Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension Fieldwalking and Stage 1 Evaluation Summary Report



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Client Name: Greenfields Associates

Issue Nº: 1 OA Job Nº: 1497 NGR: SK 4100 2400 Client Name:

Greenfields Associates

Client Ref No:

Document Title:

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension Fieldwalking and Stage 1 Evaluation Summary Report

Document Type:

Issue Number:

National Grid Reference: SK 4100 2400 Planning Reference: n/a

 OA Job Number:
 1497

 Site Code:
 X.A166.2002, X.A167.2002, X.A168.2002

 Invoice Code:
 BRQEEV

 Receiving Museum:
 Liesestershire County Museum

 Museum Accession No:
 X.A166.2002, X.A167.2002, X.A168.2002

Prepared by: Position: Date:

R.Brown Project Manager 08th January 2003

Checked by: Position: Date:

R.Brown Project Manager 13th January 2003

Approved by: Position: Date:

N.Shephard Head of Fieldwork 24th January 2003

Document File Location Graphics File Location Illustrated by

Server 1/ BRQEEV Server 4/BRQEEV Amy Tucker

Disclaimer:
This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/purpose using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemity Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting theoryton. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology
© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2003
Janus House
Osney Med
Oxford OX2 OES
: (0044) 01865 263800
f. (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Greenfield Associates

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension Leicestershire

NGR SK 4100 2400

FIELDWALKING AND STAGE 1 EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT

CONTENTS

C		
	tion	
	ion and scope of work	
	ogy and topography	
1.3 Archa	eological and historical background	
	ation aims	
	walking	
	nysical Survey	
	General	
	ntation of results	
4 Discussi	on and Interpretation	1
	pility of field investigation	
	ll interpretation	
Appendix 1	Finds Inventory	
Appendix 2	Detailed Flint Table	
Appendix 3	Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage	5
Appendix 4	Bibliography and References	6
Appendix 5	Summary of Site Details	6

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig	1	Site lo	cation

Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Distribution of pottery
Fig. 3 Distribution of ceramic building material
Fig. 4 Distribution of flint and worked stone
Fig. 5 Distribution of clay pipe

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd. January 2003

U:\OAU\Breedon on the Hill\Evalrep1.doc

Oxford Archaeology

Greenfield Associate

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension Leicestershire

NGR SK 4100 2400

SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Breedon on the Hill on behalf of Greenfield Associates. The evaluation comprised geophysical survey and field walking. This document details the results of the field walking and contains a summary of the results of the overall evaluation. No evidence of archaeological remains was indicated by the geophysical survey. The finds assemblage produced by field walking was characteristic only of material deposited by manuring.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In October 2002 OA carried out field walking across agricultural land at Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire. This work was carried out in conjunction with a geophysical survey and forms part of a Stage 1 (non-intrusive) evaluation. The evaluation has been carried out on behalf of Greenfield Associates in order to inform a predetermination in respect of a planning application for an eastern extension to the Breedon limestone quarry. The work was carried out to the specifications of a brief set by and a WSI agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist. The development site is situated to the east of Breedon Hill and is c. 35 hectares in area.
- 1.1.2 This document details the results of the field walking and summarises the results of the Stage 1 Evaluation including a geophysical survey. A detailed report on the geophysical survey has been produced in a separate document (Bartlett 2002). This report should be read in conjunction with that document.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located immediately to the east of Breedon Hill, in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, to the north east of Leicestershire on the border with Derbyshire. The site lies on sloping ground between 65 and 100m OD. The site is centered on National Grid Reference SK 4100 2400. The land proposed for extraction is undulating but falls away steeply to the south, north and east from the centre of the Site.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology underlying the site is Mercia Mudstone and the Drift Geology is clay/marl.
- 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

©© Oxford Archaeology Ltd. January 2003 U:\OAU\Breedon on the Hill\Evalrep1.doc

Oxford Archaeology

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension ING AND STAGE I EVALUATION SUMMARYREPOL

1.3.1 The background to the site was researched by Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU, 1995, now Oxford Archaeology, OA) and prepared as a desk-top report SMR references were numbered and located on a map of the area and also included in a gazetteer. A summary of the research is presented below with the gazetteer reproduced at the end of this document. The study identified 16 archaeological entries relevant to the site (OA Nos. 1 - 16, and other general area observations). The figures and bibliographical references from the desktop report are not reproduced within this report.

Prehistoric Period (500, 000 BP - 43BC)

- 1.3.2 The focus of activity in the study area during the period is likely to have been the prominent hill top of Breedon Hill. The hill stands immediately to the west of the site, and rises steeply to c. 120m OD. The hill shae extensive views over the surrounding landscape and excellent natural defence, and it appears to have seen continuity of human activity throughout the period. The earliest known archaeological find from the study area is the spot find of a Mesolithic flint blade OA 18 from the top of Breedon Hill. Two Neolithic axes (OA 12) were also found here, as were finds from the Bronze Age, including what appears to have been a barrow (a burial mound) at OA 47, cut into in 1858 by quarrymen.
- 1.3.3 The main period of known activity on the hill however to dates to the Iron Age. The hilltop contains an Iron Age hillfort, which as a result of advancing quarrying has seen rescue exeavations since 1946. Excavations on the hill have indicated three probable phases of activity during the period (OA 9). The first is a pre-rampart occupation of the hill, shown as an occupation layer sealed beneath the later rampart. The second phase is the construction of the first rampart, around 150 BC, followed by the third phase, a refortification, immediately prior to the Roman conquest. Other Iron Age finds from the hill include two fragmentary skeletons (OA 15) found in 1955 outside the ramparts. An Iron Age crucible (OA 7) found on the hill top may indicate metalworking on the site.
- 1.3.4 Elsewhere in the study area, there are two cropmark sites that may date to the prehistoric period; these are visible on the aerial photographs. The circular concentric double ditched enclosure and possible causeway at OA 32 (c. 1km from site), becomes more obvious on the aerial photographs towards the present day. This would suggest that the medieval ridge and furrow, also in this field, is being ploughed away revealing the earlier circular feature below. The feature is therefore likely to be pre-medieval and typologically would appear to date to the prehistoric. The second site is that of two doubtful ring ditches (possible barrows or round houses), shown on an aerial photograph c. 400m to the west of the proposed extraction site.

Roman Period (43AD – 410 AD)

1.3.5 This area of Leicestershire was on the front line of the first wave of the Roman conquest, on the edge of the Plautian frontier zone. After the defeat of the Boudican revolt in AD 60 however, this frontier was abolished and Roman control of Britain

was largely secure. Breedon lay c. 16 miles to the north east of the Roman town of Ratae (Leicester) in the former tribal lands of the Coritani.

1.3.6 There is little evidence of Roman activity within the study area other than the Roman findspots Oa 10 and OA 16 (coins and pottery c. 300m from site) both from the hill top. The two coins found at OA 10 are of 4th century date, and the pottery OA 16 was found during one of the excavations on the hill. The nearest known occupation site of the Roman period is a probable villa site c. 2km to the south west of the proposed development site. There is also the record of a 'tall red ware jug' of Roman date being dug up in the churchyard in 1863.

Early Medieval Period (AD410 - 1066)

- 1.3.7 During the Anglo-Saxon period this area of Leicestershire is likely to have seen relatively early settlement (Faulks and Gillingham 1987, p.31). It is interesting that the place name of Breedon comprises the British word for hill bre, and the Old English word for hill dun (Ekwell 1985 p.62). It may be that this reflects certain degree of integration of the British and Saxon populations.
- 1.3.8 A Saxon monastery (OA 21) was founded on the hill, probably between 675 and 704 AD, and was obviously a house of importance as the abbot Tatwine of Breedon was elevated to the See of Canterbury in 731 (VCH II). Although no remains of the Saxon church have been found in situ, there are a large number of Saxon carved stones re-used within the church fabric. Associated with the Monastery is an extensive Saxon / early medieval Christian cemetery (OA 17 c. 100-150m from site), variously excavated between 1946 and 1967 in advance of quarrying (c. 100m from site). Over 180 inhumations have been identified and excavated, these graves being orientated east-west and laid out in two or three orderly rows. This site is located on the top of the hill so it is unlikely that the cemetery extended into the proposed development site. It appears that the monastery suffered greatly and was abandoned during the Danish period, and afterwards never fully recovered.
- 1.3.9 The extent of early medieval settlement within the study area is uncertain, although the core of the Anglo-Saxon village (OA 26 c. 400m from site) lay to the south of Breedon Hill. The village is likely to have prospered by servicing the monastery, and acting as a focal point for a small rural hinterland.

Later Medieval Period (AD1066-1550)

- 1.3.10 The Domesday Book records Breedon as one of 34 villages given to Robert de Ferrariis in Leicestershire, but was granted as a part of the nearby township of Tonge. This probably illustrates that with the decline of the Monastery during the Danish settlement, Breedon also declined in importance.
- 1.3.11 Between 1109 and 1122 the church of St. Mary and St. Hardulf was granted by Robert de Ferrariis, Earl of Nottingham, to the Augustinian Priory of Nostell of which Breedon became a cell. Breedon was a small house and it is likely that the church also maintained its parochial role. The priory held much land in the parish and had enclosed its holdings in the lost medieval settlement of Andreskirk (OA 27)

©© Oxford Archaeology Ltd. January 2003 U:\OAU\Breedon on the Hill\Evalrep1.doc

.

Oxford Archaeolog

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension
FIELD WALKING AND STAGE I EVALUATION SUMMARYREPORT

in 1202. The church lies c. 250m from the proposed development site, and is mainly of 13th century date.

- 1.3.12 It was noted during the site inspection that many earthworks and platforms were still extant within the graveyard, including a large square platform immediately to the north of the church which probably represents the cloister.
- 1.3.13 Settlement in the study area during the period was focused upon the medieval core of Breedon, although three messuages (plots of land associated with dwellings) mentioned in 1173, suggest medieval occupation on the Hill itself. A market is also mentioned in 1173, and a medieval cross shaft (OA 28) was found in Breedon in 1959. The market may have taken place on the hill top as the map of 1770 shows an area called Marketsteauf adjacent to the church (the village is at the foot of hill and the church at its top). The townships of Tonge (OA 4) and Wilson (first mentioned c.972) also lie within the study area, and the township of Andreskirk (OA 27) to the south west may also have extended into it. There are also two mills within the study area at OA 1 and 32, and a medieval dovecote at OA 3. There is also a field named Davecote Cluse shown on the maps of 1758 and 1770, which lies within the proposed development area. This would suggest there was a dovecote in or near it. As a dovecote is not shown on the map it may be reasonable to suppose that the structure has disappeared by 1758, and was probably of medieval date.
- 1.3.14 The open fields of Breedon are still clearly visible both from aerial photographs, and in some fields, on the ground. Despite the undulating nature of the topography especially within the proposed development site, the evidence suggests a largely arable agricultural landscape. The enclosure map of 1758 shows an open field system almost certain to date to the medieval period. To the west south and east are Wood Field, Great Field, Dam Field and Nether Field respectively. It is possible that part of the proposed development site has been enclosed from Nether field. The area to the north of Breedon Hill, and to the north west of the lordship, appears to be enclosed pasture land, and the area of the northern slopes of the hill appears to be managed woodland named The Plashes. Piecemeal enclosure appears to have been taking place at Breedon since at least 1202, when an area of land named Scalacre (OA 48) in Andreskirk belonging to the priory was enclosed. The area named Scalacre formed a considerable part of the village and the field name Scallecoes on the 1758 map may indicate its location (OA 48). Much of the land within the proposed development site, owing to its topography, may have seen early enclosure being better suited to the grazing of both cattle and sheep. Certainly the majority of the proposed development site has been enclosed prior to 1758. A system of lynchets (OA 39 and 40) noted on the site inspection, had been utilised on the sloping ground within the northern boundary of the site, following the contours of the hill. These lynchets are of uncertain date but are very likely to have been in use in the medieval period.

Post-Medieval Period (AD1550-1900)

1.3.15 The post medieval period was a time of great landscape change in Breedon. The enclosure act for Breedon dated 1759, signalled the transformation of the agricultural landscape from the largely open field system of the medieval period, to an enclosed

system. It also appears from map evidence that water is being managed to aid agricultural systems; the dam to the south of the lordship probably feeds water meadows in *Dam Meadow*. Also, a number of the ditched field boundaries within the proposed development site, noted during the site inspection, seem to be using gravity to feed sporadic ponds, probably to water livestock.

- 1.3.16 The other major landscape change is the large scale quarrying of Breedon Hill. Nicholls (1804, p. 687) writes of Breedon as being a "time mountain", and of the lime produced from the rock as being of singular quality. There is a field immediately to the east of the road named Lime Kiln Field on the 1758 map, and Nicholls (1804, p. 687), also writes that there were six or seven kilns at work in his day, that never went go out during the burning season (Ibid). The quarrying accelerated greatly in the 20th century with the need for limestone chips in road construction.
- 1.3.17 A house marked on the 1758 and 1770 maps may be a toll house as the 1770 map shows the main road as a Turnpike from Ashby to Castle Donnington. This site lies within the proposed development site boundary (OA 49), and is occupied still by a house of uncertain date.
- 1.3.18 As mentioned above there are a number of small ponds associated with field boundaries within the development site, which were probable used for the watering of livestock (e.g. OA 38). In addition to these ponds, there is a pond at OA 35, which appears to have had a brick structure associated with it, now marked by brick rubble. This pond seems too large and steep sided for a stock pool and is of unclear function.

Site Walkover Survey

- 1.3.19 A site survey was conducted on the 1st February 2002, in high wind but good light. Much of the site was under arable cultivation. This did not unduly limit the survey however as the undulating topography and low germinating erop allowed views from all field edges.
- 1.3.20 Seven earthworks of local or lesser interest were identified during the walkover comprising three lynchet banks, a probable redundant field corner, a probable ditch cropmark, a pond with associated brick rubble, and a network of field ditches and ponds. All of these sites are of low interest.
- 1.3.21 In addition the walkover suggested that one section of the proposed development site may have been particularly suitable for settlement in the prehistoric period. The area of possible archaeological potential is the relatively flat hill top OA 37, which drops away relatively steeply on all sides apart from the south-south-west. Before Breedon Hill was partially quarried away, this hill would be sheltered from the predominant south westerly winds, be naturally defensible, and yet not so steep as to discourage frequent climbing.
- 1.3.22 A single lynchet bank at OA 40, and two lynchet banks at OA 39 are located on the north facing slope, near the northern boundary of the proposed development site, and are denuded by ploughing.

©© Oxford Archaeology Ltd. January 2003 U:\OAU\Breedon on the Hill\Evalrep1.doc 6

Oxford Archaeology

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension FIELD WALKING AND STAGE 1 EVALUATION SUMMARYREPOR

1.3.23 A probable former field corner lies just to the north of the site at OA 36, and a possible ditch showing as a cropmark running obliquely against the plough lines at OA 45. A pond and probable demolished brick structure (OA 35), and a system of field ditches and ponds (OA 38) are discussed above. A broad sunken trackway at OA 46 was also noted and is marked as a routeway to Castle Dounington on the map of 1758, by 1770 the land has been enclosed and the track re-routed. The area of Dovecote Close (OA 50) marked on the maps of 1758 and 1770 was examined during the site walkover, the area consists of waste ground and no above ground remains were noted. The foundations of any such structure however may exist below ground.

1.4 Evaluation aims

- 1.4.1 The aims of the evaluation were;
 - To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
 - To determine within the limits of the stage 1 evaluation, the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
 - To make available the results of the investigation and to aid in the design of a Stage 2
 evaluation methodology, if appropriate.

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Field-walking

- 2.1.1 Field-walking was undertaken on the southern part of the development area only, in that part of the site that had been subject to ploughing (see Fig.1). Linear transects for artefact collection were 10m apart and aligned north south on the National Grid. Collecting units along each transect were at 10m intervals.
- 2.1.2 Transects were set out by measuring from fixed points to transect/field boundary intersections. Where necessary additional points will be surveyed in. Sighting posts were set up and each transect walked.
- 2.1.3 An area approx. 2m wide centered on the transect was inspected and material collected.
- 2.1.4 All significant archaeological material was collected. Scatters of modern material were noted but generally not collected.

2.2 Geophysical Survey

*See Bartlett 2002

2.2.1 A combined magnetometer scan and magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out over the proposal area. Three transects (1m apart) within each 15m wide strip of

- ground across the site were scanned, plotted and recorded This provided coverage equivalent to 20% of a full survey and provided a series of plotted transects of sufficient width (3m) for the significance of anomalies to be assessed on the basis of their plan as well as profile.
- 2.2.2 A magnetic susceptibilty survey was also carried out. This was based on a 16.6m (36 readings/ha) grid. Readings were taken using a Bartington MS2 meter and field sensor loop. The readings were plotted as shading or contours superimposed on a site plan.
- 2.2.3 Detailed magnetometer surveys were made of 15 sample areas, in which readings are collected (at a rate of some 4 readings / meter) along transects 1m apart using fluxgate magnetometers.

3 RESULTS: GENERAL

3.1 Presentation of results

- 3.1.1 Finds from the fieldwalking have been analysed to an appropriate level in accordance with their potential to address the evaluation aims
- Pottery; has been tabulated (see Appendix 1), dated and its distribution illustrated in relationship to the geophysical anomalies recorded on the detailed scan. Fabric 1001; the 19th and 20th century wares has been removed from this illustration as the density of this non-significant material obscured the spatial distribution of the earlier fabrics.
- 3.1.3 All lithics have been recorded, tabulated and are illustrated as find spots. Detailed comments are shown in Appendix 2.
- 3.1.4 CBM has been recorded, tabulated (see Appendix 1) and its distribution illustrated. Although nearly all the diagnostic CBM is modern the spread of this material has been presented in order to give an indication of the density of artefact deposition within the study area.
- 3.1.5 Slag; only three collection units contained more than one piece of slag. The assemblage from these units were scanned by specialist and interpreted as the result of very high temperature (modern industrial) processes. No further work was carried
- 3.1.6 Glass; Only modern glass was collected during the field walking. No further work was carried out with this material.
- 3.1.7 Stone; One artefact of note (a whetstone) was collected. This has been described and its collection point shown in illustration.
- Metal objects; All metal objects retrieved were scanned and were modern. No 3.1.8 further work was carried out.
- Animal Bone; The bone assemblage was scanned. All material collected could be interpreted as modern domestic material. No further work was carried out.

©© Oxford Archaeology Ltd. January 2003 U:\OAU\Breedon on the Hill\Evalrep1.doc

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension
Field Walking and Stage I Elaluation SummaryReport

3.1.10 Clay pipe; The location of clay pipe stems (and single bowl fragment) has been

3.2 Finds

Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

- 3.2.1 There are 2 shords (3 g) collected from Λ / 001/60-70 of sand-tempered grey ware (fabric R30). Roman (otherwise undiagnostic to date).
- One sherd (1 g) was collected from B/006/120-130. This was a chip of samian ware (fabric \$30). 2nd century.
- 3.2.3 Another chip of pot (1 sherd, 1 g) was collected from B/002/30-40. This was fine red ware (fabric O10). Roman (?2nd cent+)
- 3.2.4 The following 'blanket' code incoporates this material and is used on the distribution . plots:
 - F1001: All Romano-British wares

Medieval and post medieval pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

- 3.2.5 1386 sherds of pottery were collected from the field walking survey.
- 3.2.6 The pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County typeseries (Sawday 1994). The numerical 'F' codes relate to those used in the database for this assemblage:
 - F347: CC1, Chilvers Coton 'A' ware, 1200-1400.
 F352: CC3, Nottingham Ware 2, 1230-1300
 F360: PM, Potter's Marston ware, 1100-1300.

 - F366: MS1, Medieval Sandy ware 1, 1200-1400 F404: CW2, Cistercian ware 2, 1475-1550 F407: MY, Midland Yellow ware, 1500-1725

 - F408: MP2, Midland Purple ware, 1375-1550 F418: EA3, Staffordshire Manganese wares, 1650-1780

 - F425: EA1: Earthenware, 1500+ F426: EA7: Earthenware, 1600-1850 F443: SW4: Staffordshire White-glazed Stoneware, 1730+
- 3.2.7 The following 'blanket' codes were also used:

- F1000: All 19th and 20th century wares
- 3.2.8 Given the close location of the medieval village of Breedon and lack of relationships with geophysical anomalies, there is nothing to suggest that pottery assemblage collected is derived from any thing other than manuring events.

Y ithio

Worked Flint

By Kate Cramp

- 3.2.9 A total of 25 struck flints were thinly distributed between 23 fieldwalked squares, the majority of which contained a single flint (table 1). The largest assemblage, a total of three pieces, was recovered from field B, transect 17, square 220-230.
- 3.2.10 Almost without exception, the flintwork is in very poor condition. Most flints (18 pieces) exhibit heavy post-depositional edge damage, and several are rolled. A small proportion of the assemblage was recorded as fresh, although it is likely that these flints represent modern plough shatter. Several of the pieces recorded as irregular waste are also likely to constitute naturally or mechanically struck pieces. The majority of the assemblage (22 pieces) is uncorticated. The single platform flake core from field A, transect 5 is densely corticated; a light, incipient cortication was noted on the flake from field A, transect 6.
- 3.2.11 The raw material employed for the production of the flints appears to have been a gravel-derived flint, which is characterised by an abraded, pink-stained cortex and the occurrence of internal thermal fractures. This flint may have been procured from relatively local sources. No evidence for the use of mined flint was encountered.
- 3.2.12 The assemblage is composed entirely of debitage, including flakes, fragments of irregular waste, flake cores and partially worked nodules. Flakes are the most commonly occurring type, represented by 11 pieces. The majority are technologically undiagnostic. The paucity of blades and blade-like pieces suggests that the assemblage is largely later prehistoric in date (Pitts and Jacobi 1979; Ford 1987), although it should be recognised that this inference is based on a very limited number of flints.
- 3.2.13 The single platform flake core (97g) consists of a small cobble of good quality gravel flint with a carefully flaked and abraded platform from which numerous broad flake removals have been made. Several of the removals are blade-like in form. The core may tentatively be dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic.
- 3.2.14 Given the condition of the material, it is likely that any retouched or utilised edges have been obscured by more recent edge-damage. One exception is the flake from field A, transect 4, square 0-10. This piece, which consists of a broad, cortically-backed flake, exhibits an area of very heavy rounded use-wear to one edge that has been truncated by later damage. The use-wear is characteristic of prolonged soft-

©© Oxford Archaeology Ltd. January 2003 U:\OAU\Breedon on the Hill\Evalrep1.doc 1

Oxford Archaeolog

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension BIGLEING AND STAGE I EVALUATION SUMMERVREPOR

material working. It is possible that the flake was originally retouched, although any evidence for this has been removed by modern mechanical damage. A Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age date would be appropriate for the piece, although difficult to verify.

3.2.15 The assemblage from the field walking is in very poor condition and forms a thin, residual spread; the absence of chronologically distinctive traits and diagnostic tool types has precluded the attribution of a precise date.

Worked stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

- 3.2.16 One significant artefact was recovered. This is the tip fragment of an elongate flat whetstone. A fine diamond shaped pattern has been incised on one face to create a sharp working surface. The opposite face and the curved edges are worn very smooth. The incised pattern has been worn down in the centre of the fragment.
- 3.2.17 The whetstone would need to be looked at in careful detail to determine parallels and possible date of the artefact. The provenance of the stone could also be identified. However for the purpose of this evaluation no further work has been carried out.
- 4 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION
- 4.1 Reliability of field investigation
- 4.1.1 The nature of non-intrusive evaluation is such that only presence rather than absence of archaeological remains can be confidently determined. Archaeological features may be in-filled with material similar to the surrounding geology and therefore remain obscure to geophysical survey. If archaeological features are deeply buried or do not contain at least moderately abundant artefacts, plough action and soil erosion/movement will not bring sufficient finds to the surface to imply a focus of archaeological activity rather than a 'background noise' scatter to be collected during field walking. Finds rich periods (e.g late prehistoric, Roman and medieval) are thus more visible than finds poor periods (e.g early prehistoric and Saxon).

4.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of vacults

4.2.1 The combination of geophysical survey and field walking survey has not revealed any defined focus of archaeological activity. Sherds of Roman pottery, medieval pottery, worked flint and worked stone were retrieved from the field walking. However the quantity, density, spatial distribution and lack of correlation with geophysical anomalies give no indication of the presence of underlying archaeological remains.

FINDS INVENTORY

- 4.2.2 The geophysical survey results suggest the partial survival of ridge and furrow in Field A showing that at least part of the investigation area has been cultivated from as early as the medieval period (it is quite likely this area was cultivated in association with the Iron-Age hillfort). Given the investigation areas' close proximity to the medieval settlement it is probable that the medieval and later material collected during field walking derives from manuring.
- 4.2.3 The majority of the worked flint found could be associated with the Iron-Age hillfort.

 Earlier lithic find spots and Romano pottery find spots are not unusual within the

Significance

- 4.2.4 The Stage 1 evaluation appears to indicate little significant human/settlement activity in the sturdy area - at least during finds rich periods. Lack of geophysical anomalies suggests no activity even during finds poor periods. However only part of the site has been subject to fieldwalking.
- 4.2.5 The topography suggests the greatest area of potential is the hill top (OA37 in OA 1995). This area has not been fieldwalked but has been subject to detailed geophysical survey. No identifiable anomalies except for a probable modern infilled field boundary was detected here.

©© Oxford Archaeology Ltd. January 2003
U:\OAU\Breedon on the Hill\Evalrep1.doc

	Post Depositional Damage Category				-											-								
	Post Depos Dama Cates	-					L																	
	WT Utilised? Corteation Category	TO STANDARDON			-																			
Flint	Utilised?				and the same of the same of																			
Ţ		-	L	-	L	L	L	_		_	_		_	_	_		-	_	-			H	_	_
	Tot no Broken No	The same of the same of			-													100						
	Tot no	-						L																
	YPE	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH																				-		
-	9	-	-		-	-	-			-	-	-		-	_		-	_	Ī	****	-	-	***************************************	-
Clay	TYPE			Stem + TIP															-					
	NO WT COMMENTS	Modern							Modern	Modern									West of the second seco			The second secon		(m) (m) (m) (m) (m) (m) (m) (m) (m) (m)
CBM	WT	39	~	57		62		28	58	4	31		09		204	61	61	25	140	24	ţ	125	37	15
J	ON.		_			"			2	m	2		3		3	_	_	_	_	2	_	8	~	2
									TIN												ZI.		TIN 2	
	YPE		MISC	D		AISC			1000 D + TIN	MISC	MISC		0			8	MISC	0	3	MISC	1000 D +	MISC	D + GI AZED	MISC
>	NO WF FAB TYPE	I	e de	352 I	1000	347 MISC	10001	426	0001	ini	408	1000	1001 D	426				1000	В		1000		426	1000 MISC
Pottery	T.			00	32		91	_	18		3	25						58		Г	12		54	43
Д	ON			2	8		3		4		_	5	Ì	Ĺ				9			6		2	12 43
Onit	7	01-00	10-20		-	30-40	30-40	40-50	40-50	40-50	09-05	09-09	02-09	0-10	10-20	10-20	10-50	Γ.	20-30	20-30	30-40	30-40	40-50	40-50
Collection Unit	FIELD TRANS STINT							-	_	1			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2
	2.0	-					-															Γ		

Oxford Archaeology

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension FIELD WALKING REPORT AND STAGE I ELLICATION SCHAMERY Flint Clay pipe CBM 1000 D + TIN I GLAZED 1000 D + TIN I GLAZED 1000 D + TIN 3 GLAZED 1000 CURVED +1 TIN GLAZED Pottery 50-60 3 12 11 60-70 2 30 11 06-08 Collection Unit 20-30 FIELD TRANS STINT

©© Oxford Archaeology Ltd. June 2002 U:1OAUBreedon on the HillEvalvep1.doc

©© Oxford Archaeology Ltd. June 2002 U:\OAUBreedon on the Hill\Evalrep1.doc

Moderate post depositional damage Flint

36 Modern 39 Modern 35 Modern | 426 | E | 1000 MISC | 4108 MISC | 1000 D + TIP | D + GLAZE 90-100 190-110 2 10 426 0-10 4 42 1000 10-20 1 2 20-30 8 13 0-10 3

Clay pipe

CBM

Pottery

Collection Unit

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension FIELD WALKING REPORT AND STAGE I EVILLATION SUBMARY

Oxford Archaeology