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GLOSSARY

ARCHAEOLOGY
For the purposes of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains, from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CONTEXT
The simplest level of excavated archaeological data, i.e. a context could be the cut of a ditch (shown as [1]), or its fill (shown as (2)).

CROPMARK
A trace of a buried feature revealed by differential growth of crops, best seen from the air.

IRON AGE
The first period in which iron was the predominant metal. In Britain it is dated between c.700 BC to the Roman conquest in AD 43.

MEDIEVAL
Taken here as the period from the Norman invasion in AD 1066 to approximately AD 1500.

NATURAL
Defined in archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, e.g. Lower Lias clay, river terrace gravels etc.

NGR
National Grid Reference given from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD
Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above mean sea level.

PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL
The reconstruction of past environments based upon evidence recovered from preserved botanical and entomological remains.

POT-SHERD
A fragment of a pottery vessel.

RIDGE AND FURROW
Remains of cultivation of medieval or later date forming a corrugated surface.

**ROMANO-BRITISH**
Term used to describe a fusion of indigenous late Iron Age traditions with Roman culture, often abbreviated as 'R-B.'

**SAXON**
Taken here as the period following the end of the Romano-British era until the Norman Conquest. Often descended as the Dark Ages.

**SETTLEMENT**
An area of habitation, perhaps surrounded by associated closes, paddocks, approach ways and other features which together constitute a complex of earthworks or cropmarks distinct from fields.

**SITE**
Sites may be defined as 'windows' onto the archaeological resource, e.g. an excavation, aerial photograph, or an old map. Any of these may reveal certain archaeological features (pits, ditches, etc) which can be classed as components, but not monuments.

**SMR**
Sites and Monument Record.
SUMMARY

In December 1997 and January 1998 Cotswold Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Grange Park, Courteenhall, Northamptonshire, following an earlier desk-based assessment, and geophysical and fieldwalking surveys. This earlier work suggested the existence of four enclosure complexes, thought to be of late Iron Age/Romano-British date on the basis of shape and form, together with three potential Saxon sites.

A total of 40 trenches were excavated. Those excavated in Enclosure Complexes 1-4 confirmed the results of the geophysical survey. In addition, the pottery recovered from Enclosure Complexes 1 and 2 indicates that they were of at least two phases, namely mid-late Iron Age and early Romano-British. Enclosure Complexes 3 and 4 appeared to be solely of mid-late Iron Age date. Three of the Enclosure Complexes were aligned alongside ditched trackways and all are probably small-scale agricultural settlements.

Very few archaeological features were found within potential Saxon Sites 1 and 2, although it is possible that any archaeological signs of occupation lie outside of the area targeted for evaluation. However, a concentration of several undated pits and ditches were found in Saxon Site 3. Given the quantity of Saxon pottery previously recovered in this area from fieldwalking, it is reasonable to suggest that these features are also of Saxon date. In addition early-mid Saxon pottery was recovered from two features in Enclosure Complex 2, indicating Saxon occupation of a former Iron Age and Romano-British site.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 In December 1997 Cotswold Archaeological Trust was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC), on behalf of Holmes Antill, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Grange Park, Courteenhall, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16), and in compliance with the ‘Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations’ (IFA, 1994) and the ‘Policy and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork in Northamptonshire’ (1995).

1.2 The study area

1.2.1 The proposed development area comprises 193ha. of land which lies to the south of Wootton, Northampton, and is centred on NGR SP 760 550. The site is located on undulating land between approximately 80m and 100m OD (Fig. 2).

1.2.2 The study area consists mainly of farmland although 30ha. has been used for mineral extraction and subsequent landfill. A tributary of the Nene forms the northern boundary of the study area and further streams form part of the eastern boundary and bisect the site on a roughly N-S alignment (JSAC 1997, 3).

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the study area consists mainly of boulder clay with islands of gravel and possibly river alluvium, particularly in the northern stream valley (JSAC 1997, 3).
1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A desk-based assessment of the study area was carried out by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants. This assessment included SMR, fieldwalking, aerial photographic, documentary and cartographic data and identified several areas of archaeological potential. An assessment of the importance of, and possible impact on, these areas was made and recommendations made, in line with the requirements of the County Archaeological Officer, for further evaluation in the form of fieldwalking and geophysical survey (JSAC 238/97/01).

1.3.2 The fieldwalking was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit and the geophysical survey by GSB Prospection, both in September and October 1997. The results of previous fieldwalking surveys, undertaken in 1981, were also taken into account (JSAC 1997, 3).

1.3.3 The geophysical survey identified four distinct clusters of ditched enclosures of sub-rectangular and rectangular form, including one D-shaped enclosure, probably indicating settlement and/or stock enclosures. The shape and form of these enclosures and the possible presence of roundhouses associated with them suggested a late Iron Age/Romano-British date. Strong responses from two of the enclosures was thought to indicate domestic or small-scale industrial activity (JSAC 1997, 3).

1.3.4 Enclosure Complex 1 consisted of three NE-SW aligned rectangular enclosures, possibly with an associated field system. The strongest readings came from the northernmost of these enclosures. This was thought to indicate domestic or small-scale industrial activity. Fainter responses in the central part of the area were thought to indicate another enclosure on a slightly different alignment and probably of a different date. Numerous other possible ditches and pits were also noted. Sherds of late Iron Age pottery were recovered over the site of Enclosure Complex 1 in 1981. Roman and further
Iron Age sherds were also recovered during fieldwork prior to the evaluation (JSAC 1997, 4).

1.3.5 The main focus of Enclosure Complex 2, which also appeared as a cropmark, was a D-shaped enclosure aligned along a possible NW-SE ditched trackway. A possible hut circle within a rectangular enclosure was also identified along with two other enclosures (JSAC 1997, 4).

1.3.6 Enclosure Complex 3 consisted of a number of small enclosures, linear and pit-like features, probably associated with a larger irregular shaped enclosure. One of the linear features corresponded with a cropmark identified as a possible ditched trackway (JSAC 1997, 4).

1.3.7 In Enclosure Complex 4 a single enclosure was associated with a number of pit-type anomalies. The nature of the responses suggested small-scale industrial or domestic activity (JSAC 1997. 4).

1.3.8 In addition sherds of Saxon pottery recovered during fieldwalking suggested the presence of three potential Saxon sites (Saxon Sites 1-3) (JSAC 1997, 4-5).

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 A specification to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the study area was prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants. This specification entailed the excavation of 26 trenches over the seven potential areas of archaeological interest. A contingency was retained for use in any area of the evaluation and, in the event, a further 14 trenches were excavated (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 The objectives of the evaluation were as follows:
(i) to determine the date and nature of the features in Enclosure Complexes 1-4.

(ii) to make a rapid assessment of the complexity of the remains within these complexes in comparison with that suggested by the geophysical results.

(iii) to determine whether Saxon occupation is directly spatially associated with the pottery scatters and/or the geophysical anomalies and if not, to determine the location of any *in-situ* Saxon remains.

(iv) to determine the nature of any *in-situ* Saxon remains.

1.4.3 The evaluation was carried out in two stages. Initially, a total of 26 trenches were excavated in December 1997. Following consultations with Sandy Kidd and Glenn Foard of Northamptonshire Heritage, a further 14 trenches were excavated in January 1998.

1.4.4 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a 360° tracked mechanical digger equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All identified features were sampled by hand and recorded in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeological Trust Field Recording Manual (1996).

1.4.5 The evaluation was carried out during a spell of poor weather, resulting in a very high water table and flooding in several of the trenches. This hindered archaeological investigation particularly in trenches 39 and 40.

1.4.6 All artefacts were recovered and processed in accordance with the CAT Finds Recording Manual (1994). The ceramics were assessed by Paul Blinkhorn, in accordance with the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series and the animal bone was identified by Tracey Stickler. The remaining finds were identified by Emma Harrison. Detailed information on these finds is presented in Appendices III-V.
1.4.7 Environmental sampling and assessment was undertaken in accordance with the CAT Environmental Sampling Manual (1994). Ten samples, each comprising 10 litres of sediment, were taken from a range of features. The samples were passed through flotation apparatus and the residues were examined by Dr. Keith Wilkinson. The preliminary results of this analysis are presented in Appendix VI.

1.4.8 Monitoring visits were made by Mr. Sandy Kidd of Northamptonshire Heritage on the 19th and 23rd December 1997 and the 8th January 1998.
2. EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1 General

2.1.1 Detailed descriptions of each trench are contained within Appendix 1. The following sections briefly describe the features found in Enclosure Complexes 1-4 and Saxon sites 1-3.

2.2 Enclosure Complex 1 (Fig. 3)

2.2.1 It was originally intended to excavate four trenches within Enclosure Complex 1. However, due to a surveying error these trenches (3-6) were incorrectly positioned resulting in the necessity to excavate a further trench (39) to satisfy the archaeological brief. All of the trenches contained archaeological features cutting through natural deposits, although the solitary feature within trench 39 could not be excavated due to flooding. In trenches 4-6 all of the features were sealed by a subsoil which reached a maximum thickness of 0.22m. This subsoil was not apparent in trench 39 and was only seen in the southern two-thirds of trench 3. The subsoil was in turn covered by the 0.3m thick ploughsoil. The positions of the features found in the trenches do not always exactly correspond to the same features identified in the geophysical survey.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4).

2.2.2 Trench 3 was positioned over a large rectangular enclosure (A) and one of two linear features, possibly part of a NW-SE aligned ditched trackway.

2.2.3 At the NE end of the trench ditch [310] probably corresponds with the north ditch of enclosure A. This ditch was not completely excavated but was at least 0.92m deep with at least one recut [314]. Eleven sherds of possible
middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from its secondary fill (312), along with 16 charred cereal grains together with a single charred pea or lentil. In addition, the fill (311) of the recut produced 11 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery.

2.2.4 At the SW end of the trench two features [304] and [306] may be associated with the geophysical readings in the interior of Enclosure A. Linear ditch [304] was aligned NW-SE, 0.31m deep and contained a fill (305) which produced 3 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery. Gully [306] was aligned E-W and 0.1m deep with a small 0.2m deep pit or posthole [308] at its western end. The relationship between the gully and the posthole was not established although the fill (309) of the posthole produced a single sherd of possible mid-late Iron Age pottery. The relationship between these features and a thin subsoil (302) could also not be established.

_Trench 4 (Fig. 5)_

2.2.5 Trench 4 was positioned along the southern edge of a possible rectilinear enclosure (B). The SW corner of this enclosure is probably represented by a curving 0.5m deep ditch [404]. The primary fill of this ditch (406) produced a single sherd of Iron Age pottery while the secondary fill (405), which produced 13 sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD., had been cut by a small 0.08m deep pit [413].

2.2.6 To the SE of ditch [404] the geophysical survey identified several anomalies, although they did not clearly correspond to the features found in the rest of the trench. The relationship between ditch [404] and 0.55m wide NW-SE aligned ditch [409] was not established. Similarly, the relationship between ditch [409] and two gullies [412] and [411] could also not be established although they may have served as drains running into ditch [409]. The fill (408) of ditch [409] produced loomweight fragments and 11 sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. However, the profile of ditch [409] was irregular and it may have been recut on its NE side. It had certainly
been cut by a 0.25m deep curvilinear gully [410], the fill of which (407) contained another loomweight fragment and a single residual Iron Age potsherd amongst an assemblage of 46 Romano-British sherds dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD.

_Trench 5 (Fig. 6)_

2.2.7 Trench 5 was positioned within another possible large rectangular enclosure (C). Two narrow ditches or gullies [505] and [507] were identified. The former was aligned NW-SE and 0.12m deep. The latter was aligned NWW-SEE, 0.16m deep and contained a fill (504) which produced 5 sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. Gully [505] may correspond to a linear feature recorded just to the north on the geophysical survey.

_Trench 6 (Fig. 7)_

2.2.8 Trench 6 was positioned over the SE corner of a rectangular enclosure (D), which is represented in the trench by a 0.68m deep linear ditch [606]. This ditch cut through linear gully [609] the fill of which (610) produced 3 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery. The primary fill (607) of ditch [606] contained 2 sherds of Iron Age and 2 sherds of 1st-2nd century AD Romano-British pottery. The secondary fill (608) produced an assemblage of 53 sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD, together with 39 daub fragments. It had in turn been cut by a post-medieval wall trench [604], presumably a field boundary, which incorporated clay pipe fragments within its fill.

2.2.9 At the NW end of the trench a 0.1m deep linear gully was also identified. The fill (612) of this feature produced a single sherd of Romano-British pottery dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. This small feature was not identified by the geophysical survey.
Trench 39 (Fig. 7)

2.2.10 Trench 39 was positioned to sample an interrupted ditch which probably forms the southern boundary of Enclosure C. The single 1m wide linear ditch [3903] identified in this trench probably relates to this feature. However, it could not be excavated due to flooding.

2.3 Enclosure Complex 2 (Fig. 8)

2.3.1 Three trenches (1, 2 and 27) were excavated within Enclosure Complex 2. All contained archaeological features cutting natural deposits. However, the natural clay and gravel had been scarred by modern ploughing and had to be removed to depths between 0.2m and 0.3m in order for the archaeological features to be clearly visible. All features were covered by a 0.3m thick ploughsoil. The features within the three trenches do not always exactly match the same features identified in the geophysical survey.

Trench 1 (Fig. 9)

2.3.2 Trench 1 was positioned to sample an L-shaped feature identified in the geophysical survey. However, this feature was not identified and it presumably lies just to the west of the trench. At the western end of the trench a 0.18m deep pit [104] may correspond to a geophysical reading approximately 1m to the east.

2.3.3 To the east of pit [104] were three gullies [106], [112] and [114] all of which were 0.18m deep and cut through by field drains. The westernmost of these, gully [106], was aligned approximately NNE-SSW while the other two were aligned approximately N-S. The fill (105) of gully [106] contained 4 sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD along with a single residual mid-late Iron Age sherd. This gully [106] may be the
continuation of a short linear feature identified by geophysical survey just to
the north.

2.3.4 Gully [112] was not identified in the geophysical survey but the easternmost
gully [114] may correspond to a curvilinear feature identified on the
geophysical survey approximately 1.5m to the east.

*Trench 2 (Fig. 10)*

2.3.5 Trench 2 was positioned to sample the NW ditch of D-shaped enclosure (E)
and a possible roundhouse in a rectilinear enclosure (F) to the NW. At the SE
end of the trench NE-SW aligned ditch [211] probably corresponds with the
enclosure E ditch. This ditch was approximately 1m deep and had been recut
at least twice. A further NE-SW aligned 0.51m deep ditch [213] just to the
SE may be the continuation of a geophysical feature identified in the northern
corner of enclosure E.

2.3.6 At the NW end of the trench a 0.25m deep L-shaped feature [203] and two
pits [205] and [215] were identified. The relationship between the L-shaped
feature and the pits was not established. Pit [215] was not excavated but pit
[205] was 0.25m deep and contained a fill (204) which produced three sherds
of mid-late Iron Age pottery. There was no indication of the roundhouse,
possibly because the trench is positioned within its eastern entrance, although
all of these features presumably relate to internal activities within enclosure F.

*Trench 27 (Fig. 11)*

2.3.7 Trench 27 was positioned to sample the eastern arm of enclosure E, after the
ditch in trench 2 failed to produce any dating evidence. NW-SE aligned ditch
[2713] represents this enclosure ditch. It was not completely excavated but
contained at least three fills the earliest of which (2712) produced 5 sherds of
mid-late Iron Age pottery. The secondary fill (2711), which probably filled a
recut, consisted of a dump of redeposited natural which may derive from a
feature such as an internal bank. It was difficult to distinguish this material from the natural clay but it contained 2 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery. In addition five sherds of Iron Age and 4 sherds of Romano-British pottery, along with four small fragments of slag were recovered from final fill (2709).

2.3.8 Just to the SW of Iron Age ditch [2713] was a parallel 0.9m deep ditch [2706] the fill of which (2705) produced 8 sherds from a large vessel of early-mid Saxon date. Just to the SW of this ditch was a 0.46m deep pit [2704] the fill (2703) of which produced a further 4 sherds of early-mid Saxon pottery from another very large vessel.

2.4 Enclosure Complex 3 & Saxon Site 1 (Figs. 12 & 13)

2.4.1 A total of 12 trenches (7-14 & 28-31) were excavated over Enclosure Complex 3 and, just to the north, Saxon Site 1. Some of the trenches positioned to evaluate the potential Saxon site (8, 11, 12, and 28) contained no archaeological features. Trenches 13 and 14 were specifically positioned to evaluate the Enclosure Complex and as such are described first. These are followed by descriptions of trenches 30, 31, 29, 9, 7 and 10. Most of the features found in these trenches can be related to Enclosure Complex 3, apart from a few small pits in trenches 29 and 10, the date of which is not known.

2.4.2 In all of the trenches the natural clay and gravel had been scarred by modern ploughing and had to be removed to a maximum depth of 0.25m in depth in order for the archaeological features to be clearly visible. All of the features were covered by an approximately 0.3m thick ploughsoil with the exception of trench 14 where a 0.12m thick subsoil was also apparent. The features within the trenches do not always exactly match the same features identified in the geophysical survey

Trench 13 (Fig. 14)
2.4.3 Trench 13 was positioned to sample the SE arm of a rectangular enclosure (G) and pit-like features to the SE. A NE-SW aligned ditch [1303] may correspond to the enclosure ditch although it is relatively narrow. Its fill (1304) contained a single potsherd of possible Iron Age date. This ditch had been cut by a wide, shallow ditch [1306] which may be the remains of a medieval plough furrow.

2.4.4 To the SE of ditch [1303] and external to enclosure G four pits were identified. These probably correspond with a series of pit-like responses identified in the geophysical survey. Three of these pits [1308], [1310], and [1314] were flat-bottomed and varied in depth between 0.35m and 0.5m. The fill (1309) of pit [1310] contained a single sherd of mid-late Iron Age pottery along with two charred pulse seeds. Not enough of the other pit [1312] was exposed within the trench to assess its profile although its fill (1311) produced a single potsherd of possible Iron Age date. To the NW of ditch [1303] and inside enclosure G, a further 0.25m deep flat bottomed pit [1318] was also identified.

Trench 14 (Fig. 15)

2.4.5 Trench 14 was positioned to sample the corner of a sub-rectangular enclosure (H) and a series of possible pit-type readings to the east. A NNE-SSW linear ditch [1404], which was at least 0.74m deep, corresponds to the enclosure ditch. Its primary fill (1405) contained 3 sherds of possible middle Iron Age pottery. This ditch had also been recut at least twice with one of the fills (1407) containing 7 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery and a single spikelet fork, indicative of some processing activity being carried out within the enclosure or nearby. No other archaeological features were identified within this trench indicating that the readings to the east of the enclosure ditch are not archaeological in origin.

2.4.6 A 0.12m thick subsoil (1402), which sealed the enclosure ditch, was also apparent throughout trench 14.
Trench 30 (Fig. 16)

2.4.7 Trench 30 was positioned to find features associated with Saxon Site 1. In the event the two features which were found in the trench both produced Iron Age pottery and are therefore associated with Enclosure Complex 3.

2.4.8 A 0.3m deep linear ditch or gully [3004] which was aligned approximately N-S was identified. Its fill (3003) produced a single mid-late Iron Age potsherd. To the east of feature [3004] was a small pit or posthole [3006] which was 0.55m in diameter and 0.24m deep. Its fill (3005) contained two potsherds of possible mid-late Iron Age date. Neither of these features was identified during the geophysical survey but may be associated with a few responses in this general area.

Trench 31 (Fig. 17)

2.4.9 Trench 31 was also positioned to find features associated with Saxon Site 1 and also to examine the NE-SW aligned double-ditched trackway. The two NE-SW aligned ditches [3104] and [3110] found in this trench probably correspond to these trackway ditches. They were 0.4m deep and 0.48m deep respectively and the fill (3103) of the former contained an assemblage of 52 potsherds of mid-late Iron Age date. The fill of ditch [3110] was cut by a small 0.1m deep pit or posthole [3108], the fill of which (3107) contained 2 sherds of possible mid-late Iron Age pottery. In between the two ditches was a 0.25m deep pit [3106] which was not identified in the geophysical survey.

Trench 29 (Fig. 18)

2.4.10 Trench 29 was positioned to identify any features associated with Saxon Site 1 and the NE continuation of the trackway ditches. A NE-SW linear ditch [2906/2908], which was at least 0.69m deep probably corresponds to the westernmost trackway ditch. Its secondary fill (2907) produced 5 sherds of possible middle Iron Age pottery date while the fill (2909) of a recut
contained 19 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery. There was no indication of the other trackway ditch in the trench.

2.4.11 At the NW end of trench 29 two small pits [2904] and [2912] were identified. The latter was observed in section only but was at least 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. The former measured 0.55m x 0.35m across and was just 0.05m deep. Two charred cereal grains were found in the fill of pit [2904] but neither feature produced any dating evidence.

Trench 9 (Fig. 19)

2.4.12 A single NE-SW aligned ditch [903] was identified in trench 9. It was 2.6m wide and 0.4m deep, and may form the continuation of one of the trackway ditches seen to the SW in trenches 29 and 31. Its fill (902) contained an undated small glass fragment. No other features were apparent in this trench.

Trench 9 (Fig. 19)

2.4.13 Trench 7 was also specifically positioned to find features associated with Saxon Site 1. The only feature identified was a single 0.17m deep elongated pit [704] with a fill (703) which contained a single sherd of mid-late Iron Age pottery.

Trench 7 (Fig. 19)

2.4.14 A single pit [1004] was partially exposed in trench 10. Within the confines of the trench it measured 0.5m x 0.6m across and was 0.1m deep. It produced no dating evidence.
2.5 **Enclosure Complex 4 (Fig. 20)**

2.5.1 Two trenches (19 and 20) were excavated within Enclosure Complex 4. In both the natural clay and gravel had been scarred by modern ploughing and had to be removed to a maximum depth of 0.2m in depth in order for the archaeological features to be clearly visible. All of the features were covered by an approximately 0.35m thick ploughsoil. The features within the trenches do not always exactly match the same features identified in the geophysical survey.

*Trench 19 (Fig. 21)*

2.5.2 Trench 19 was positioned to sample the western arm of a rectangular enclosure (I) and several internal features identified by the geophysical survey. A NE-SW aligned V-shaped 0.85m deep ditch [1911] probably corresponds to the enclosure ditch. Its fill (1912) produced 9 sherds of possible mid-late Iron Age pottery.

2.5.3 To the ESE of this ditch five pits, which are probably associated with the geophysical readings inside the enclosure, were identified. These pits [1909], [1907], [1913], [1905] and [1903] were all flat-bottomed and varied in depth between 0.12m and 0.36m. The fills of all the pits, apart from [1913], produced sherds of Iron Age pottery, some of which can be dated to the middle Iron Age. Large quantities of wood charcoal were also recovered from samples taken from the fills of pit [1907] and ditch [1911]. In addition mollusc shells from *Vallonia* sp. were also recovered from these samples, possibly indicating that the environment outside the enclosure was either grassland or arable.

*Trench 20 (Fig. 22)*

2.5.4 Trench 20 was positioned to sample the area to the west of enclosure I. A NW-SE aligned 0.38m deep ditch [2003] probably corresponds to a feature
identified by geophysical survey just to the north. No other archaeological features were identified in this trench.

2.6 **Saxon Site 2 (Fig. 20)**

2.6.1 A total of 10 trenches (21-26 and 32-35) were excavated over the area of a Saxon pottery scatter identified through fieldwalking. In all of the trenches the natural clay and gravel had been scarred by modern ploughing and had to be removed to a maximum depth of 0.2m in order for the archaeological features to be clearly visible. Archaeological features were identified in only two of these trenches (22 and 25), covered by a 0.3m thick ploughsoil. No dating evidence was recovered.

*Trench 22 (Fig. 22)*

2.6.2 Two pits [2203] and [2205] were identified in trench 22. The former was partially exposed and, within the confines of the trench, measured 1.37m x 1.2m across and 0.13m in depth. The latter measured 0.75m x 0.84m across and 0.3m in depth.

*Trench 25 (Fig. 22)*

2.6.3 A single 0.15m deep post hole [2503], which contained the remains of stone packing, was identified in trench 25.

2.7 **Saxon Site 3 (Fig. 23)**
2.7.1 A total of 8 trenches (15-18, 36-38 and 40) were excavated over the area of a Saxon pottery scatter identified through fieldwalking. In all of the trenches the natural clay and gravel had been scarred by modern ploughing and had to be removed to a maximum depth of 0.1m. Archaeological features were identified only in trench 40 under a 0.3m thick ploughsoil. None of these features produced dating evidence.

*Trench 40 (Fig. 24)*

2.7.2 At the eastern end of trench 40 two parallel linear ditches or gullies were identified. The easternmost of these [4003] was 0.64m wide and 0.37m deep and had a V-shaped profile. The other [4006] was 0.47m wide and 0.24m deep. Just to the west was a further feature [4008] probably either an elongated pit or ditch/gully terminal. This feature measured 0.49m across and was 0.3m deep.

2.7.3 To the west of feature [4008] was a group of three pits [4014], [4010] and [4012]. These features were difficult to examine because of the accumulation of floodwater in the trench and the very high water table. Pit [4014] was half-sectioned to a depth of 0.1m but was not bottomed. However, pit [4012] was just 0.2m deep and had been cut by pit [4010], which was equally shallow. All of these features contained identical fills of a greyish-black silty clay, with the exception of pit [4012] which contained a fill of a greyish-brown silty clay.

3. **THE FINDS**

3.1 *The pottery (by Paul Blinkhorn)*

3.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 331 sherds of stratified Iron Age, Romano-British and early/middle Saxon pottery with a total weight of 4770g. Details of the pottery fabrics and quantities per context are tabulated in Appendix IV.
All the pottery was typical of the Northampton area. The range of ware types present suggests that there was occupation at the site from the middle Iron Age to the 1st/2nd century AD, and also at some point during the early or middle Saxon period (c. AD450-850).

Iron Age

3.1.2 All the fabrics are typical of the Iron Age pottery of the Nene valley and its hinterland, and can be paralleled at many sites, such as Wakerley (Jackson and Ambrose 1978) or Twywell (Jackson 1975).

3.1.3 A total of 7 sherds were scored, a technique typical of the middle Iron Age pottery tradition of the area. The presence of Belgic pottery suggests that there may have been continuous occupation at the site from the middle Iron Age until the Roman period. However, there are no sherds of La Tène curvilinear decorated wares, the presence of which would evidence occupation during the later Iron Age, although such wares may have been culturally restricted, as finds of the material are, by and large, limited to sites in the Nene Valley area to the east of Northampton. It is thus impossible to identify from this assemblage if there was a break in occupation at the site during that time.

Romano-British

3.1.4 A total of 139 sherds (wt. 2559g) of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage consisted mainly of grogged and shell-tempered coarsewares and ‘Belgic’ types, along with a small number of sherds of various greywares, suggesting a date range of the 1st-2nd century AD.

Early/Middle Saxon
3.1.5 All the sherds are undecorated, making it impossible to date the material more closely than to the early/middle Saxon period (c. AD 450-850). It is worthy of comment that the two contexts (in trench 27) which produced pottery of this date contain sherds of unusually large vessels which are paralleled by a single, near-complete, example associated with an isolated sunken-floored building at Crick, Northamptonshire (Blinkhorn, forthcoming). It is possible that such vessels were used for storage purposes in isolated agricultural buildings, but more evidence is needed for this to be postulated with certainty.

3.2 The animal bone

3.2.1 A total of 153 bone fragments, plus small fragments found in the environmental samples, was recovered from the evaluation. The animal bone was identified to species by Tracey Stickler. Details of the contexts in which they were found and totals per each individual site are to be found in the two tables in Appendix V.

3.2.2 Enclosure Complex 1 produced the largest quantity of bone with the other three Enclosure Complexes producing only small amounts. In addition very small bone fragments were recovered from the environmental sample taken from ditch [4003] on Saxon Site 3.

3.2.3 The highly fragmented nature of the bone meant that identification to exact species was often not possible. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig are all represented and red deer fragments were found in at least 5 contexts. A few specimens from gully [203], ditch [310], pit [1907] and ditch [1911] had evidence of butchery and burnt bone was recovered from gully [505] and ditch [606].

3.3 The other finds (by Emma Harrison)

Daub and fired clay
3.3.1 Forty-eight fragments of daub and fired clay (593g) were recovered from 6 contexts. Small quantities were found from the fill (310) of mid-late Iron Age ditch [310] in Enclosure Complex 2, and from the fill (1908) of possible middle Iron Age pit [1907] in Enclosure Complex 4. However, the majority are from Romano-British features. Most of the fragments are small, formless pieces but several from the fill of ditch [606] in Enclosure Complex 1 have flat or curved surfaces, and one a wattle impression.

**Loomweights**

3.3.2 Seven probable loomweight fragments were found in the fills of ditch [409], gully [410], and ditch [606], all in Enclosure Complex 1. These fragments have from one to three surfaces present but are too small to determine the size or shape of the object. They are vegetable tempered with occasional sand.

**Glass**

3.3.3 One small curved vessel fragment was recovered from the fill of ditch [902] in Enclosure Complex 3/Saxon Site 1. This fragment is too small to assign a precise date, although a Roman origin is possible.

**Slag**

3.3.4 Four small slag fragments were recovered from the fill (2709) of ditch [2713] in Enclosure Complex 2.

**Iron**

3.3.5 A ring, 45mm in diameter, one possible hobnail and small formless fragments were recovered from the fill of ditch [606] in Enclosure Complex 1. In addition two nails were found in the fill of post-medieval wall [604]. Metal
detecting of the evaluation trenches and their spoilheaps produced only pieces of modern agricultural equipment.
4. THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE (BY KEITH WILKINSON)

4.1 Methodology

4.1.1 A total of 10 samples were taken from features of Iron Age or possible Saxon date. These samples consisted of 10 litres of sediment all of which was processed. Processing was carried out using flotation methodology with meshes of 500um and 1mm used to collect the flot and residue respectively. Flots and residues were both dried and the residue thoroughly sorted to remove all biological and artefactual remains. Flots were scanned under a low power binocular microscope and all significant biological remains quantified. A table of the results is presented in Appendix VI. Identification was carried out to a relatively low taxonomic level consistent with a rapid assessment.

4.2 The Results

4.2.1 Few biological remains of any significance were recovered from the samples. Charring was apparent in all the samples but the material was of wood charcoal rather than seeds. Indeed, particularly large quantities of wood charcoal was recovered from the fills of pit [1907] and ditch [1911] in trench 19 including some relatively large pieces.

4.2.2 Cereal grains were only recovered from four samples and present in moderate quantities only from ditch [310] in trench 3. Charred pulses (pea or lentil) were found in ditch [310] in trench 3 and pit [1310] in trench 13, but not in large quantities.

4.2.3 Mollusc shell was encountered in several samples but most shells found were of the burrowing species *Cecilioides acicula* which was introduced in the medieval period and has little ecological significance. Two shells from pit
Grange Park, Courteenhall, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation

[1907] and ditch [1911] in trench 19 were of the genus *Vallonia* which only lives in open conditions, perhaps suggesting the area outside the enclosure was either grassland or arable during deposition. The general absence of mollusc shell would seem to indicate that the sediments are decalcified.

4.2.4 Besides the presence of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* there was other evidence for contamination of the deposits. For example, fine rootlets of modern derivation were found in all the samples in moderate to high quantities, while worm action or voids in the overlying sediments were indicated from the presence of modern weed seeds.

4.3 **Assessment**

4.3.1 The assemblages all probably represent re-deposited hearth sweepings rather than *in-situ* burning of any grain product and therefore suggest that the various sampled features were used for rubbish disposal. The remains demonstrate that grain (either wheat or barley) and pulses were being consumed by the site inhabitants, but whether the site was a primary producer or importer of grain cannot be determined from the present evidence. The single spikelet fork found in ditch [1406] in trench 14 would have been separated from the grain during threshing and may indicate that at least some processing was carried out on site.

4.3.2 Due to the derived nature of the sediment, the extent of bioturbation and the paucity of biological remains recovered no further work is recommended on the present samples. Should further investigation be carried out bulk samples of at least 30-50 litres would have to be taken to recover enough remains for a statistically valid analysis.

5. **DISCUSSION**
5.1 **General**

5.1.1 The evaluation has established that four archaeological sites of Iron Age date survive within the study area. Two of these sites were also occupied in the early Romano-British period, specifically the 1st-2nd centuries AD. This tends to confirm the conclusions drawn from the geophysical and fieldwalking data. No features of definite Saxon date were identified on Saxon Sites 1 and 2. However, a concentration of undated pits and ditches were identified on Saxon Site 3. Although undated, the recovery of Saxon pottery through fieldwalking strongly suggests that these features are of Saxon origin. In addition a further Saxon site has been identified at Enclosure Complex 2.

5.2 **The Enclosure Complexes**

*Enclosure Complex 1*

5.2.1 The five trenches excavated in Enclosure Complex 1 confirm the findings of the geophysical survey which suggested the existence of an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement with at least four NE-SW aligned rectangular enclosures, possibly with an associated field system. A possible trackway, defined by two parallel ditches was also identified at the southern edge of the site. This site is clearly of more than one phase as one of the rectangular enclosures and the trackway are superimposed.

5.2.2 All four of the rectangular enclosures were examined in the evaluation. The ditch of the southernmost enclosure (A) produced possible middle Iron Age potsherds, with a recut producing mid-late Iron Age pottery. Possible structural evidence within the enclosure was suggested by post hole [308] and gully [306]. Charred grain, along with a charred pea or lentil, was also found within the enclosure ditch.
5.2.3 To the north of the trackway three enclosures were examined. Only one feature, [609] was of probable Iron Age date with, apart from residual sherds, the remaining datable features producing pottery of early Romano-British date. There was little evidence of the activity carried out within the enclosures but the recovery of loomweight fragments points to the existence of a domestic settlement. Indeed, a quantity of daub, including one with a wattle impression, was also found within the enclosure D ditch, indicating the presence of structures within the enclosure or nearby. In addition, the quantity of animal bone recovered from the trenches also suggests that Enclosure Complex 1 is a settlement site.

*Enclosure Complex 2*

5.2.4 The three trenches excavated in Enclosure Complex 2 confirm the findings of the geophysical survey which identified a large D-shaped enclosure, aligned alongside a possible ditched trackway to the NE. At least three periods of activity were identified, namely mid-late Iron Age, Romano-British (1st-2nd centuries AD) and early-mid Saxon.

5.2.5 Evidence for mid-late Iron Age activity, in the form of a shallow ?gully and pits, was found in rectilinear enclosure F. Pottery of mid-late Iron Age date was also recovered from the ditch fill of D-shaped enclosure E although Romano-British potsherds were also recovered from its final fill. Apart from slag fragments in this final fill no evidence was found for the function of this enclosure. Indeed, the relative absence of internal features may indicate that the enclosure was used as a stock compound.

5.2.6 To the NE of the trackway the geophysical survey identified several possible pits and linear features. The recovery of 1st-2nd century AD pottery from gully [106] suggests that at least some of this activity may also be of early Romano-British date, although there is little evidence to assess the nature of this activity.
5.2.7 The recovery of fragments of early-mid Saxon pottery from large vessels from ditch [2706] and pit [2704] indicate the presence of Saxon activity on the site. The nature of this activity is possibly domestic, as Paul Blinkhorn has noted that the unusually large vessels recovered from these two features are paralleled by a single, near complete example associated with an isolated sunken-floored building at Crick in Northamptonshire (sees section 3.1.5).

Enclosure Complex 3

5.2.8 The trenches excavated in Enclosure Complex 3 confirm the readings of the geophysical survey which noted the existence of small enclosures, linear and pit-like features, along with a double-ditched trackway. The pottery from the evaluation trenches indicates that the settlement and trackway are of mid-late Iron Age date. The flat-bottomed pits found in trench 13 are possibly rubbish pits indicative of a domestic habitation in the immediate vicinity. The discovery of a single spikelet fork in the enclosure ditch in trench 14 indicates that some processing activity was taking place within the enclosure or nearby.

Enclosure Complex 4

5.2.9 The two trenches excavated in Enclosure Complex 4 confirm the readings of the geophysical survey which identified a single enclosure and a number of pit-type anomalies. The pottery recovered from enclosure ditch [1911] was of mid-late Iron Age date as was that from the pits found within the enclosure. Again these pits may have been used for the disposal of rubbish, possibly indicating domestic occupation within the enclosure.

5.3 The Saxon Sites

Saxon Site 1
5.3.1 The recovery of Saxon pottery from this site during fieldwalking strongly suggests that the area was utilised at some point during the Saxon period. However, no Saxon pottery was recovered from the evaluation trenches and there was very little structural evidence to suggest any form of Saxon settlement. Four undated features were identified but pit [3106] in trench 31 is likely to be of Iron Age origin, given its proximity to other dated Iron Age features. Two small pits in trench 29 and another in trench 10 could be of Saxon origin but an Iron Age date is equally possible. It is also possible that if the pottery recovered from the fieldwalking has been deposited through a process such as manuring, that the settlement exists outside of the area targeted by the evaluation trenches.

*Saxon Site 2*

5.3.2 As with Saxon Site 1 the recovery of Saxon pottery during fieldwalking strongly suggests that that there is a Saxon site within the immediate vicinity. However, no Saxon pottery was recovered from the evaluation trenches and the 3 features identified in trenches 22 and 25 produced no dating evidence. Again it is quite feasible that a small settlement of Saxon date exists outside of the area covered by the evaluation trenches.

*Saxon Site 3*

5.3.3 Several pits and ditches were identified in trench 40. Although they produced no dating evidence the likelihood of them being of Saxon origin is quite high given the recovery of Saxon pottery during fieldwalking. There was little evidence to suggest the nature of this occupation but, perhaps, a small agricultural settlement is likely.

5.3.4 It is interesting to note that the archaeological features in trench 40 were found just to the west of the known distribution of the pottery found in the fieldwalking. This indicates that the pottery distribution from the
fieldwalking of Saxon Sites 1 and 2 may not be a reliable indicator of the position of any associated settlements.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 All four of the Enclosure Complex sites are situated on localised areas of high ground as are Saxon Site 3 and the Saxon site identified at Enclosure Complex 2. The same locational factor of high ground appears to have been current during the mid-late Iron Age, the early Romano-British and the early-mid Saxon periods.

5.4.2 It is not known whether the four Iron Age sites are contemporary, although the general impression gained is that all are small domestic agricultural settlements. Trackways have been identified at Enclosure Complexes 1, 2, and 3 and, if contemporary, may be part of a wider network of tracks serving similar settlements within the general area.

5.4.3 Romano-British activity has been identified at Enclosure Complexes 1 and 2. It is not known whether there was any break in occupation from the preceding Iron Age but the pottery recovered from the evaluation suggests that Romano-British occupation was confined only to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The nature of this occupation also appears to be small-scale, agricultural and domestic. The lack of Romano-British features on the other sites also suggests that activity during this period was less intense than during the Iron Age.

5.4.4 Despite the lack of evidence of archaeological features datable to the Saxon period at Saxon Sites 1 and 2, the recovery of Saxon pottery here from the fieldwalking strongly suggests that these areas were utilised in the Saxon period. If the pottery was derived from activities such as manuring it could be that the associated sites lie at some distance away from the area targeted by the evaluation trenches.
5.4.5 It is highly likely that the features recorded from trench 40 on Saxon Site 3 are of Saxon date. The discovery of two features of Saxon date from Enclosure Complex 2 also identifies the existence of a further Saxon settlement here.

5.4.6 The evaluation has established that the results of the geophysical survey are reliable and give a sound indication of the complexity of the archaeological remains surviving in Enclosure Complexes 1-4. In several cases the excavated features do not exactly correspond with the geophysical anomalies. This is probably due to slight surveying errors caused in tying in the geophysical and the archaeological site grids.

5.4.7 The evaluation, by means of trenching, has established the presence of a well-preserved archaeological landscape, but with evidence of truncation through ploughing.
6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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JSAC 238/97/01 Desk-based assessment carried out by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants.

APPENDIX I LIST OF RECORDED CONTEXTS

Trench 1 (15m x 1.9m)

(102) Natural, consisting of an orange-brown sandy clay with bands of gravel.

[104] Pit, running under N section. Within the trench it was 1.05m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained a fill (103) of a light grey sandy clay.

[106] Linear gully, aligned NNW-SSE, which was 0.75m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained a fill (105) of a grey-brown sandy clay. It was cut by field drain [108].

[112] Linear gully, aligned N-S, which was 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained a fill (111) of a grey-brown sandy clay. It was cut by field drain [108].

[114] Linear gully, aligned N-S, which was 0.7m deep and 0.18m deep. It contained a fill (113) of a reddish-brown sandy clay. It was cut by field drain [116].

(101) Ploughsoil, approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 2 (15m x 1.9m)

(214) Natural, which consisted of an orange-brown sandy clay with gravel patches.

[203] L-shaped gully, aligned N-S, which ran from a W terminal. It was steep-sided, 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained a fill (202) of a yellowish-brown sandy clay. Its relationship to pits [205] and [215] could not be established.

[205] Pit, not fully exposed but at least 0.95m in diameter and 0.25m deep. It contained a fill (204) of grey-brown silty clay.

[215] Pit, not fully exposed or excavated. It contained a fill (216) of a grey-brown silty clay.

[211] Linear ditch cut aligned NE-SW. Its full width is uncertain due to two recuts but it was approximately 1m deep and contained a fill (210) of a greenish-brown sandy clay. It had been partially removed by recut [209] which was approximately 1.9m wide and 0.68m deep with a fill (208) of a greyish-brown sandy clay. This too had been partially removed by the second and final recut [207] which was 1.29m wide and 0.64m deep with a fill (206) of a greenish-brown sandy clay.

[213] Linear ditch cut approximately 1.4m wide and 0.51m deep. It contained a fill (212) of orange-brown sandy clay.

(201) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 3 (15m x 1.9m)

(303) Natural, consisting of an orange-brown clayey sand with gravel.

[310] Linear ditch aligned NWW-SEE. Not fully exposed or excavated but at least 1.55m wide and 0.92m deep. It contained a primary fill (313) of redeposited natural and a secondary fill (312) of an orange-brown sandy clay with occasional flint fragments. The ditch had been subject to a recut [314] which was at least 0.75m deep. This recut contained a fill (311) of an orange-grey sandy clay with occasional stone fragments.

[306] Linear gully, aligned NEE-SWW, and approximately 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep. It contained
a fill (307) of a dark grey-brown clayey sand. At its NEE end the gully ran into a small pit or posthole [308] which was approximately 0.55m wide and 0.2m deep. It contained an identical fill (309) to gully [306].

(304) Linear ditch aligned NWW-SEE. Not fully exposed, but at least 0.7m wide and 0.31m deep. It contained a fill (305) of a mid orange-brown clayey sand with gravel.

(302) Subsoil, consisting of a light brown clayey sand with gravel up to 0.1m thick. Apparent only in southern two-thirds of the trench. It was not clear whether features [304] and [308] were sealed by or cut through this subsoil.

(301) Ploughsoil, approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 4 (15m x 1.9m)**

(403) Natural, consisting of orange-brown clayey sand with gravel.

(404) Ditch, aligned E-W, turning to the north at its E end. It was approximately 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep and contained a primary fill (406) of a mid orange-brown clayey sand with large fragments of flint. The secondary fill (405) consisted of a mid grey-brown clayey sand.

(409) Ditch, aligned NNW-SSE. Its NE edge could not be clearly discerned probably due to the presence of another feature to the NE. However, it was at least 1.9m wide and 0.55m deep and contained a fill (408) of a mid orange-brown clayey sand. The ditch was cut by gully [410].

(411) V-shaped gully which was approximately 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep. It ran into ditch [409] and contained a fill (415) of a mid orange-brown clayey sand.

(412) Curvilinear gully which was 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. Its relationship with ditch [409] could not be established. It contained a fill (416) of a dark brown clayey sand.

(410) Curvilinear gully, which was approximately 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep. It cut through the upper fill of ditch [409] and contained a fill (407) of a dark grey-brown clayey sand with frequent charcoal and red clay flecks.

(413) Pit measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.08m in depth. It cut through the upper fill of ditch [404] and contained a fill (414) of a heavily charcoal flecked dark grey brown clayey sand.

(402) Subsoil, consisting of a light brown clayey sand with gravel up to 0.2m thick. This covered all of the archaeological features.

(401) Ploughsoil, approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 5 (15m x 1.9m)**

(503) Natural, consisting of a yellowish-brown clay.

(505) Linear gully, aligned NW-SE, which was 0.48m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a fill (504) of a grey-brown sandy clay with flint gravel.

(507) Linear gully, aligned E-W, which was approximately 0.61m wide and 0.16m deep. It contained a fill (506) of a brown sandy clay.

(502) Subsoil, consisting of a light brown clayey sand with gravel, which was a maximum of 0.18m thick.

(501) Ploughsoil, approximately 0.3m thick.
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**Trench 6 (15m x 1.9m)**

(603) Natural, which consisted of an orange-brown clay with gravel.

[611] Linear gully, aligned N-S, which was flat-bottomed, 0.71m wide and 0.1m deep. It contained a fill (612) of a light brown silty clay.

[609] Linear gully, aligned NE-SW, which was at least 0.72m wide and 0.2m deep. It contained a fill (610) of a brown silty clay. It was cut by ditch [606].

[606] Linear ditch, aligned NE-SW, which was flat-bottomed and 3.2m wide and 0.68m deep. It contained a primary fill (607) of a light brown silty clay with flint gravel and a secondary fill (608) of a dark brown silty clay with extensive charcoal and red clay flecking. Cut by ditch [604].

[604] Linear feature, aligned E-W, which was 1.62m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained a fill (605) of a brown clayey silt incorporating several large stone fragments, possibly part of a demolished wall.

(602) Subsoil, which consisted of a light brown sandy clay up to 0.22m thick.

(601) Ploughsoil, approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 7 (20m x 1.9m)**

(702) Natural which consisted of reddish-brown sands and gravel bands.

[704] Elongated pit which continued under the SW section. It measured at least 0.7m x 0.4m across and was 0.17m deep. It contained a fill (703) of a greyish-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks.

(701) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.35m deep.

**Trench 8 (20m x 1.9m)**

(802) Natural which consisted of a pale yellowish-orange sandy clay with gravel.

(801) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 9 (20m x 1.9m)**

(904) Natural which consisted of a reddish-brown sandy clay with gravel.

[903] Linear ditch, aligned NE-SW. It was 2.6m wide and 0.4m deep and contained a fill (902) of a light brown sandy clay.

(901) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 10 (20m x 1.9m)**

(1002) Natural which consisted of reddish-brown sandy clay with gravel.

[1004] Pit which continued under the S section. It measured at least 0.5m x 0.6m across and was 0.1m deep. It contained a fill (1003) of a reddish-brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecking.

(1001) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.
Trench 11 (20m x 1.9m)

(1102) Natural which consisted of bands of reddish-brown sandy gravels and yellowish-brown clay.

(1101) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.4m deep.

Trench 12 (20m x 1.9m)

(1202) Natural which consisted of bands of reddish-brown sandy gravels and yellowish-brown clay.

(1201) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.4m deep.

Trench 13 (15m x 1.9m)

(1302) Natural, which consisted of a reddish-brown silty sand with gravel.

[1318] Pit running under SW section. It was flat-bottomed and measured at least 1.2m in diameter and was 0.25m deep. It contained a fill (1317) of a reddish-brown sandy silt.

[1303] Linear ditch, aligned N-S, which was flat-bottomed, 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained a fill (1304) of a very gravelly mid brown sandy silt. This ditch had been cut by ditch [1306]

[1306] Linear ditch, aligned N-S, which was flat-bottomed, 2.2m wide and 0.25m deep. It probably is the base of a plough furrow. It contained a fill (1305) of an orange-brown silty sand.

[1308] Pit running under the NE section. It was flat-bottomed, at least 1.1m across and 0.35m deep. It contained a fill (1307) of a reddish-brown sandy silt.

[1310] Pit running under the SW section. It was flat-bottomed with a diameter of 1.35m and a depth of 0.5m. It contained a fill (1309) of a reddish-brown sandy silt.

[1312] Pit running under the NE section. It was 0.4m deep and contained a fill (1311) of a grey-brown sandy clay.

[1314] Pit running under the SW section. It was flat-bottomed, 1.2m wide and 0.36m deep. It contained a fill (1313) of a reddish-brown sandy silt.

(1301) Ploughsoil, which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 14 (15m x 1.9m)

(1403) Natural which consisted of an orange-brown gravelly sand.

[1404] Linear ditch cut, aligned NE-SW. It had been largely removed by two recuts but was at least 0.74m deep with a fill (1405) of a greyish-brown silty sand. It had been largely removed by recut [1406] which was at least 1m deep with a fill (1407) of a greyish-brown sandy silt. This in turn had been partially removed by the final recut [1408], which was flat-bottomed 1.96m wide and 0.62m deep. It contained a fill (1409) of a yellowish-brown clayey sand.

(1402) Subsoil which consisted of an orange-brown clayey sand and which was up to 0.12m thick.

(1401) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.36m thick.
Trench 15 (20m x 1.9m)

(1502) Natural which consisted of a dark orange sandy clay.
(1501) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 16 (20m x 1.9m)

(1602) Natural which consisted of a dark orange sandy clay.
(1603) Ditch, containing fill (1604) also seen and described in trench 40 as [4003].
(1601) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 17 (20m x 1.9m)

(1704) Natural which consisted of a dark orange sandy clay.
(1701) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 18 (20m x 1.9m)

(1802) Natural which consisted of a dark orange sandy clay.
(1801) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 19 (15m x 1.9m)

(1902) Natural which consisted of a reddish-brown sandy gravel.
(1911) Linear ditch aligned NNE-SSW. It had a V-shaped profile with a slight step on its eastern edge. It was 2.04m wide and 0.85m deep. It contained a fill (1912) of a mid-brown silty clay with gravel.
(1909) Pit running under the N section. It was flat-bottomed and measured at least 1.85m x 1.39m across. It was 0.28m deep and contained a fill (1910) of a mid-brown silty clay.
(1907) Pit running under the S section. It was flat-bottomed and measured at least 1.9m x 0.72m across. It was 0.36m deep and contained a fill (1908) of a mid-brown silty clay.
(1913) Pit which was flat-bottomed and which measured 1.5m x 1.3m across and which was 0.17m deep. It contained a fill (1914) of a mid-brown silty clay.
(1905) Pit running under the S section. It was flat-bottomed and measured at least 1.6m x 0.9m across. It was 0.12m deep and contained a fill (1906) of a mid-brown silty clay.
(1903) Pit which measured 1.29m x 1.1m across and which was 0.29m deep. It contained a fill (1904) of a mid-brown silty clay.
(1901) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.35m thick.

Trench 20 (15m x 1.9m)

Grange Park, Courteenhall, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation

[2003] Linear ditch aligned NW-SE. It was 1.09m wide and 0.38m deep and contained a fill (2004) of a mid-brown silty clay.

(2001) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.35m thick.

**Trench 21 (20m x 1.9m)**

(2102) Natural which consisted of a pale to mid brown clay.

(2101) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 22 (20m x 1.9m)**

(2202) Natural which consisted of a pale to mid brown clay.

[2203] Pit which continued under the NE section. It measured at least 1.37m x 1.2m and was 0.13m deep. It contained a fill (2204) of a heavily charcoal stained mid-brown silty clay.

[2205] Pit which measured 0.75m x 0.84m and was 0.3m deep. It contained a fill (2206) of a dark grey silty clay.

(2201) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick

**Trench 23 (20m x 1.9m)**

(2302) Natural which varied from an orange-brown clay to a pale-mid brown clay.

(2301) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick

**Trench 24 (20m x 1.9m)**

(2402) Natural which consisted of a pale to mid brown clay.

(2401) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick

**Trench 25 (20m x 1.9m)**

(2502) Natural which consisted of a pale to mid brown clay.

[2503] Post hole which was 0.44m in diameter and 0.15m deep. It contained 4 stones, probably part of the packing, in a matrix of a pale brown silty clay (2504).

(2501) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 26 (20m x 1.9m)**

(2602) Natural which consisted of a mid-dark brown silty clay with gravel.

(2601) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.
Grange Park, Courteenhall, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation

**Trench 27 (15m x 1.9m)**

- **Trench 27 (15m x 1.9m)**
- Natural, which consisted of an orange-brown sandy clay with bands of gravel.

- **[2704]** Pit, not fully exposed but which was at least 1.85m across and 0.46m deep. It contained a fill (2703) of a grey-brown sandy clay.

- **[2706]** Linear ditch, aligned NW-SE, which was flat-bottomed, 1.6m wide and 0.19m deep. It contained a fill (2705) of a grey-brown sandy clay.

- **[2713]** Linear ditch cut, aligned NW-SE, which was not fully excavated. The earliest excavated fill (2712) consisted of a greyish-black silty clay, which had been partially covered by a dump of redeposited natural (2711). It was difficult to discern the NE edge of the ditch because of the difficulty in distinguishing between (2711) and the natural geology. The final fill (2709) consisted of a greyish-black gravelly silty clay.

- **(2708)** Subsoil, which consisted of an orange-brown sandy clay with gravel, and which was up to 0.35m thick.

- **(2701)** Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 28**

- **Trench 28**
- Natural which consisted of brownish-yellow clay with gravel.

- **(2801)** Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.35m thick.

**Trench 29**

- **Trench 29**
- Natural which consisted of brownish-yellow clay with gravel.

- **[2904]** Ovoid pit which was 0.55m x 0.35m across and 0.05m deep. It contained a fill (2903) of a blackish-grey clayey silt.

- **[2912]** Pit observed in NE section. It was at least 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a fill (2911) of a blackish-grey silty clay.

- **[2906/2908]** Linear ditch, aligned NE-SW. It had been partly cut away by a recut but was at least 0.69m deep. It contained a primary fill (2905) of a brownish-grey silty clay and a secondary fill (2907) of a blackish-grey silty clay. The ditch had been recut [2910] to a width of 2.07m and depth of 0.36m. This recut contained a fill (2909) of a yellowish-brown silty clay.

- **(2901)** Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 30 (15m x 1.9m)**

- **Trench 30 (15m x 1.9m)**
- Natural which consisted of reddish-brown sandy clay and gravels.

- **[3004]** Linear ditch, aligned NE-SW. It was 1m wide and 0.3m deep and contained a fill (3003) of a greyish-brown sandy clay.

- **[3006]** Post hole which was 0.55m in diameter and 0.24m deep. It was flat-bottomed and contained a fill (3005) of a greyish-brown sandy clay.

- **(3001)** Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.35m thick.
Trench 31 (15m x 1.9m)

(3102) Natural which consisted of reddish-brown sandy gravels.

[3104] Linear ditch, aligned NE-SW. It was flat-bottomed, 2.3m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained a fill (3103) of a greyish to orange brown sandy clay.

[3106] Pit which continued under the NE section. It was flat bottomed and measured at least 1.35m x 1.2m across and was 0.25m deep. It contained a fill (3105) of a greyish-orange brown sandy clay.

[3108] Pit or posthole which measured 0.8m x 0.6m across and 0.1m deep. It was flat-bottomed and contained a fill (3107) of a greyish-brown sandy clay and cut through the fill of ditch [3110].

[3110] Ditch aligned NE-SW which was 1.25m wide and 0.48m deep. It contained a fill (3109) of an orange-brown sandy clay.

(3101) Ploughsoil, which was approximately 0.35m thick.

Trench 32 (20m x 1.9m)

(3202) Natural which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay.

(3201) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 33 (10m x 1.9m)

(3302) Natural which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay.

(3301) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 34 (20m x 1.9m)

(3402) Natural which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay.

(3401) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 35 (20m x 1.9m: split into two sections because of tramline)

(3502) Natural which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay.

(3501) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 36 (20m x 1.9m)

(3602) Natural which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay.

(3601) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

Trench 37 (20m x 1.9m)
Grange Park, Courteenhall, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation

(3702) Natural which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay.

(3701) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 38 (20m x 1.9m)**

(3802) Natural which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay.

(3801) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 39 (10m x 1.9m)**

(3902) Natural, which consisted of an orange-brown clayey sand with gravel.

[3903] Linear ditch aligned NW-SE. It was approximately 1m wide and contained a fill (3904) of a dark greyish-brown silty clay.

(3901) Ploughsoil which was approximately 0.3m thick.

**Trench 40 (15m x 1.9m)**

(4002) Natural which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay

[4003] Linear ditch aligned NE-SW, which was 0.64m wide and 0.37m deep. It had a V-shaped profile and contained a primary fill (4004) of redeposited natural and a secondary fill (4005) of a greyish-black silty clay.

[4006] Linear ditch, aligned NE-SW, which was 0.47m wide and 0.24m deep. It had a steep western edge and a flat base. It contained a fill (4007) of a greyish-black silty clay.

[4008] Ditch terminal or pit aligned NE-SW. It was 0.49m across and 0.3m deep. It contained a fill (4009) of a greyish-black silty clay.

[4010] Pit which was a minimum of 0.85m across and 0.2m deep. It contained a fill (4011) of a greyish-black silty clay.

[4012] Pit which was 0.85m wide and 0.2m deep. It contained a fill (4013) of a greyish-brown silty clay.

[4014] Pit which was not excavated. It contained a fill (4015) of a greyish-black silty clay.

(4001) Ploughsoil, approximately 0.3m thick.
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APPENDIX III: FINDS TABLE
APPENDIX IV: POTTERY FABRICS AND TABLE

The pottery was assessed under the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series

Iron Age fabrics

IAF1: Coarse shell. Moderate to dense temper of angular coarse shell fragments up to 10mm, with sparse quartzite, grog, flint, organic material or ironstone. 20 sherds, 177g.

IAF2: Fine shell. Sparse to moderate angular shell fragments up to 5mm, although most are usually below 2mm. Other material occurs as F1. 132 sherds, 1009g.

IAF3: Pounded shell. Sparse to moderate fine shell up to 1mm. Vessels are often self-slipped, so that inclusions are only visible in section. 25 sherds, 252g.

IAF4: Ironstone and shell. As F3, with sparse to moderate red ironstone up to 2mm. 1 sherd, 31g.

IAF5: Sandy fine shell. As F3, but with moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, giving sherds a sandy texture. 2 sherds, 23g.

Early/Middle Saxon Fabrics

E/MS F1: Coarse quartz. Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz generally < 1mm, with sparse to moderate larger grains c. 1mm, and rare to sparse calcite-cemented sandstone up to 2mm. 10 sherds, 659g.

E/MS F2: Ironstone. Moderate rounded red ironstone up to 2mm. One sherd, 44g.
E/MS F3: Fine quartz and ironstone. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz and red ironstone up to 0.5mm, rare sub-rounded calcareous material of the same size. One sherd, 17g.
### APPENDIX V: ANIMAL BONE TABLE

#### Table 1  Bone count per site

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<td>Enclosure Complex 2</td>
<td>11 (&lt;1g in env. sample)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enclosure Complex 3</td>
<td>0 (+1g in env. sample)</td>
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<td>Enclosure Complex 4</td>
<td>29 (+38g in env. sample)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>sheep, LAR, SAR</td>
<td>butchery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sax3</td>
<td>4004</td>
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SAR = small artiodactyle  
LAR = large artiodactyle  
For sheep read sheep/goat
### APPENDIX VI: ENVIRONMENTAL TABLE

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<th>Sample</th>
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</table>

The stars (*) indicate the relative scale from * few to ***** large quantities
Fig. 1 Location plan
Fig. 3  Enclosure Complex 1: trench plan showing archaeological features in relation to geophysical survey
Fig. 4  Trench 3, plan and sections
Fig. 8 Enclosure Complex 2: trench plan showing archaeological features in relation to geophysical survey
Fig. 12  Enclosure Complex 3 & Saxon Site 1: trench plan showing archaeological features in relation to geophysical survey
Fig. 13 Enclosure Complex 3: trench plan showing archaeological features in relation to geophysical survey
Fig. 15  Trench 14, plan and section
Fig. 20  Enclosure Complex 4 & Saxon Site 2: trench plan showing archaeological features in relation to geophysical survey
Fig. 21  Trench 19, plan and sections