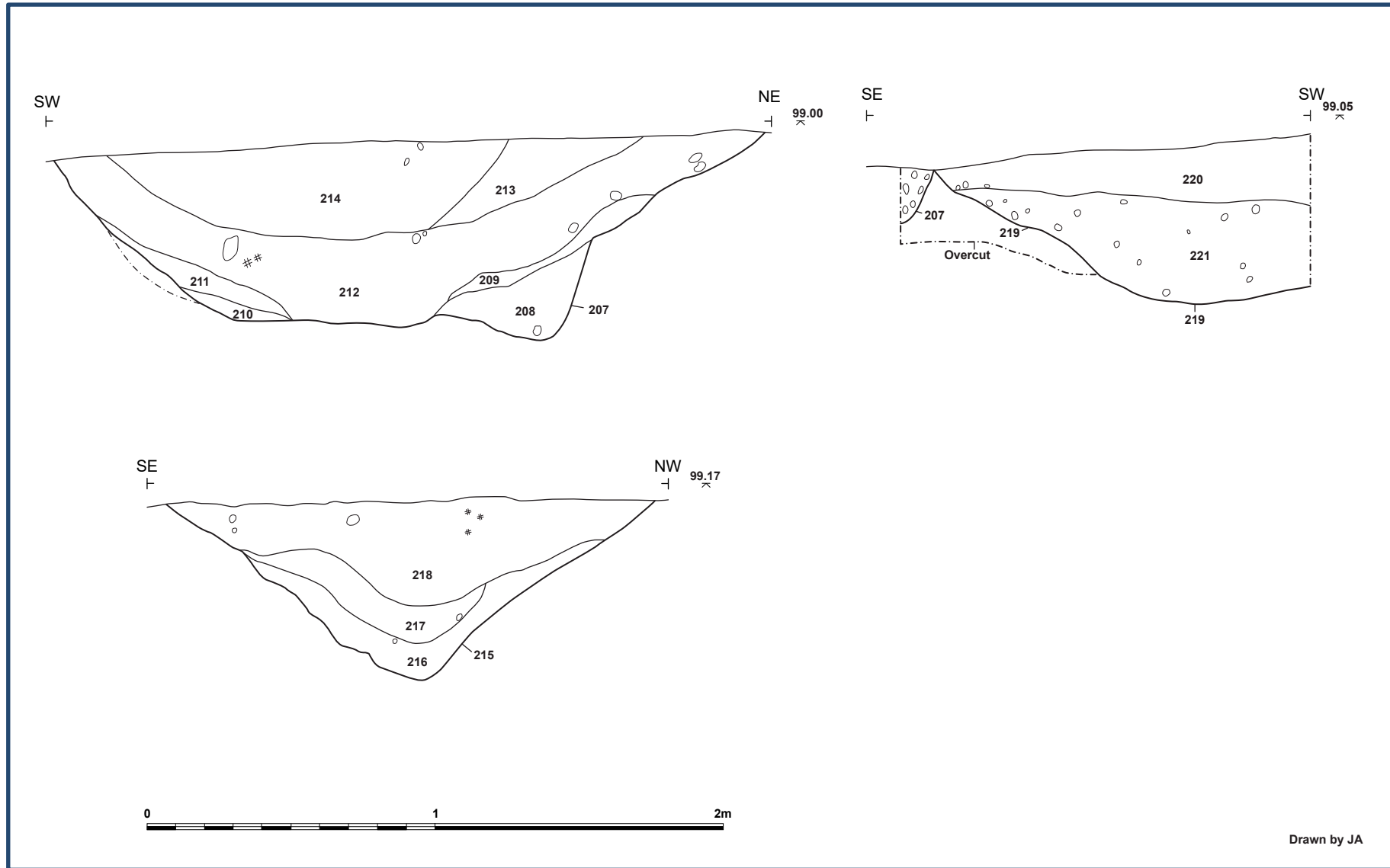


Fig 9: Area 2 Roman sections

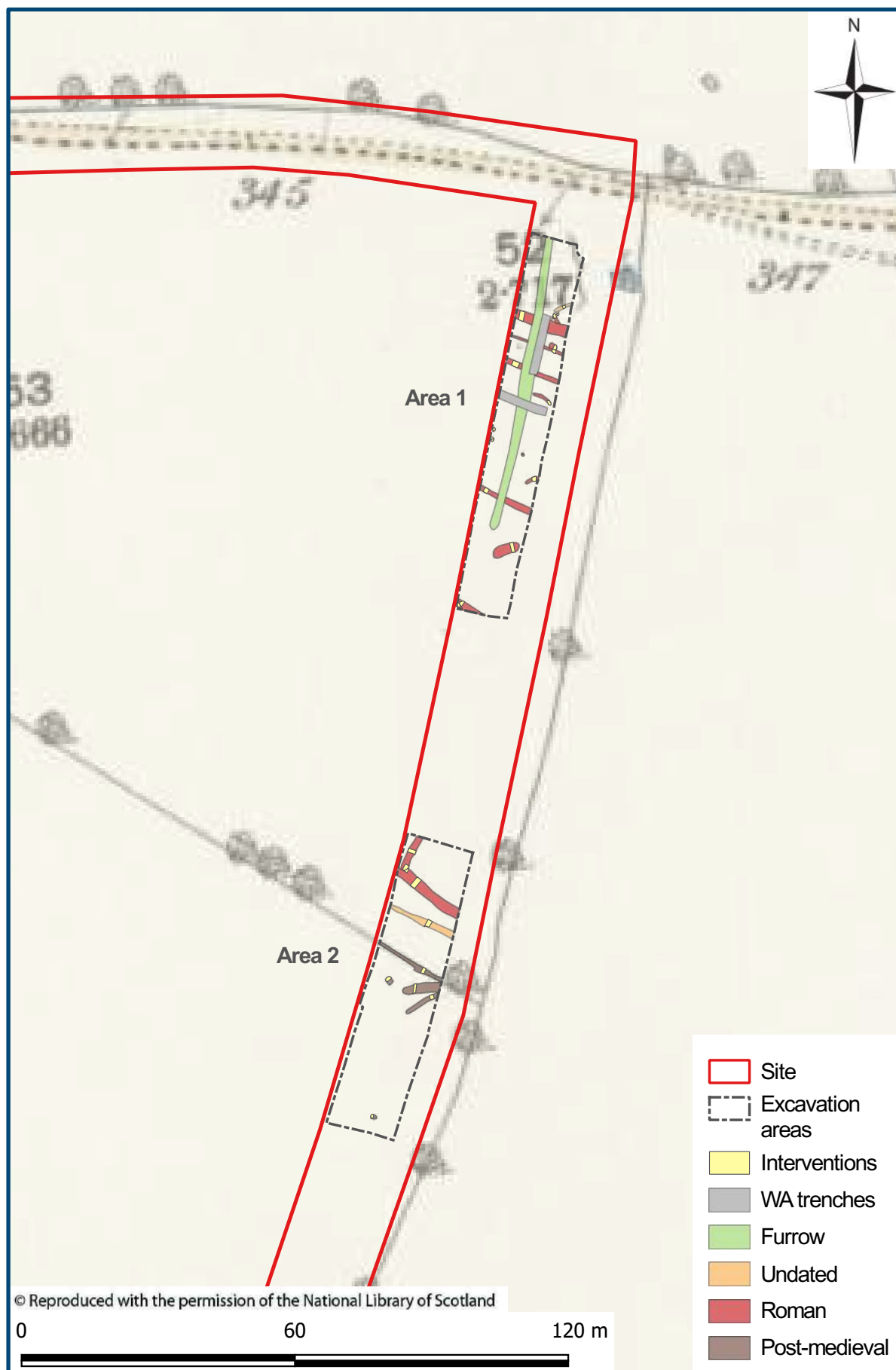


Fig 10: Location of strip, map and sample areas and First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1888, Leicestershire XLIII.9

6 THE ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Pottery *Adam Sutton, BA, MA, PhD*

Introduction

- 6.1 A total of 121 sherds weighing 2.522kg (2.12 EVEs) were recovered from contexts associated with sixteen archaeological features. Pottery was recorded in accordance with the minimum standards for pottery analysis, to the level of a 'Basic Record' (Barclay *et al.*, 2016; CIfA, 2024). Sherds from each context were sorted according to fabric, these groups being further subdivided where sherds could be deemed to have derived from the same vessel. Each resulting group was systematically recorded using the fabric codes described in Table 12 (Appendix C). Details of use-wear, decoration, firing faults, etc. were also recorded systematically where present.
- 6.2 Pottery was quantified using sherd count, weight (to the nearest whole gram) and Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) by summation of surviving rim circumference. Pottery data were recorded in an MS Excel spreadsheet which has been provided to project management for inclusion in the project archive. Quantification of pottery by context can be found in Table 13 (Appendix C).
- 6.3 Fabric codes used for Roman wares follow the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore, 1998) or, where not found in that series, the pottery fabric series for Leicester and Leicestershire (Pollard, 1994). Roman pottery form codes, found in the associated pottery dataset, are derived from the form series under development for Northamptonshire and the south Midlands by the current author.

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- 6.4 Classification of hand-built Anglo-Saxon pottery is based on fabrics defined specifically for the current assemblage and using form categories originally published by Myers (1977).
- 6.5 Post-medieval pottery, being a minor component of the assemblage and potentially entirely redeposited, has been classified broadly as miscellaneous post-medieval wares.

Assemblage Character

- 6.6 Pottery was predominantly Roman in date, with a significant minority of early/middle Anglo-Saxon pottery and four sherds of post-medieval pottery also present. The Roman pottery emphasises the latter part of the period, i.e. the later third and fourth centuries AD, and based on the diagnostic sherds present may be entirely of this period. The earliest material may be the Samian ware, which comprises parts of two Drag.31 bowls in fabric LEZ SA 2. Drag.31 is a later Samian form and in LEZ SA 2 will date to the latter part of the second century AD; it is possible that these vessels were curated and thereby in circulation during the third or even the fourth century (Wallace, 2006). Otherwise, the range of Roman wares is classically of the late period.
- 6.7 Much of the assemblage is made up of unsourced greywares of various grades of coarseness, with much smaller amounts of oxidised and shelly wares, black-burnished ware (BB1 and BB2), Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware, and mortaria from the Lower Nene Valley and Mancetter-Hartshill potteries. The Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware was mostly of a clearly late, coarse, character, and included part of a plain-rimmed 'dog dish' from fill 129 of Pit 128. These traits in this ware are overall consistent with dates in the later third and fourth centuries AD. The black-burnished ware also included a late rim sherd in the form of a bead-and-flange bowl with intersecting arc decoration, from fill 108 of Ditch 107, datable to the same period, although a BB2 everted-rim jar with acute

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lattice decoration from fill 125 of Gully 124 is more likely to date to the period from the mid-second to mid-third century AD.

6.8 The Anglo-Saxon pottery all came from fill 116 of Ditch 114 and was well preserved relative to the Roman pottery. The standard of preservation of this material suggests that it was deposited close to a nearby focus of contemporary occupation. The pottery was found in two related fabrics characterised by granitic inclusions typical of the period regionally (Williams and Vince, 1997). Rims from four vessels – all plain jars – were present, these comprising one each of the following types as described in Myers' corpus (1977):

- Shouldered form with flared rim (PRN 0039)
- Shouldered form with upright rim (PRN 0040)
- High-shouldered form (PRN 0041)
- Uncertain form (PRN 0042)

6.9 Additionally, one body sherd bearing a solid lug was found. No decorated sherds apart from this lugged sherd were encountered. This emphasis on plain wares may suggest that the assemblage dates to the Middle Saxon period, c. AD 650-850. However, in such a small assemblage the absence of decorated wares diagnostic of the Early Saxon period (c. AD 450-650) need not necessitate such close dating, and a broad date of c. AD 450-850 for the group is probably most reasonable.

6.10 Four small sherds of post-medieval pottery were found. Two were collected from the surface of fill 108 of Ditch 107 (a fill otherwise containing late Roman pottery), and one each from fills 229 of Pit 228, and 231 of Pit 230. Given the small amounts of such pottery, it appears likely that the

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post-medieval finds are present as a result of redeposition and/or contamination.

Discussion

- 6.11 This assemblage is relatively diverse considering its small size. Perhaps the most significant question to address surrounds the possibility of the pottery reflecting continuous occupation between the late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon periods.
- 6.12 The Roman assemblage emphasises the third and fourth centuries AD but significantly does not include fabrics and forms which would be diagnostic of a later fourth or earlier fifth century date, such as the latest forms in Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Perrin, 1981). Although it may be ambitious to expect such rare forms to be found in such a small assemblage, their absence negates the use of the Roman pottery to support very late Roman or transitional Romano-Saxon dates.
- 6.13 Similarly, the hand-built Anglo-Saxon pottery lacks the decorated wares and/or angular forms which would be diagnostic of early Saxon or even fifth century dating. Rather, the emphasis on plainwares suggests dates in the period after c. AD 650, but again in such a small assemblage the absence of a given ceramic feature cannot prove the absence of activity at a given time, i.e. in the fifth or sixth century. In sum, then, the pottery provides scant evidence for continuous occupation between the late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon periods, and it appears conceivable that there was a gap of several generations between the Roman- and Anglo-Saxon-period occupations of the site.
- 6.14 That said, the pottery is not entirely unremarkable. Roman pottery is not well known in the immediate vicinity of Aston Flamville. A small quantity of similar late Roman pottery, broadly datable to the second to fourth century AD was recovered from a putative rural settlement at Britannia Road, Burbage, a short distance west of the current site, where occupation

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may therefore have been contemporaneous (Coward, 2010). All other Roman sites in the region are several kilometres distant. Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon occupation is attested a short distance away at Sutton Farm, Broughton Astley, c. 7km to the east of the current site. Here a small assemblage of closely similar pottery to that found at the current site was found, including sherds associated with the fills of a sunken-featured building (Jarvis, 2003). The current assemblage is therefore broadly typical of finds known from the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods regionally, though it provides direct evidence of contemporary occupation in an area not otherwise known to host it.

Animal Bone *S. Hamilton-Dyer*

Introduction

- 6.15 A small assemblage of 634 individual animal bones was recovered from the excavations. These vertebrate remains are from twelve deposits in ten features, mainly ditches but also with some material from pits.
- 6.16 All bones and teeth were counted, and taxonomic identifications were made to the best achievable level using the author's modern comparative collections. Recently broken fragments were rejoined where possible and have been counted as single specimens. Loose teeth were replaced into mandible/maxilla where possible. Tooth eruption and wear stages of cattle and sheep mandibles were recorded following Grant (1982). Measurements follow von den Driesch (1976) and are in millimetres unless otherwise stated. Table 9 gives a summary count of the taxa by context. Table 16 is the full archive data table (Appendix D); the individual records contain details of metrical and other data not presented in the text below.

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9 Summary Count of Taxa Per Context

Context	Cut	Context type	horse	cattle	sheep	pig	cattle-sized	sheep-sized	indet. mammal	dog	cat	domestic fowl	other bird	micro-fauna	total
105	106	pit					1								1
108	107	ditch	1				1								2
109	107	ditch											1		1
115	114	ditch					1	1				1	2	37	42
116	114	ditch		25	4	1	30	2			1	3			66
123	122	ditch	1		1		2		12						16
125	124	gully			5										5
129	128	pit		3	1		1								5
138	136	ditch	1							1		1		440	443
206	203	ditch		2			3		8						13
229	228	pit	11	13			10								34
231	230	pit	4				2								6
		total	18	43	11	1	51	3	20	1	1	5	3	477	634

Results

Upper fill 116 of ditch 114

6.17 This fill is dated by ceramics to the Saxon period. The 66 specimens are mainly a group of cattle and cattle-sized remains including maxillae from three different individuals, a mixture of limb bones and several foot bones. Some bones are gnawed, giving indirect evidence of dog. Several have evidence of butchery, largely chopping by a heavy blade and the associated spiral fractures. A few cattle-sized remains are charred. Other faunal remains include a few of sheep/goat, one canine of pig, a dog pelvis and three bones of domestic fowl - including one from a hen in lay as evidenced by the medullary deposit.

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Lower fill 115 of ditch 114

- 6.18 The lower fill (Roman) is quite different in faunal content: of the 42 remains 37 are of microfauna including frog, field vole, shrew, mole and small passerine bird. The other remains are a bird wing phalanx (possibly of fowl), a sheep-size fragment and a cattle-sized rib.

Fill 138 of ditch 136

- 6.19 Numerically this fill contains the majority of the assemblage although by weight the amount is very small. All but three of the remains are of microfauna, mainly amphibia but also including micromammals, with two mandibles identified as field vole. The amphibian remains are of at least 14 individual frogs but there are one or two bones that are a better match for toad. The unsorted fraction of the sieved sample contains further similar remains. The other recovered bones are a small piece of horse mandible, the humerus of a sub-adult cat and a tibiotarsus of a hen that died during the laying season.

Fill 229 of pit 228

- 6.20 This deposit contained 34 bones of horse, cattle and fragments of this size class. All of the bone material is in poor condition; thin-walled and fragile. The remains are biased in favour of loose teeth and the most robust skeletal elements. The 13 teeth include groups that represent a cattle skull and a horse skull but where the bone has not preserved.

Fill 231 of pit 230

- 6.21 The 6 bones include a horse metatarsus and peripheral metapodials, a phalanx likely to be from the same hind foot, together with two flakes from a large limbshaft. All are dark in colour with light erosion.

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Fill 206 of ditch 203

- 6.22 This undated fill contained 13 fragments in poor condition. They include part of a cattle metatarsus.
- 6.23 The six other (Roman) contexts contained very few remains. Horse, cattle and sheep/goat are present together with some indeterminate fragments.

Discussion and summary

- 6.24 This is a relatively small assemblage in terms of bone density, of the 634 remains recorded 477 are of microfauna from two fills and only 157 are of large fauna spread across the site. The largest and most significant groups of bone come from the Saxon deposit in the upper fill of ditch 114, a group of microfauna in the lower fill (dated Roman) and the group of microfauna in the Roman ditch fill 138. Apart from these, most features contain a few bones that can be regarded as 'background' waste. These are mainly of cattle and horse and fragments of this size class but also including a few of sheep/goat and one of rook/crow. These remains suggest a low level of use and disposal, such as pastoral husbandry.
- 6.25 The group of bones from the Saxon fill of ditch 114 is quite different from the other deposits. The bones are mainly of cattle with several butchered, some gnawed and some charred. The anatomical representation is mixed with elements from the prime meat areas but also of the lower value and waste areas of head and feet. Together with the evidence of a few bones of sheep, pig, dog and domestic fowl, the assemblage suggests disposal of domestic waste.
- 6.26 The two pits, 228 and 230, contain material of a different appearance to that from most fills, dark and eroded. That from 228 is in very poor condition. The presence of post-medieval potsherds is suggested as

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evidence of re-deposited or contaminated material, which could explain the poor condition of the bone material.

- 6.27 The microfauna remains in the lower ditch fills may represent animals that may became trapped and drowned or died otherwise. In the case of the amphibia, were suffocated if the water gathered in the ditch became anoxic.

Environmental Evidence *Bekky Hillman BA ACIfA*

Introduction

- 6.28 A suite of seven general soil samples of between 10 and 40 litres was taken by site staff, consisting of c. 170 litres of sediment, from contexts thought likely by the excavator to provide material of archaeobotanical interest and artefactual data which may be pertinent to our understanding of the environment and use of the site, in line with best practice (Historic England 2011, CIfA 2023).

Methodology

- 6.29 Samples were processed in entirety by Archaeology Warwickshire staff using the standard procedures for flotation with residues retained on a 500µm mesh and flots retained on a 300µm sieve. Initial sorting of material was undertaken by the author. The airdried flots were sieved and fractionated into 4mm, 2mm and 300µm fractions from which any charcoal and charred remains were sorted, separated and bagged.
- 6.30 All samples were rapidly assessed using an Aspen stereo binocular microscope (X10-50). Results are shown in Table 18 (appendix D). Identification was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held by the author and by reference to relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2010; Jacomet 2006). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2019), except in the case of the cereal remains where Zohary *et al.* (2013) was used. Charcoal has been quantified but not assessed and too low in quantity to be deemed suitable for assessment. The flot matrix is presented in the table by volume, with uncharred material shown in parentheses, where present. Cereal grains and other seeds are counted in terms of the total number of individual items.
- 6.31 The quantification of the plant remains are presented in Table 18. The assessment considers the preservation, quantities and archaeobotanical

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potential recovered and have been graded in the table according to these parameters with:

1. high potential with well-preserved remains, high numbers or rare remains;
2. good potential with reasonable preservation that can provide useful information;
3. low potential but may be worth looking at if the context is important or unusual;
4. very low potential with little or no charred remains present.

6.32 For the purposes of clarity, the references to 'seeds' identified refer to the seed or fruit structures unless otherwise stated; that is to say, the propagule or disseminule structures. Cereal grain where mentioned refers to the charred caryopsis.

Results and discussion

6.33 Samples were taken from six ditch features (sample 1, 203; sample 2, 207; sample 3 114; sample 4, 122; sample 6, 207 and sample 7, 219) and one pit (sample 5, 105) all dated to the Roman period of site occupation and contained sparse quantities of charred material. Low levels of cereal grains were present in five of the samples with some of these identifiable as wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Chaff was present in three flots and wild seeds occurred rarely in two. The paucity of plant remains likely reflects the fact that the site was away from the main focus of domestic activity during this period. The results have been incorporated into the main section and are shown in Table 18 (Appendix D).

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The coins *Bryn Gethin BA*

- 6.34 Two copper alloy Roman coins were recovered from features, having been identified using a metal detector.

Small Find 1, ditch 114 fill 116

- 6.35 Small coin, 16mm diameter, 1mm thick. Reasonable condition. Roman Gallic Empire, 260-274 AD, probably an unofficial copy.

Obverse

- 6.36 Bearded head, facing right, radiate crown, partial image and inscription as flan is too small for full image, off centre casting. Letters seem unreadable.

Reverse

- 6.37 Indistinct standing figure, possibly a soldier. Also does not fit on flan. Inscription appears to end RTIO.

Small Find 3, pit 128, fill 129

- 6.38 Small coin, poor condition, badly corroded. 3rd or 4th century AD.

Obverse

- 6.39 No visible head, no visible inscription.

Reverse

- 6.40 Possible orb with standing figure, probably a winged victory. Some parts of unreadable inscription.

7 DISCUSSION

Introduction

- 7.1 Excavations at Aston Flamville have revealed evidence for human activity from the later Roman period through to the post-medieval period and into the present day. The earliest evidence is represented in Areas 1 and 2 by the primary phase of occupation during the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD, when a sequence of parallel and axially aligned ditches was established on the northern edge of a south-facing slope overlooking the Soar Brook to the southwest. It is possible that the evidence relates to a sequence of ditched enclosures or fields, or both but the linear nature of the excavated areas precludes certainty on this matter and therefore a model of development is presented as a best fit only.
- 7.2 The first phase comprised the establishment of a probable small enclosure, paddock, or livestock holding pen. This was represented by two ditch termini aligned northeast–southwest and northwest–southeast, separated by a narrow entranceway. Two undated gullies on the same alignment could suggest earlier activity associated with this feature.
- 7.3 This small enclosure was subsequently substantially expanded on a similar alignment, though with greater regard for the hill gradient. Two substantial boundary ditches were constructed to the north and south, assumed here to form a larger enclosure. The interior was subdivided by a series of northwest–southeast aligned linear ditches and gullies that respected two ring-gully defined structures and associated pitting activity.
- 7.4 Subsequent post-Roman use of the site was evident from a small assemblage of middle Saxon period pottery recovered from the upper fill of the northernmost enclosure ditch. A single plough furrow and small number of post-medieval features, including a field boundary provide evidence for the continued use of the site.

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7.5 This sequence forms the principal focus of the discussion that follows.

The site in context: rural Roman Leicestershire

7.6 Leicestershire is located within a key transitional zone of Roman Britain. It lies at the interface between the north and west, an area of long-term military occupation in which indigenous Iron Age settlement forms persist, and the south and east, an area where more classically Roman settlement forms took hold (Taylor 2006).

7.7 The area around Aston Flamville formed part of a wider open, rolling agricultural landscape that had been farmed and grazed for centuries, as evidenced during the preceding evaluation which recorded Late Iron Age and Roman pastoral enclosures 430m to the west (Nicholson 2025).

7.8 The putative enclosure form recorded here conforms to the broader developments and intensification in Roman period agriculture practises across the region. The regularity of its dimensions suggests an element of planning and formality in its construction. The boundary ditches maintained consistent profiles, measuring approximately 2m wide and around 0.7m deep and enclosed a visible area of c. 130m long.

7.9 The subdivisions created by the smaller parallel ditches and gullies, on a northwest-southeast alignment, seem most likely to be linked to stock management practices. The internal ditches measured 1–1.5m in width and roughly 0.5m in depth, while the gullies were narrower, at around 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep.

7.10 Central within the putative enclosure, two heavily truncated ring-gullies were identified, potentially the remains of roundhouses or other single-roomed structures. If contemporary with the enclosure, their indigenous vernacular architecture would suggest a continued preference for traditional building forms at a time when Roman architectural conventions were widely established across much of the region by the late

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3rd century AD. It is, therefore, most likely that they are earlier structures long since abandoned, although later examples are known and farmstead or village settlements were more likely to retain pre-Roman construction techniques than villa or roadside settlements (Smith 2016).

- 7.11 Three pits were identified near the centre of the enclosure. Two of these exhibited fill compositions and finds assemblages similar to the adjacent ditches and gullies. The southernmost example was notably larger and shallower, perhaps representing a spread or area of activity rather than a conventional pit, as indicated by the recovery of two metal objects, a coin, which was too eroded to date beyond the late 3rd and 4th centuries and a nail.
- 7.12 An appraisal of the finds assemblage provides further insight into the site's character. The relatively small quantity of faunal remains and lack of evidence of butchery or other carcass processing during the Roman period is indicative that the site was some distance from a domestic focus. This is also supported by the limited evidence for charred plant remains associated with cereal cultivation.
- 7.13 A small yet diverse ceramic assemblage was recovered, comprising predominantly unsourced greywares alongside regionally imported fine wares. Six sherds of Samian ware were recovered. Although these are of an earlier date (late 2nd century AD), their presence is not inconsistent with 3rd-4th century AD context. As noted previously, Samian vessels were often curated over several generations, and these pieces may have remained in use well into the later Roman period (Wallace 2006). The relatively large proportion of material from the northern boundary ditch suggests a nucleus of settlement activity located upslope, beneath the present village of Aston Flamville, with the excavated enclosure representing peripheral activity. Diagnostic sherds from bowls, jars and mortaria were also present. The functional character of the assemblage, combined with its relatively modest size, also supports the interpretation

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that the site formed part of a wider agricultural landscape rather than a settlement focus.

- 7.14 The late 3rd-4th century activity at Aston Flamville sits within a wider, well-Romanised landscape. The site lies within the Trent Valley and Rises, part of the central belt of agricultural production in Roman Britain (Smith *et al* 2016). During the later 1st-2nd centuries, the region was characterised primarily by enclosed farmsteads, which were later supplemented, and in some cases replaced, by increasingly complex settlement forms. An expansion of 'big field systems' was seen across the Trent Valley and Rises, a period which was notably absent on site. By the 3rd and 4th centuries, a shift towards larger, more elaborate farmsteads was underway, with simpler enclosed farmsteads becoming less common.
- 7.15 There is a scarcity of known late Roman sites within the immediate vicinity of site, and it is noted that there has historically been limited fieldwork within the southwest of Leicestershire (Liddle 2004).
- 7.16 The closest evidence for contemporary Roman occupation was uncovered at Britannia Road, Burbage, approximately 2.5km west of site, in the form of ditches, gullies and pits (Coward 2010). Little else can be said about the character of this site, other than it may represent a small rural settlement. The pottery assemblage of this site is broadly like the Britannia Road, suggesting the two sites may have been contemporaneously occupied.
- 7.17 Slightly further afield, excavations at land east of Hinckley Island Hotel, Watling Street, Burbage (approximately 4.3km southwest of site), revealed substantial evidence for an earlier rural Roman settlement in the form of a complex farmstead, established in the 1st century AD, and abandoned by the 4th century (Brindle *et al* 2022). Here, the western boundary of the settlement was defined by an Iron Age pit alignment, that was re-established as a ditch during the Roman period, indicating some form of continuity, a phenomenon not directly observed at Aston Flamville.

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Whilst evidence for Iron Age activity west of the excavation was seen during the preceding evaluation (Nicholson 2025), any influence on the later Roman activity cannot be confirmed.

- 7.18 Two further examples of rural Roman settlements can be found at Sutton Farm, Broughton Astley (Jarvis 2003) and Magna Park, Lutterworth (Morris 2023), approximately 7km east, and 14km southeast of site respectively. Evidence at Sutton Farm is limited, with only a small roughly circular feature, possibly a small structure, recorded in two trenches, suggestive of further activity in the vicinity (Jarvis 2003). An extensive, multiphase settlement was observed at Magna Park, with continual occupation from the Iron Age to the late 4th century (Morris 2023). Here, at least four distinct areas of Roman settlement were observed, the majority of which were defined as enclosed farmsteads, similar to Aston Flamville.
- 7.19 Within the neighbouring southeast region of Leicestershire, it was noted that several farmstead sites appear to have been abandoned in the 3rd and early 4th centuries, and their associated arable fields went out of use (Liddle 2004). It is suggested that this may reflect a shift to pastoral farming, or the land was abandoned to woodland (*ibid.*).
- 7.20 The limited area excavated prevents firm categorisation of the agricultural practices represented at the site. The presence of a single enclosure may reflect a small, enclosed farmstead, potentially running counter to the broader regional trend toward more complex farmstead arrangements during this period. Although it is suggested that there may have been a shift to a more pastoral economy, which this site would then appear to reflect (Bowman 2004). Alternatively, the enclosure may have formed part of a wider ladder-style system of enclosures, positioned along the ridge overlooking the Soar Brook, with the main focus of settlement activity located further north along the crest of the slope. However, the upland topography (generally sited as >100m aOD, which the site falls into), and

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its position away from a major river valley falls within the trend of enclosed farmsteads, as opposed to complex ones (Smith 2016).

Beyond the Romans*Early Medieval*

- 7.21 The dearth of later 4th and early 5th century Roman pottery, along with the absence of any decorated early Saxon wares and emphasis on plainwares (suggestive of a mid-seventh century date), suggests there may have been a break in the continuity site's occupation. The relative paucity of the ceramic assemblage limits definitive interpretations. However, the assemblage does suggest that despite abandonment, the ditch remained a visible earthwork within the landscape for several centuries after its initial establishment. The absence of early Saxon finds has been noted throughout the region, suggestive of a continued increase in pastoral land use from the later Roman period into the early/middle Saxon period (Bowman 2004).
- 7.22 The early medieval finds assemblage, whilst small, is clearly distinct from the Roman one. The pottery sherds represent plain jars, suggesting a domestic function, and it is noted that the standard of preservation indicates the material was deposited close to the focus of occupation. The animal bone assemblage is dominated by cattle, with evidence for butchery, gnawing and charring observed, indicative of domestic waste disposal. This perhaps indicates that the nature of the site shifted to be more domestic, although with the main focus of activity still beyond the bounds of this excavation, rather than the peripheral agricultural use seen during the Roman period.
- 7.23 The re-use of Roman sites in the Saxon period is commonly seen throughout Leicestershire (Brindle *et al* 2022). The site at Hinckley Island shows a similar pattern of abandonment in the late Roman period, and resumption of activity by the 5th century, with evidence for two possibly

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sunken-feature buildings observed along with a small assemblage of associated pottery (Brindle *et al* 2022). At Sutton Farm, Broughton Astley, another sunken-feature building was also observed, with a small assemblage of pottery recovered (Jarvis 2002). At both sites, the recovered pottery was broadly similar to that recovered from Aston Flamville, consisting of primarily domestic wares, mainly jars or jugs. The absence of any features directly attributed to the Saxon period at Aston Flamville, in comparison to neighbouring sites, further indicates that the main focus of occupational activity lies beyond the limit of the excavation.

- 7.24 The site at Aston Flamville fits within the local pattern of sites being abandoned during the late Roman period, with renewed activity in the early medieval period. The re-use of the large enclosure ditch into later periods suggests that the alignment of the field system established during the Roman period influenced land-use organisation in subsequent centuries and continues to be reflected in the present-day landscape.

Medieval and Post-medieval

- 7.25 The medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system recorded during the excavation, as well as the modern field boundary, both run perpendicular to the Roman features. This alignment was further reinforced during the post-medieval period, with several features recorded as running parallel to the original Roman boundaries.
- 7.26 Boundaries reinforced by successive generations are a well-recognised in the archaeological record, where established alignments are repeatedly maintained or re-established (Rippon *et al* 2015). A comparable example was recently excavated at Calendar Farm, Nuneaton, c. 6 km to the west, where an Iron Age pit alignment established a landscape framework that continued to influence boundary orientations into the modern period (Davies 2025).

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Undated

- 7.27 The cobbled surface identified within the evaluation trenches during the previous phase of work extends a further c. 10m to the east and west of the original recorded surface. While the form and construction of the surface may point towards a medieval or post-medieval date (Nicholson 2025), the absence of dating evidence means that this interpretation cannot be confirmed. This appears to represent an area of consolidation – perhaps due to the presence of boggy ground – and whilst it appears to be a patchy linear spread of material, its interpretation as a trackway can not be confirmed. It also bears a similar landscape alignment to the Roman features and the medieval ditch in Area 1, as well as the surrounding ridge and furrow cultivation system, which further serves to mask its possible chronological relationship with particular phases identified on the site.
- 7.28 It is therefore difficult to characterise the exact nature of this surface: it may represent an area of deliberate ground consolidation, likely created to stabilise a particularly waterlogged zone, or it may represent a trackway or a minor road subsequently disturbed further south. Its respect for the position of a nearby medieval ditch may suggest a medieval or post-medieval date, although its absence from historic mapping suggests that it had fallen out of use prior to the 19th century.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The excavation at Aston Flamville revealed an agricultural landscape enclosed by boundary ditches first established during the late Roman period, which represents the principal phase of activity on the site. It has provided further evidence of how field systems and boundary networks developed over time and direct evidence of Roman and Saxon occupation in an area which previously had little to none.
- 8.2 The earliest Roman activity appears to have comprised the creation of a small paddock or holding pen. This was later superseded by a probable larger enclosure defined by substantial ditches, forming part of a more formalised agricultural hinterland that extended across much of the southern slope.
- 8.3 The northern boundary of the enclosure may have served a dual purpose, potentially functioning as the southern limit of a settlement located beneath the modern village of Aston Flamville, positioned on the higher ground to the north. Within the enclosure, a cascading arrangement of parallel ditches and gullies on a northwest-southeast alignment created a series of internal subdivisions. The limited structural evidence identified within the centre of the enclosure is suggestive of occupation.
- 8.4 The absence of any transitional Roman-Saxon, or early Saxon pottery may indicate that the site was not continually occupied throughout this period. Regardless of whether occupation was continual or not, the site was certainly in use again by the mid Saxon period. By this time, the enclosure's southern boundary ditch and its internal ditches had fallen out of use. However, the enclosure's northern ditch remained extant and continued to accumulate sediment during this period, suggesting that it may have continued its function as a southern boundary to the settlement. This boundary ditch established an alignment, and a tradition, which continued into the medieval period, indicated by the perpendicular ridge

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and furrow cultivation system. This tradition of maintaining the alignment extended into the post-medieval period, with agricultural activity continuing to follow the same northwest–southeast orientation.

- 8.5 The evaluation at Aston Flamville successfully identified the continuation of the cobbled surface first recorded during the preceding evaluation. The feature is tentatively interpreted to be an area of consolidated ground, although it may possibly have served as a trackway or minor road. No dating evidence was recovered from the surface, restricting precise dating. However, the form of the surface and its respect for the position of a nearby medieval ditch may suggest a medieval or post-medieval date.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Richard Smalley of RPS Tetrattech and Neil Butler of Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd for commissioning the work.

Fieldwork was led by Bryn Gethin, with the assistance of Hannah Child, Jodie Duffy, Rob Jones, Harry Mason-Hodges, Katie Lea, Alice Dixon and Charlie Palmer.

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APPENDICES

A List of Contexts

10 Excavation Context List

Context	Description	Depth (m) or AOD	Comment
100	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium silty sand.	0.35 (avg.)	Topsoil - Area 1
101	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium silty sand.	0.00 to 0.25	Subsoil - Area 1
102	Colour: light yellowish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sand and gravel.		Natural - Area 1
103	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.2	Cut - Gully [103]
104	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal stones, evenly distributed.	0.2	Fill - Gully [103]
105	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, sub-circular. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: rounded. Sides: steep, concave.	0.26	Cut - Pit [105]
106	Colour: dark greyish brown.	0.26	Fill - Pit [105]

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	Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Inclusions: frequent small to large angular to sub-rounded spheroidal stones, evenly distributed.		
107	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: deep u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: dipping, concave.	0.52	Cut - Ditch [107]
108	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: frequent small to large angular to sub-rounded spheroidal stone, concentrated bottom of fill.	0.27	Fill - Ditch [107]
109	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.52	Fill - Ditch [107]
110	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: irregular, oval. Shape in profile: shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: gentle, concave.	0.13	Cut - Pit [110]
111	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.13	Fill - Pit [110]
112	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: irregular, sub-circular. Shape in	0.10 to 0.16	Cut - Pit [112]

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	profile: irregular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: rounded. Sides: steep, concave.		
113	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium angular to sub-rounded spheroidal stones, evenly distributed.	0.10 to 0.16	Fill - Pit [112]
114	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: steep, convex.	0.91	Cut - Ditch [114]
115	Colour: brown. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: medium silty sand. Inclusions: frequent small to very large very angular to well-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	0.91	Fill - Ditch [114]
116	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate small to very large sub-angular to well-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	0.38	Fill - Ditch [114]
118	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: v-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.28	Cut - Gully [118]
119	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand.	0.28	Fill - Gully [118]

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	Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.		
120	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: deep u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.49	Cut - Ditch [120]
121	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.49	Fill - Ditch [120]
122	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: steep, concave.	0.61	Cut - Ditch [122]
123	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: moderate small to large angular to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.61	Fill - Ditch [122]
124	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: irregular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: uneven. Sides: gentle, concave.	0.11	Cut - Gully [124]
125	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.11	Fill - Gully [124]

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126	Orientation: NE-SW. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: irregular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: uneven. Sides: gentle, concave.	0.28	Cut - Ditch [126]
127	Colour: brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sandy loam. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.28	Fill - Ditch [126]
128	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: irregular. Shape in profile: regular, shallow. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: uneven. Sides: gentle, concave.	0.08	Cut - Pit [128]
129	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.	0.08	Fill - Pit [128]
130	Shape in plan: irregular, oval. Shape in profile: shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.17	Cut - Pit [130]
131	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.17	Fill - Pit [130]
132	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: irregular spread, terminus. Shape in profile: regular, deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.2	Cut - Gully [132]

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133	Colour: brown. Composition: clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional pebble.	0.2	Fill - Gully [132]
134	Orientation: NE-SW. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.35	Cut - Gully [134]
135	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sandy loam. Inclusions: 1) rare small sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed 2) rare small very angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	0.35	Fill - Gully [134]
136	Orientation: NE-SW. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: vertical, straight.	0.9	Cut - Ditch [136]
137	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium silty sand. Inclusions: frequent small to large angular to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.44	Fill - Ditch [136]
138	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium silty sand. Inclusions: rare small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.58	Fill - Ditch [136]
139	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides:	0.39	Cut - Gully [139]

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	steep, concave.		
140	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium silty sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.39	Fill - Gully [139]
200	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium silty sand.	0.38 (avg.)	Topsoil - Area 2
201	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.	0.00 to 0.45	Subsoil - Area 2
202	Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sand and gravel.		Natural - Area 2
203	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: v-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: sharp. Base: tapered. Sides: dipping, concave.	0.55	Cut - Ditch [203]
204	Colour: dark brownish black. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: loam.	0.28	Fill - Ditch [203]
205	Colour: bluish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular to well-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	0.22	Fill - Ditch [203]
206	Colour: light brown. Compaction: wet, very loose. Composition: medium silty sand. Inclusions: rare small to medium sub-angular to rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	0.16	Fill - Ditch [203]

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207	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: irregular, u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: uneven. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.73	Cut - Ditch [207]
208	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.34	Fill - Ditch [207]
209	Colour: light brownish yellow. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine sand.	0.36	Fill - Ditch [207]
210	Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand.	0.13	Fill - Ditch [207]
211	Colour: light brownish yellow. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine sand.	0.38	Fill - Ditch [207]
212	Colour: light grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.69	Fill - Ditch [207]
213	Colour: mottled grey and reddish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.32	Fill - Ditch
214	Colour: mid grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded to rounded	0.35	Fill - Ditch [207]

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	spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.		
215	Orientation: NE-SW. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: deep v-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: tapered. Sides: moderate, straight.	0.6	Cut - Ditch [215]
216	Colour: light bluish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: fine silty sand.	0.12	Fill - Ditch [215]
217	Colour: brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium silty sand. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded to well-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	0.16	Fill - Ditch [215]
218	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: frequent flecks to small elongate iron panning, evenly distributed.	0.35	Fill - Ditch [215]
219	Shape in plan: irregular spread, terminus. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.6	Cut - Ditch [219]
220	Colour: dark grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: medium sand.	0.24	Fill - Ditch [219]
221	Colour: light grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: medium sand. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.41	Fill - Ditch [219]
222	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: irregular, linear. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: 1) N: gradual	0.27	Cut - Ditch [222]

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	2) south: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.		
223	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, concentrated N side.	0.27	Fill - Ditch [222]
224	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: uneven. Sides: steep, concave.	0.36	Cut - Ditch [224]
225	Colour: black. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: loam. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-angular to well-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	0.36	Fill - Ditch [224]
226	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: regular, oval. Shape in profile: shallow. Break at top: 1) N: sharp 2) south: gradual. Break at base: 1) N: sharp 2) south: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: 1) north: steep, concave 2) south: gentle, concave.	0.14	Cut - Pit [226]
227	Colour: black. Compaction: wet, very loose. Composition: loam.	0.14	Fill - Pit [226]
228	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: irregular, sub-circular. Shape in profile: irregular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: uneven. Sides: gentle, concave.	0.08 to 0.24	Cut - Pit [228]
229	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose.	0.08 to 0.24	Fill - Pit [228]

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	Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to very large angular to sub-rounded spheroidal stones, evenly distributed.		
230	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: irregular, semi-rectangular. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	0.54	Cut - Pit [230]
231	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium clayey sand. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-rounded to rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	0.54	Fill - Pit [230]

11 Evaluation Context List

Context	Description	Depth (m) or AOD	Comment
13300	Colour: brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	0.30 to 0.40	Topsoil - Trench 133
13301	Colour: brownish yellow. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: sandy clay. Notes: with grey clay patches.		Natural - Trench 133
13302	Orientation: east – west. Shape in plan: Linear. Shape in profile: moderate sloping. Base: flat.	0.16	Cut – Ditch 133
13303	Small to large sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles set into the natural geology		Cobbled surface – Ditch 133
13304	Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silty clay.	0.16	Fill – Ditch 133
13400	Colour: brown. Compaction: dry,	0.30 to 0.40	Topsoil - Trench

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	loose. Composition: silt.		134
13401	Colour: brownish yellow. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: sandy clay. Notes: with grey clay patches.		Natural - Trench 134
13403	small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles set into the natural geology		Cobbled surface

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B List of Finds

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Date/Comments
104	Ceramic Building Material	1	87	1 handmade undiagnostic fragment of possible brick
104	Pottery	5	59	1 MAH WH Mancetter-Hartshill Mortarium bodysherd, AD 100-410. 3 GW3 Fine sandy greyware jar or bowl rim and bodysherds, AD 40-410. 1 WW3 Fine sandy white ware bodysherd with painted scroll between bands external decoration, AD 40-410
106	Animal Bone	1	10	1 cattle-sized limbshaft lateral midshaft
106	Ceramic	1	8	1 undiagnostic fragment of ceramic
106	Pottery	1	58	1 GW5 Medium sandy greyware bodysherd, AD 40-410
108	Animal Bone	26	16	1 cattle-sized (possibly horse) scapula caudal midshaft in many pieces. 1 horse upper molar
108	Ceramic Building Material	6	658	6 likely roman fragments (1 brick fragment in 2 pieces, 1 likely brick fragment, 1 tile fragment with broken flange, 2 undiagnostic fragments)
108	Iron	1	11	1 corroded and bent iron nail, 73mm long
108	Pottery	35	559	2 LEZ SA 2 Lezoux samian ware, fabric 2 Drag 31 bowl rimsherds, AD 150-200. 1 DOR BB 1 Black-burnished ware bead and flange bowl rimsherd with intersecting arc external decoration, AD 250-410. 3 BB2 Black-burnished ware bodysherds, AD 120-

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				350. 2 GW3 Fine sandy greyware jar rimsherds, AD 40-410. 23 GW3 Fine sandy greyware bodysherds, AD 40-410. 1 GW5 Medium sandy greyware jar rimsherd, AD 40-410. 2 GW6 Medium-coarse sandy greyware bodysherds, AD 40-410. 1 OW2 Fine sandy oxidised ware bodysherd, AD 40-410
108 (surface)	Pottery	1	77	1 likely medieval hard fired basesherd in 2 pieces with internal green glaze. Possibly rooftile
109	Animal Bone	1	1	1 whole rook/crow femur
109	Pottery	1	5	1 OW5 Medium sandy oxidised ware bodysherd, AD 40-410
111	Pottery	4	41	4 LEZ SA 2 Lezoux samian ware, fabric 2 Drag 31 bowl rim and bodysherds, AD 150-200.
115	Animal Bone	42	20	1 cattle-sized rib midshaft. 1 porous sheep-sized limbshaft midshaft (possibly femur). 2 field vole molars. 1 mole radius. 1 shrew tibia proximal midshaft. 1 bird wing phalanx 3 (possibly domestic fowl). 1 small passerine coracoid distal midshaft. 1 small passerine femur distal midshaft. 1 frog pelvis. 1 frog lumbar vertebra. 1 frog humerus. 30 microfauna mixed elements (amphibian and micromammal)
115	Pottery	2	110	2 LNV CC Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware bodysherds, AD 300-410
116	Animal Bone	66	175	1 cow zygomatic. 1 cow premax. 3 cow maxilla's (3 different animals). 1 cow

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				mandible with 3rd cuspid likely chopped. 1 cow 3rd lower molar. 1 chopped cow atlas midshaft. 1 part-fused cow humerus with spiral butchery marks. 5 cow scapulas (5 different animals 1 midshaft with spine broken off). 2 cow proximal pelvis' (2 different animals, 1 chopped through). 1 heavily eroded cow femur lateral midshaft. 2 cow tibia posterior midshafts (2 different animals). 1 cow metatarsus anterior midshaft, with spiral butchery marks. 1 cow astragalus. 2 cow phalanx 3.3 cow metacarpus (3 different animals, 1 proximal midshaft with spiral butchery marks, 1 smaller proximal midshaft probably chopped, 1 anterior midshaft). 13 cattle-sized limbshafts (1 lateral midshaft butchered and in 2 pieces, 11 with spiral butchery marks). 16 cattle-sized ribs (16 different animals). 1 pig lower canine in 2 pieces. 1 sheep mandible midshaft. 1 sheep/goat metacarpus midshaft. 1 sheep/goat metatarsus lateral midshaft. 1 sheep/goat scapula midshaft. 2 sheep-sized rib fragments. 1 whole dog pelvis. 1 whole domestic fowl synsacrum. 1 domestic fowl femur distal midshaft.
116	Ceramic Building Material	3	301	1 fragment of handmade rooftile, no diagnostic features, 1 fragment of possible roman tegula, 1 fragment of reduce rooftile with coarse sand and

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				micaceous inclusions possibly a local medieval fabric
116 (SF1)	Copper	1	1	Roman Gallic Empire, 260-274 AD, probably an unofficial copy. Small coin, 16mm diameter, 1mm thick. Reasonable condition
116 (SF2)	Copper	1	1	Copper sheet deliberately bent to form tube, 23mm long, 5mm wide
116	Pottery	33	964	2 GW5 Medium sandy greyware bodysherds, AD 40-410. 3 GW5 Medium sandy greyware jar or bowl bodysherd, AD 40-410. 2 S1 handmade Anglo-Saxon rimsherds (1 shouldered form with a flared rim, 1 shouldered form with an upright rim), AD 450-850. 9 S1 handmade Anglo-Saxon bodysherds, AD 450-850. 2 S2 handmade Anglo-Saxon rimsherds (1 high-shouldered form, 1 uncertain form), AD 450-850. 15 S2 handmade Anglo-Saxon bodysherds (1 with one external lug decoration), AD 450-850
119	Pottery	1	65	1 GW3 Fine sandy greyware bowl rimsherd, AD 200-410
121	Pottery	5	61	4 GW5 Medium sandy greyware bodysherds, AD 40-410. 1 OW5 Medium sandy oxidised ware bodysherd, AD 40-410
123	Animal Bone	16	24	1 whole horse radius. 1 cattle-sized proximal and lateral pelvis in parts. 1 cattle-sized limbshaft lateral midshaft. 1 sheep/goat axis midshaft in pieces. 12 mammal fragments.
123	Pottery	1	19	1 LNV WH Lower Nene Valley white

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				ware Mortarium rimsherd, AD 120-410
125	Animal Bone	5	21	3 sheep/goat radius' (different animals, 1 proximal (possibly distal) radius, 1 distal midshaft with a midshaft spiral butchery break, 1 lateral midshaft). 2 sheep/goat lower molars (different animals).
125	Mortar	1	7	1 fragment of lime mortar
125	Pottery	7	138	4 GW6 Medium-coarse sandy greyware bodysherds, AD 40-410. 3 BB2 Black-burnished ware everted-rim jar with external acute lattice decoration AD 120-250
125	Shell	1	3	Oyster shell
127	Ceramic Building Material	1	275	1 handmade brick fragment, no diagnostic features
127	Glass	1	1	1 fragment of light blue glass likely from a straight sided bottle
127	Pottery	8	56	6 GW3 Fine sandy greyware jar bodysherds, AD 40-410. 2 GW3 Fine sandy greyware jar or bowl rimsherds, AD 40-410
129	Animal Bone	5	8	2 cow metacarpus (2 different animals, 1 proximal midshaft, 1 distal). 1 cow upper molar. 1 sheep/goat mandible midshaft. 1 cattle-sized fragment
129	Ceramic Building Material	4	150	4 handmade rooftile fragments, no diagnostic features
129 (SF3)	Copper	1	2	Small coin, poor condition, badly corroded, 3 rd - 4 th century.
129	Iron	1	82	1 heavily corroded iron object, no diagnostic features, 111mm long, 24mm wide

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129	Pottery	8	255	2 LV CC Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware plain-rimmed dish bodysherds, AD 300-410. 2 MAH WH Mancetter-Hartshill Mortarium rimsherds, AD 160-410. 2 GW5 Medium sandy greyware bodysherds, AD 40-410. 2 CG1B Calcareous/shelly ware late Roman form Jar rimsherds, AD 200-410
137	Pottery	1	13	1 GW3 Fine sandy greyware bodysherd, AD 40-410.
138	Animal Bone	443	24	1 sub-adult cat humerus. 1 domestic fowl tibiotarsus proximal midshaft. 2 field vole mandibles (2 different animals, 1 porous). 28 frog pelvis fragments (at least 14 different animals). 1 cranial horse mandible. 2 micromammal pelvis fragments. 6 rodent incisors (field vole or woodmouse). 1 toad tibiofibular. 1 possibly toad humerus. 400 amphibian mixed elements (probably mostly frog).
206	Animal Bone	13	46	1 cattle sized proximal limbshaft. 2 cow metatarsus (1 proximal, 1 distal midshaft). 2 cattle-sized fragments (possibly horse). 8 mammal fragments
214	Pottery	3	5	2 OW5 Medium sandy oxidised ware bodysherds, AD 40-410. 1 CG1 shell-gritted ware bodysherd, AD 40-410
218	Pottery	2	20	2 GW3 Fine sandy greyware bodysherds, AD 40-410.
225	Ceramic Building Material	1	248	1 handmade rooftile fragment, no diagnostic features

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225	Glass	1	6	1 fragment of clear bottle glass with stamp "PERI"
229	Animal Bone	34	160	5 cow upper molar. 1 cow astragalus lateral midshaft. 1 cow metatarsus anterior midshaft. 1 cow metacarpus (likely male). 1 cow calcaneus distal midshaft. 1 proximal and anterior phalanx 1 in pieces. 1 proximal and anterior 2 nd phalanx. 1 cow ear ossicle. 1 cow tibia midshaft. 10 cattle-sized fragments. 6 horse upper molars. 1 horse lower molar. 1 horse incisor lateral midshaft. 1 horse astragalus. 1 horse tibia midshaft. 1 horse humerus distal midshaft.
229	Ceramic Building Material	1	21	1 undiagnostic fragment
229	Glass	2	3	2 fragments of clear window glass
229	Pottery	1	1	1 MGW Modern glazed ware bodysherd, 19 th and 20 th century
231	Animal Bone	6	24	2 cattle-sized limbshaft lateral midshaft. 1 horse metatarsus. 2 horse peripheral metatarsus'. 1 horse phalanx 1
231	Pottery	1	1	1 MY01 Midlands Yellow basesherd with internal yellow glaze, c. 1550-1720

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C Pottery Catalogue
12 Description and Quantification of Pottery Fabrics

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Ct</i>	<i>Ct.%</i>	<i>Wt. (g)</i>	<i>Wt. (g) %</i>
Roman		89	73.6 %	1548	61.4 %
<i>Black-burnished ware</i>		7	5.8%	153	6.1 %
BB2	Black-burnished ware, category 2 (wheel-thrown)	6	5.0%	116	4.6 %
DOR BB 1	Dorset black-burnished ware	1	0.8%	37	1.5 %
<i>Calcareous/shelly ware</i>		3	2.5%	15	0.6 %
CG1	Shell-gritted ware, low quartz content	1	0.8%	4	0.2 %
CG1B	CG1A in late Roman forms	2	1.7%	11	0.4 %
<i>Colour-coated ware</i>		4	3.3%	191	7.6 %
LVN CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	4	3.3%	191	7.6 %
<i>Greyware</i>		59	48.8 %	880	34.9 %
GW3	Fine sandy greyware	40	33.1 %	522	20.7 %
GW5	Medium sandy greyware	13	10.7 %	269	10.7 %
GW6	Medium-coarse sandy greyware	6	5.0%	89	3.5 %
<i>Oxidised ware</i>		5	4.1%	49	1.9 %
OW2	Fine sandy oxidised ware	1	0.8%	11	0.4 %
OW5	Medium sandy oxidised ware	4	3.3%	38	1.5 %
<i>Samian</i>		6	5.0%	108	4.3 %
LEZ SA 2	Lezoux samian ware, fabric 2	6	5.0%	108	4.3 %
<i>White ware</i>		5	4.1%	152	6.0 %
LVN WH	Lower Nene Valley white ware	1	0.8%	19	0.8 %
MAH WH	Mancetter-Hartshill white ware	3	2.5%	122	4.8 %

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WW3	Fine sandy white ware	1	0.8%	11	0.4%
Hand-built Anglo-Saxon		28	23.1%	880	34.9%
S1	Common subrounded-subangular quartz sand up to 0.5mm, some polycrystalline but mostly monocrystalline. Rare accessory inclusions, including mica and/or coarse larger polycrystalline rock fragments (up to 2mm), likely granitic in nature. Overall, a finer variant among the two fabrics identified, with smoother and more even surfaces, and lacking an obvious temper in most cases.	11	9.1%	461	18.3%
S2	Common-to-abundant ill-sorted subrounded-subangular quartz sand up to 0.5mm alongside a higher frequency (moderate to common) of polycrystalline rock fragments (up to 2.5mm). These larger inclusions may be granitic in nature, though feldspar is not routinely evident. Some sherds have voids from additional common organic inclusions. Surfaces are generally much less well smoothed, though frequently show some attempt at smoothing using the 'wet-hand' method typical of the period. Overall, a compositionally similar, yet coarser, variant of fabric S1.	17	14.0%	419	16.6%
Post-medieval		4	3.3%	94	3.7%
PMED	Misc. post-medieval fabrics	4	3.3%	94	3.7%
Grand Total		121	100.0%	2522	100.0%

13 Quantification of Pottery by Context

<i>Feature and context</i>	<i>Ct.</i>	<i>Wt.(g)</i>	<i>Earliest date (TPQ)</i>	<i>Latest date</i>
Ditch [107]	38	641		
108	35	559	250	410

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108 (surface)	2	77	1500	1900
109	1	5	40	410
Ditch [114]	35	1074		
115	2	110	300	410
116	33	964	450	850
Ditch [120]	5	61		
121	5	61	40	410
Ditch [122]	1	19		
123	1	19	120	410
Ditch [126]	8	56		
127	8	56	40	410
Ditch [136]	1	13		
137	1	13	40	410
Ditch [207]	3	5		
214	3	5	40	410
Ditch [215]	2	20		
218	2	20	40	410
Gully [103]	5	59		
104	5	59	100	410
Gully [118]	1	65		
119	1	65	200	410
Gully [124]	7	138		
125	7	138	120	410
Pit [105]	1	58		
106	1	58	40	410
Pit [110]	4	41		
111	4	41	150	200
Pit [128]	8	255		
129	8	255	300	410
Pit [228]	1	1		
229	1	1	1500	1900
Pit [230]	1	16		
231	1	16	1500	1900
Grand Total	121	2522		

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14 Quantification of Pottery by Context, with Chronological Information

PRN	Context	Feature	SherdType	Fabric	Ware	FabUncertain	Form	FormClass	FormUncertain	Decoration	I/E	DecorNote	Count	Weight	R-EVE	Rdiam	Reporting Period	Edate	Ldate	General Comment
0001	116	Ditch [114]	s	GW5	Greyware		3/5	Jar or bowl					3	45			RB	40	410	
0002	129	Pit [128]	s,b	LVN CC	Colour-coated ware		6.DOG	Dish					2	81			RB	300	410	
0003	129	Pit [128]	r,s	MAH WH	White ware	?	10.WAL	Mortarium					2	91	0.08	240	RB	160	410	Fabric not quite typical MAH WH; could be LVN WH.
0004	129	Pit [128]	s,b	GW5	Greyware								2	72			RB	40	410	
0005	129	Pit [128]	r	CG1B	Calcareous/shelly ware		3.MED	Jar					2	11	0.1	150	RB	200	410	
0006	125	Gully [124]	s,b	GW6	Greyware								4	51			RB	40	410	
0007	125	Gully [124]	r,s	BB2	Black-burnished ware		3.BBJ	Jar		AL	E		3	87	0.26	130	RB	120	250	
0008	116	Ditch [114]	b	GW5	Greyware								1	28			RB	40	410	
0009	116	Ditch [114]	b	GW5	Greyware								1	11			RB	40	410	
0010	108	Ditch [107]	r	LEZ SA 2	Samian		5.DRAG31	Bowl					2	67	0.17	190	RB	150	200	
0011	108	Ditch [107]	r	DOR BB 1	Black-burnished ware		5.DFL	Bowl		ARCX	E		1	37	0.08	180	RB	250	410	
0012	108	Ditch [107]	s,b	BB2	Black-burnished ware								2	16			RB	120	350	
0013	108	Ditch [107]	b	BB2	Black-burnished ware								1	13			RB	120	350	

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0014	108	Ditch [107]	r	GW3	Greyware		3.MED	Jar					2	23	0.32	90	RB	40	410	
0015	108	Ditch [107]	r	GW5	Greyware		3.MED	Jar					1	26	0.18	150	RB	40	410	
0016	108	Ditch [107]	s,b	GW6	Greyware								2	38			RB	40	410	
0017	108	Ditch [107]	s	GW3	Greyware								23	328			RB	40	410	
0018	108	Ditch [107]	s	OW2	Oxidised ware								1	11			RB	40	410	
0019	115	Ditch [114]	s,b	LVN CC	Colour-coated ware								2	110			RB	300	410	
0020	111	Pit [110]	r,s	LEZ SA 2	Samian		5.DRAG31	Bowl					4	41	0.25	190	RB	150	200	
0021	123	Ditch [122]	r	LVN WH	White ware	?	10	Mortarium					1	19			RB	120	410	Few grits so fabric uncertain, but these include ferruginous material
0022	121	Ditch [120]	s	GW5	Greyware								4	29			RB	40	410	
0023	121	Ditch [120]	s	OW5	Oxidised ware	?							1	32			RB	40	410	Could be amphora?
0024	109	Ditch [107]	s	OW5	Oxidised ware								1	5			RB	40	410	
0025	119	Gully [118]	r	GW3	Greyware		5.WID	Bowl	?				1	65	0.17	240	RB	200	410	
0026	106	Pit [105]	s	GW5	Greyware								1	58			RB	40	410	
0027	127	Ditch [126]	s	GW3	Greyware								6	42			RB	40	410	
0028	127	Ditch [126]	r	GW3	Greyware		3/5	Jar or bowl					2	14	0.06	260	RB	40	410	
0029	104	Gully [103]	s	MAH WH	White ware		10	Mortarium					1	31			RB	100	410	
0030	104	Gully [103]	r,s	GW3	Greyware		3/5	Jar or bowl					3	17	0.1	120	RB	40	410	
0031	104	Gully [103]	s	WW3	White ware					BPD	E	Painted scroll between bands	1	11			RB	40	410	
0032	137	Ditch [136]	s	GW3	Greyware								1	13			RB	40	410	

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0033	218	Ditch [215]	s	GW3	Greyware								2	20			RB	40	410	
0034	214	Ditch [207]	s	OW5	Oxidised ware								2	1			RB	40	410	
0035	214	Ditch [207]	s	CG1	Calcareous/shelly ware								1	4			RB	40	410	
0036	108 (surface)	Ditch [107]	s	PMED	Post-medieval								2	77			PMED	1500	1900	Could be a roof tile but is glazed only on the inside. Very hard, sandy, grey, with a brown wash on one surface and an uneven dull khaki glaze on the other
0037	229	Pit [228]	s	PMED	Post-medieval								1	1			PMED	1500	1900	Refined white ware, very small and thin sherd
0038	231	Pit [230]	b	PMED	Post-medieval								1	16			PMED	1500	1900	White earthenware fabric with crackled cream-coloured glaze on interior
0039	116	Ditch [114]	r	S1	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon		Shouldered form, flared rim	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon					1	147	0.15	290	EMSAX	450	850	
0040	116	Ditch [114]	r	S1	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon		Shouldered form, upright rim	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon					1	76	0.1	260	EMSAX	450	850	
0041	116	Ditch [114]	r	S2	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon		High-shouldered form	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon					1	92	0.1	180	EMSAX	450	850	
0042	116	Ditch [114]	r	S2	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon		Uncertain form	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon					1	12	IR	IR	EMSAX	450	850	
0043	116	Ditch [114]	s,b	S1	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon								9	238			EMSAX	450	850	
0044	116	Ditch [114]	s,b	S2	Hand-built Anglo-Saxon					EMB	E	One solid lug on exterior	15	315			EMSAX	450	850	

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15 Codes used in table 14

Field	Description
PRN	Pottery Reference Number, a unique ID
Context	Context number
SherdType	Sherd type. S=body sherd, R=rim, B=base, H=handle, F=flange, RP=reconstructible profile, CP=complete profile
Fabric	Fabric code, derived from series specified in report
Ware	Fabric category, e.g. greyware, white ware, samian, etc.
FabUncertain	? = fabric identification not certain
Form	Form code, derived from series specified in report
FormClass	Form category, e.g. jar, bowl, dish, etc.
FormUncertain	? = form identification not certain
Count	Number of sherds
Weight	Weight to the nearest whole gram
R-EVE	Estimated Vessel Equivalent by summation of surviving rim circumference. Value 'IR' = insufficient rim extant to make a reliable measurement.
Rdiam	Rim diameter in millimetres. Value 'IR' = insufficient rim extant to make a reliable measurement.
Decoration	Decoration code. Codes used will be derived from the MOLA list of Décor codes unless specified
I/E	I = decoration internal; E = decoration external
DecorNote	Comment on decoration
Period	I = Iron Age; T = Transitional; RB = Roman Britain; PMED= Post-medieval; EMSAX= Early-Mid Saxon
Edate	The earliest date (terminus post quem) for the vessel(s) in question
Ldate	The latest date that it is likely the vessel(s) will have been in circulation
Res/Int	Res = residual; Int = intrusive. Only populated following receipt of final stratigraphic phasing
Sooting	y = sooting present
Residue	y = carbonised food residue present
GeneralComment	General comments not applicable to other fields
Feature	The cut, structure, layer (etc.) number that refers to the feature or intervention that the context number is associated with

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D Animal Bone
16 Animal Bone Full Catalogue

No	Feature	Context	common name	NISP	element	part	%	side	fusion	notes	condition
1	106	105	cattle-size	1	limbshaft	mt					eroded
2	107	108	cattle-size	1	scapula	ma	15			in many pieces, could be horse	
3	107	108	horse	1	upper molar	w	90	l		in wear	
4	107	109	rook/crow	1	femur	w	99	l			
5	114	115	cattle-size	1	rib	m	15				
6	114	115	sheep-size	1	limbshaft	m	20		h	eg femur	light erosion
7	114	115	field vole	2	molar	w	90				
8	114	115	mole	1	radius	w	99				
9	114	115	shrew	1	tibia	pm	75				
10	114	115	bird	1	wing phalanx 3	w	99			eg domestic fowl	
11	114	115	small passerine	1	coracoid	dm	75				
12	114	115	small passerine	1	femur	dm	50				
13	114	115	frog	1	pelvis						
14	114	115	frog	1	lumbar vertebra						
15	114	115	frog	1	humerus						
16	114	115	microfauna	30	mixed elements					amphibian and	

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										micromammal	
17	114	116	cow	1	zygomatic			r			
18	114	116	cow	1	premax			r			
19	114	116	cow	1	maxilla	m	50	l		with dp4 still	
20	114	116	cow	1	maxilla	m	75	l		with p4	
21	114	116	cow	1	maxilla	m	25	l		with p4	
22	114	116	cow	1	mandible	m	30	r		with m3 in wear about h no 3rd cusp probably chopped	
23	114	116	cow	1	3rd lower molar	w	85	l		in wear stage g	
24	114	116	cow	1	atlas	m	25			chopped	
25	114	116	cow	1	humerus	pm	30	l	pf	spiral butchery	
26	114	116	cow	1	scapula	m	15	l		spine broken off	
27	114	116	cow	1	scapula	dm	20	l			gnawed
28	114	116	cow	1	scapula	m	5			chopped through	
29	114	116	cow	2	scapula	m	5				
30	114	116	cow	1	pelvis	p	5				gnawed
31	114	116	cow	1	pelvis	p	15	l		chopped through	gnawed
32	114	116	cow	1	femur	mt	15	l		more eroded than rest	gnawed

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33	114	116	cow	1	tibia	mb	5				
34	114	116	cow	1	tibia	mb	10	l			
35	114	116	cow	1	metatarsus	mf	10			spiral butchery chunk	
36	114	116	cow	1	astragalus	w	90	l			
37	114	116	cow	1	phalanx 3	w					
38	114	116	cow	1	metacarpus	pm	30	l		spiral butchery	
39	114	116	cow	1	metacarpus	pm	50	l		much smaller, also probably chopped	
40	114	116	cow	1	metacarpus	mf	20		h		
41	114	116	cattle-size	1	limbshaft	mt				well preserved chunk of butchered cattle in 2 pieces eg tibia or radius	charred
42	114	116	cattle-size	11	limbshaft					probably mostly spiral butchery chunks	
43	114	116	cattle-size	1	limbshaft						charred
44	114	116	cattle-size	15	rib					mixed	
45	114	116	cattle-size	1	rib						gnawed
46	114	116	cattle-size	1	rib						charred

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47	114	116	pig	1	lower canine	w	90	r		in 2 pieces	
48	114	116	sheep	1	mandible	m	50	l		dp4 stage g, m1 stage e	
49	114	116	sheep/goat	1	metacarpus	m	30				
50	114	116	sheep/goat	1	metatarsus	mt	20			long splinter	
51	114	116	sheep/goat	1	scapula	m	15				
52	114	116	sheep-size	2	rib						
53	114	116	dog	1	pelvis	w	85	l	f	eg good sized 'hound'	
54	114	116	domestic fowl	1	synsacrum	w	85				
55	114	116	domestic fowl	1	femur	dm	60	l		sex f medullary deposit	
56	114	116	domestic fowl	1	humerus	dm	60	l			gnawed
57	122	123	horse	1	radius	w	90		pfd	gl 288 gl 273 sd 35.6 wht 1.185	
58	122	123	cattle-size	1	pelvis	pt	15			in pieces	gnawed
59	122	123	cattle-size	1	limbshaft	mt					light erosion
60	122	123	mammal	12	fragment					small pieces some likely from pelvis	
61	122	123	sheep/goat	1	axis	m	50		f	in pieces	
62	124	125	sheep/goat	1	radius	p	20	r	pf	could belong with distal	
63	124	125	sheep/goat	1	radius	dm	50	r	df	midshaft spiral butchery break	

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64	124	125	sheep/goat	1	radius	mt	10			not same bone	
65	124	125	sheep/goat	1	lower molar	mt	20				
66	124	125	sheep/goat	1	lower molar	w	95	l		probably m2, in wear	
67	128	129	cow	1	metacarpus	pm	50	r		in pieces	part eroded brittle
68	128	129	cow	1	metacarpus	d	10		du	could belong to other part	part eroded brittle
69	128	129	cow	1	upper molar	w	85				
70	128	129	sheep/goat	1	mandible	m	30	l		in several pieces, p4 unworn m1 stage g	
71	128	129	cattle-size	1	fragment						
72	136	138	amphibian	400	mixed elements					mix of elements and sizes probably mostly frog, some still in unsorted fraction.	
73	136	138	cat	1	humerus	w	90	l	pdf	sub-adult	
74	136	138	domestic fowl	1	tibiotarsus	pm	75			sex f medullary deposit	
75	136	138	field vole	1	mandible				h	at least one more loose molar in unsorted fraction	

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76	136	138	field vole	1	mandible						
77	136	138	frog	28	pelvis					mni at least 14 but probably more	
78	136	138	horse	1	mandible	n	10			diastema, better match than with cattle	
79	136	138	micromammal	2	pelvis					likely more elements in unsorted fraction	
80	136	138	rodent	6	incisor					field vole or woodmouse, at least a couple more in unsorted fraction	
81	136	138	toad	1	tibiofibula						
82	136	138	toad?	1	humerus						
83	203	206	cattle-size	1	limbshaft	p				could be equid metacarpus	poor flakey
84	203	206	cattle-size	2	fragment					could be from ?equid	poor flakey
85	203	206	cow	1	metatarsus	p	20	r			poor flakey
86	203	206	cow	1	metatarsus	md	5			could belong to other part	poor flakey
87	203	206	mammal	8	fragment					very poor could all be	poor flakey

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										from other pieces	
88	228	229	cow	5	upper molar	w	90			both sides represented, in wear. probably one animal	
89	228	229	cow	1	astragalus	mt	30	r			fragile
90	228	229	cow	1	metatarsus	mf	10			very fragmentary	fragile
91	228	229	cow	1	metacarpus	w	85	l	pfd	very fragmentary , spalling and breaking with handling, broad likely male	fragile
92	228	229	cow	1	calcaneus	dm	75	r			fragile
93	228	229	cow	1	phalanx 1	pf	50		pf	in pieces	fragile
94	228	229	cow	1	2nd phalanx	pf	20		pf		fragile
95	228	229	cow	1	ear ossicle						
96	228	229	cow	1	tibia	m	75	r		both ends eroded away bone thin brittle weak	fragile
97	228	229	cattle-size	10	fragment					numerous pieces and dust likely	fragile

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										from the other bones	
98	228	229	horse	6	upper molar	w	90			both sides represented, in wear. probably one animal	
99	228	229	horse	1	lower molar	w	95				
100	228	229	horse	1	incisor	mt	40				
101	228	229	horse	1	astragalus	w	85	r			fragile
102	228	229	horse	1	tibia	m	40			extremely thin weak in pieces	fragile
103	228	229	horse	1	humerus	dm	75	r	df	extremely thin weak in pieces	fragile
104	230	231	cattle-size	2	limbshaft	mt				flakes from a large bone	poor, spalling
105	230	231	horse	1	metatarsus	w	95	r	df	slim gl246 gll 240 est. wht 1.279, sd 25.5,	dark, light erosion
106	230	231	horse	2	peripheral metatarsals	w	90	r		with mt	dark, light erosion
107	230	231	horse	1	phalanx 1	w	95		pf	with mt	dark, light erosion

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17 Codes used in table 16

Code	Meaning
Part	
W	whole
P	proximal
M	midshaft
D	distal
N	cranial
A	caudal
E	medial
T	lateral
F	anterior
B	posterior
S	dorsal
V	ventral
Fusion	
F	fused
U	unfused
J	just fusing
H	porous
HH	very young

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E Environmental Evidence
18 Environmental Sample Summary

Sample Number	Context	Description	Spot Date / phase	Sample taken/ processed (L)	8mm res discarded (KG)	<8mm Res (KG)	Flot charred (uncharred) ML	Charcoal +4mm	charcoal 2-4mm	charcoal >2mm	Grain	weed seed	chaff	overall potential Charred remains	CPR C14 Y/N	charred notes
1	204	Primary fill ditch 203		30	1.25	2.4	5		D	B		E	E	4	N	Single rachis segment, single Fabaceae
2	109	primary fill ditch 107	Roman	20	2.2	3.1	5		E	B	E	E	E	4	N	indet grain fragment, Fabaceae <1mm, awn fragment
3	115	primary fill ditch 114	Roman	10	4.3	5.3	<5 (5)			D	E			4		<i>Triticum</i> sp., indet grains
4	123	fill of ditch 122	Roman	20	1.36	3.74	5 (<5)		E	B	E		E	4	N	Single cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp., awn frags
5	106	fill pit 105		40	4.15	6.5	5 (5)			C	E			4	N	Grain fragments
6	212	fill ditch 207	Roman or earlier	20	0.19	1.18	5		D	B	E			4	N	<i>Hordeum</i> sp.
7	221	basal fill 219	Roman	20	1.4	2.3	<2			E				4	N	Rare charred fragments
	138			10												

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Key: A= 100+; B= 50-100; C=25-50; D= 10-25; E= 1-10. tw = trunk wood; rw = roundwood

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F Data Management Plan and Archive Selection

Project Information	
Site Code	AF25
Site Address	Lychgate Lane, Aston Flamville, Hinckley, LE10 3AQ.
Project Type	Strip, map and sample and evaluation
Project Manager	Paul Clarke
Project Team	Bryn Gethin, Jodie Duffy, Rob Jones, Hannah Child, Harry Mason-Hodges, Katie Lea, Alice Dixon, Charlie Palmer
Archive Information	
Physical archive location	Leicestershire Museums
Accession Number	X.A32.2026
Digital Archive location	Archaeology Data Service
Previous work to be included	No
Future work to be included	No
Data Creation	
Where will data be created	Office: pre-fieldwork and post-excavation Site: fieldwork
What data will be created	Paper: context sheets, sample sheets, site registers, drawings on permatrace of sections and elevations and if required plans. Digital: photographs (jpegs), surveys (dxf), context lists (excel), report and specialist reports (word), finds list (excel), specialist catalogues (excel), photo register/metadata (excel), scanned registers (PDF), scanned context sheets (PDF)
Ethics and Legal Compliance	

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Data security	If the data contains commercially, or personally sensitive data it will not be made available to anyone beyond the project team.
	AW will retain the copyright of any data, including reports, photographs etc., generated by the project. External data used under licence, such as OS mapping, will not form part of the long-term archive of the project.
Data sharing	
How will data be made accessible and shared	If data needs to be shared with the client, specialists and/or the Planning Archaeologist copies of the data will be supplied and not the primary data.
	The report generated from this project will be publicly available through submission to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS).
Data selection and preservation	
Preservation and deposition	The paper and digital archives will be collated in line with national, regional and repository specific guidelines, See below.
Specific Repository Requirements	
Archaeological Data Service	Jpeg Photographs PDF report
Leicestershire Museums	Papers must be stored within acid-free folders or envelopes, reports not to be spiral bound, drawings should be stored flat with archival tissue paper between, finds bags to contain Tyvek label, large sites require finds to be boxed by material type
Leicestershire HER	PDF version of the report .shp file of trenches
Archaeology Warwickshire Management Archive	Word versions of report, DXF or .shp files of surveys, illustration files (Adobe Illustrator), etc.

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Data generated Pre-fieldwork		
Document/format	Where stored	To form management archive or site archive
WSI/PDF & paper copy	WCC Network/Physical Site folder	Site archive
Illustrations/Adobe Illustrator & PDFS	WCC Network	Management Archive or embedded into documents
GIS trench layouts/GIS data files	WCC Network	Not retained following completion of project
Signed Agreement/PDF	WCC Network: confidential	Management Archive: digital copy retained on WCC network
RAMS/PDF & paper copy	WCC Network/Physical Site folder	Management Archive
Site visit photos/jpegs	WCC Network	Management Archive: retained on WCC Network
Data generated from Site		
Physical Record type/format	Security Copy	Number
Section drawings/Permatrace	Yes	5
Digital Record type/format	Saved to WCC Network	Number
Trench sheets/Diggit	Yes	2
Context Sheets/Diggit	Yes	80
Photographs/jpeg	Yes	84 (38 for archive)
Data generated post-site		
Physical data type/format	Security Copy/number	To form management archive or site archive

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N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital Record type/format	Saved to WCC Network	To form management archive or site archive
Report/word & PDF	Yes	Site archive
Phased plans		N/A
Archaeological Finds Archive & Selection Strategy		
Expected Finds		
Material Type	Site collection Policy	Guidance from
Pottery - modern	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Pottery – Post-medieval	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Pottery – Medieval	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Pottery – Roman	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Pottery - Prehistoric	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Animal Bone	From secure contexts	Project Lead
Worked Stone	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Lithics	Collect 100%	Project Lead
Finds from site		
Material Type	Checked by	Action ie. Identified, added to database, discarded
Pottery- Roman	EC	Identified, added to database, sent to specialist
Pottery- Medieval	EC	Identified, added to database, sent to specialist
Pottery- Post-medieval	EC	Identified, added to database, sent to specialist
Animal Bone	EC	Identified, added to database, sent to specialist

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Ceramic Building Material	EC	Identified, added to database
Metal- Iron	EC	Identified, added to database
Glass	EC	Identified, added to database
Coins	BG	Identified, added to database, reported
Shell	EC	Identified, added to database
Specialist Assessment		
Material Type	Specialist	Action ie, coded, weighed, reported,
Pottery- Roman	AS	Coded, weighed, assessed reported
Pottery- Medieval	AS	Coded, weighed, assessed reported
Pottery- Post-medieval	AS	Coded, weighed, assessed reported
Animal Bone	SHD	Identified, catalogued, reported
Coins	BG	Identified, reported
Environmental Evidence	BH	Samples processed, flots assessed
Specialist Recommendations		
Material Type	Specialist	Recommendation ie, discard in line with Museum Collection Policy, add to handling collection, Further analysis
Pottery- Roman	AS	No recommendations

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Pottery- Medieval	AS	No recommendations
Pottery- Post-medieval	AS	No recommendations
Animal Bone	SHD	No recommendations
Coins	BG	No recommendations
Environmental Evidence	BH	No further analysis
Specialist Analysis		
Material Type	Specialist	Action ie. Offer to Museum with report and illustrations
N/A		
For Retention or Discard		
Material Type	Target date of deposition/ Archived date	Repository accepting/recommending discard
Pottery- Roman	2026/2027	Leicestershire Museum
Pottery- Medieval	2026/2027	Leicestershire Museum
Pottery- Post-medieval	N/A	Recommend discard
Animal Bone	N/A	Recommend discard
Ceramic Building Material	N/A	Recommend discard
Metal- Iron	N/A	Recommend discard
Glass	N/A	Recommend discard
Coins	2026/2027	Leicestershire Museum
Shell	N/A	Recommend discard

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G OASIS Form

OASIS Summary for archaeol27-541045

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol27-541045
Project Name	Solar Development, Aston Flamville, Leicestershire: Archaeological excavation (strip, map and sample) and evaluation
Sitename	Solar Development, Aston Flamville, Leicestershire
Sitecode	AF25
Project Identifier(s)	AF25 Solar Development, Aston Flamville, Leicestershire
Activity type	Evaluation, Excavation
Planning Id	22/00739/FUL, 22/0048/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeology Warwickshire
Project Dates	01-Sep-2025 - 31-Dec-2025
Location	Solar Development, Aston Flamville, Leicestershire NGR : SP 45898 92428 LL : 52.52779770628158, -1.32488630790046 12 Fig : 445898,292428
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Leicestershire Local Authority District : Blaby Parish : Aston Flamville
Project Methodology	Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a trial trench evaluation and an excavation ahead of a proposed development. This comprised the erection of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm together with associated equipment, infrastructure and ancillary works. The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Universal guidance for archaeological evaluation (ClfA 2023a), Standard for archaeological evaluation (ClfA 2023b), Standard for archaeological excavation (ClfA 2023c), and Universal guidance for archaeological excavation (ClfA 2023d).

Project Results	The initial evaluation identified a cobbled surface to the north of the site alongside evidence of Roman agricultural activity, in the form of a rectilinear system of ditched enclosures, towards the centre of the site. These areas were thereafter tested by two trial trenches targeting the cobbled surface, with two strip, map and sample areas targeting the Roman features. The evaluation successfully identified the continuation of the cobbled surface in both trenches. The use of the feature as an area of consolidated ground was confirmed but this did not form part of a wider linear trackway. No dating evidence was recovered from the surface, although its form and position in relation to the adjacent medieval ditch, as well as the ridge and furrow, tentatively suggest a medieval or post medieval date. The excavations revealed a Late Roman enclosure defined by substantial linear boundary ditches located in the northern and southern extents of the area examined, which possibly formed part of a large enclosure. Within this area, a series of parallel internal subdivisions formed by slighter ditches and gullies, enclosing a small number of pits and possible ring-gullies, is indicative of an activity area within this presumed field system. The enclosure system examined forms part of a wider agricultural hinterland associated with an area of Roman occupation located on the higher ground to the north. Although most of the enclosure features had fallen out of use by the early Saxon period, the northern ditch remained extant and continued to act as a boundary to the settlement. This alignment was maintained by successive generations into the medieval and post medieval periods.
Keywords	Enclosure - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation RPS Group Ltd
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Paul Clarke
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums;