# **Barby Hill Archaeological Project Interim Report for Second Year, 2012/2013**

# **Table of Contents**

1.	Introduction	2
1.1	Site map, with field numbers	2
1.2	Summary of new work	
2.	Presentation of results	5
2.1	Modern period	
2.2	Medieval period	
2.3	Roman period	
2.4	Iron Age	15
3.	Interpretation	2.2
3.1	Modern period	23
3.2	Medieval period	
3.3	Roman period	
3.4	Iron Age	
4.	Detailed discussion of the Iron Age settlement	26
4.1	Estimates of roundhouse numbers as a guide to settlement size	26
4.2	Positioning and function of the Barby Hill settlement w.r.t. King Street	
4.3	Inter-tribal relationships	
4.4	Location of pottery kilns in Nene Valley and at Mancetter	28
_	Discourse la faction de caracter de caract	20
5.	Proposals for ongoing work	29
∆nner	ndix 1: Detailed drawing, Trench 16-A	31

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# Barby Hill Archaeological Project Interim Report for Second Year, 2012/2013

#### 1. Introduction

This interim report describes continuing archaeological work between April 2012 and August 2013 on the Barby Hill site (centred at SP 52820 52420) and the adjacent countryside, and extends the results reported in the first Interim Report dated March 2012.

# 1.1 Site map, with field numbers

The overall site is illustrated in Fig.1, which also shows the simplified field-numbering system adopted in the project, together with the respective Rural Landscape Register (RLR) field numbers.

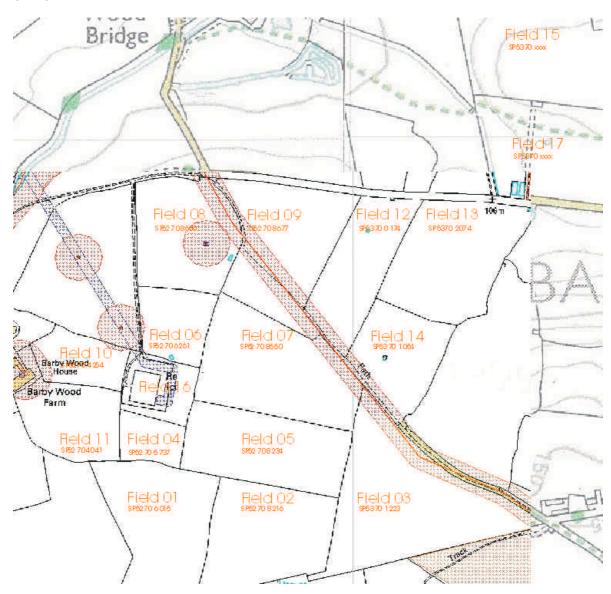


Figure 1: Site map, showing the field numbering system adopted for the project

#### 1.2 Summary of new work

Work in the period covered by this report included the following main elements:

#### 1.2.1 Magnetometry

The major fieldwork emphasis was on extending the initial magnetometer surveys, since this technique had proved highly effective in the first year's work. The area of 44,800 sq.m. surveyed in the first year was extended by a further 63,200 sq.m., consisting of new surveys in Fields 01, 02 and 06, and extensions to the existing surveys in Fields 05 and 07.

A total area of 108,000 sq.m. (just over 24 acres) of the hilltop has now been surveyed in detail. Many additional roundhouses and linear features have been discovered, and it is now apparent that the settlement extended over a significantly larger area than that described in the first interim report.

# 1.2.2 Field-walking and Metal Detection

A limited amount of field-walking and metal detection was carried out, mostly in association with the magnetometer surveys in Fields 01 and 02. This yielded a further modest crop of finds, which were all from the late medieval and modern periods; the new evidence was added to that gained in the initial field-walking and metal detecting sessions.

Limited metal-detection surveys were also carried out in Fields 09, 12, 13 and 15. The main aim was to look for finds associated with the possible use of King Street (in Fields 09 and 12) and of possible early occupation\* (in Fields 13 and 15).

[\* Explanation: The possible existence of a Roman-period dwelling at the north side of the hill was raised when a substantial concentrated cache of about 150 well preserved Late Iron Age and Roman pot sherds was unearthed by a local proprietor a few years ago during excavation of a fishing pond. About half of this cache was examined by the BHAP team during this phase of the work, and the sherds were sorted and classified.]

The location of the pottery cache – on the south-west side of Field 17 – provided the rationale for the initial metal-detection survey of Field 15. Although nothing of relevance to the Roman period was discovered, it may be appropriate to return and reexamine this area in greater detail at a later date.

#### 1.2.3 Excavation

Permission was obtained from Natural England for trial trenching. Two initial sites were short-listed, based on the following rationale:

- Field 05: Excavation of a roundhouse site, located by BHAP's magnetometry, at a point where the farmer needs to excavate a trench in any case, in order to repair and extend an existing underground water pipe.
- Field 16: Excavation of an area located midway between two areas of the site that had been shown (from the previous BHAP magnetometer survey in Field 07, and from previous excavation in Field 16 by Cotswold Archaeology) to contain a dense concentration of roundhouse circles.

In the event, excavation of the Field 05 site was postponed to a later date, to suit the farmer's own preferred maintenance programme.

There were no such limitations on Field 16 however, as the target site was conveniently chosen in a disused narrow strip of land, between the boundary fence of Severn Trent Water's reservoir compound and a pre-existing farm hedge.

Hedges and vegetation were cut back to prepare the site, and a  $15m \times 1.5m$  trench was excavated by hand, working down through layers of over-site backfill left behind after construction of the reservoir, to the Iron Age occupation level, which was carefully examined. All find-spots were recorded, finds were conserved, listed and identified, the occupation layer of the trench was mapped and photographed, and then the trench was back-filled and the ground was restored.

### 1.2.4 Support of fieldwork

Various fieldwork support tasks were carried out during the period, including:

### Training sessions with equipment:

Four members of the BHAP team are now qualified and proficient in surveying with the Bartington 601 magnetometer, and three team members are learning to survey with a Dumpy level.

# • Finds cleaning, identification and classification:

Finds from field-walking, from the Roman period pottery cache, and from the first trial trench, were cleaned and conserved, identified and classified, weighed and recorded, bagged and labelled.

### Comparisons with two other nearby sites:

The Roman potsherds recorded from the Barby Hill site were compared with lists of the Roman-period sherds found at two nearby sites – Barby Pools Marina (700m south-west of the top of Barby Hill) and the Rugby/Daventry Crematorium site (1.8km north-west of the top of Barby Hill).

### Initial experiments with 3D modelling reconstruction:

A few of the Barby Hill sherds were complete enough to permit experiments in constructing virtual 3D representations of the original vessels, using 3D modelling software. This exercise was undertaken in order to gain experience, and also to assess this technique as a means of visualising and demonstrating results from the project.

#### 1.2.5 Documentary and other research

- Magnetometry results from the Barby Pools and Rugby Crematorium sites were incorporated into the project's electronic master map, to support long-term analysis of the area around the Barby Hill site.
- Study of an additional early Daventry area map of 1807 revealed a few relevant C18 details, which were added to the project electronic master map.
- Study of online archives of early newspaper reports also revealed relevant details, notably of the Old Swan Inn adjacent to Onley, and of the drift roads into Onley. These details were also added to the electronic master map.
- Other ongoing map studies focused on the line of 'King Street' (modern Barby Lane/Onley Lane), which appears to converge to SW with Watling St to a possible meeting point at Towcester, and to NW to a possible reconvergence with Watling St at Mancetter. Further work is needed on this topic; it is mentioned here as it may be relevant to interpretation of the Barby Hill site.
- The author visited the IA reconstruction sites at Flag Fen and Butser, and held some discussion with their experimental archaeologists. The aim is to gain feedback from practical experience of roundhouse construction, longevity, preservation etc., to aid interpretation of the Barby Hill site.

#### 1.2.6 Purchases – surveying, excavation and storage equipment

BHAP's existing stocks of surveying poles and stakes, optical square, measuring tapes, storage and archiving materials, were extended by purchase of:

- A basic toolkit for excavation work
- Additional labelling and storage equipment
- A modern Dumpy level and measuring poles for profile surveying
- A simple microscope for close examination of small finds

#### 2. Presentation of Results

#### 2.1 Modern period

Any investigation into the early modern usage of Barby Hill must also consider the history of the adjacent deserted settlement at Onley (see Fig.2).

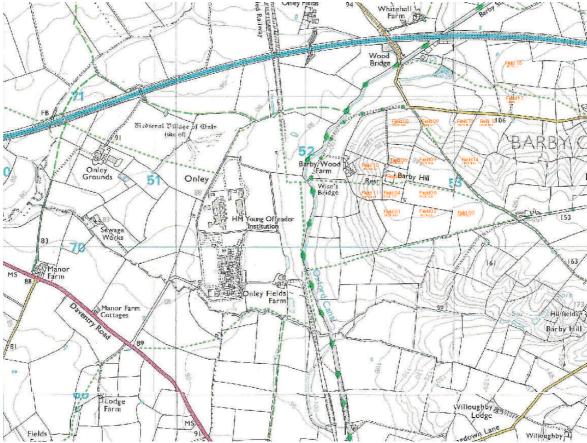


Figure 2: The wider area, showing the Onley DMV site

A previous investigation of the settlement at Onley by the author<sup>1</sup> proposed a chronology for the evolution of the small nucleated medieval settlement, and its subsequent abandonment and eventual replacement by several isolated C17th farmsteads, together with a proposed chronology for the felling of the medieval woodland that covered most of Barby Hill until the mid-1500s.

During the period covered by this report, further details were gathered relating to the settlement at Onley and to the post-medieval usage of Barby Hill:

#### 2.1.1 Plough headland at north side of Field 05

The earlier magnetometer surveys in Field 07 had revealed clear traces of former ridge and furrow following the slope of the hill and running broadly north-south, see Fig.3 below.

The earlier magnetometer surveys had not shown any similar sign of ridge and furrow in Field 05. Nonetheless, faint signs of ridge and furrow are detectable in Field 05 to the naked eye – and in addition, close visual inspection leaves no doubt that there is a raised headland running west-east along the north side of Field 05, as indicated by the orange rectangle in Fig.3.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;The Medieval Settlement at Onley, Northamptonshire: an evaluation of the process of formation and desertion of the medieval settlement, with special reference to its significance within the larger community during the 16th and 17th centuries', G.W. Hatton (paper presented at the CRAASH seminar, Cambridge University, 2005)

It seems likely that this old plough headland – probably dating from 1600-1778, i.e. between clearance of the medieval woodland and Parliamentary Enclosure – is high enough to obscure details of earlier Iron Age archaeology that still lie undisturbed below the headland. This would explain the sudden disappearance of roundhouse features and other details from the magnetometer survey as it passes from Field 07 to Field 05 (see also Fig.3).



Figure 3: Post-medieval ridge & furrow and plough headland, Fields 05 and 07

It is likely that significant Iron Age archaeology has been preserved intact and is still to be discovered below the headland area. The excavation planned in 1.2.3 above should reveal some of this. Meanwhile, a profile survey of Field 05 with Dumpy level will be scheduled, to provide more accurate information on the post-medieval level.

#### 2.1.2 Newspaper archive reports

The British Newspaper Online Archive revealed reports dealing with three aspects relating to Onley and Barby Hill:

- Northampton Mercury, 23 February 1795, records a land sale in Onley "lying near to a Dwelling House, usually known by the Name of the Old-Swan, on the Chester Road, near Dunchurch". This evidence of a former C17 inn, at what would then have been a crossroads on what is now the A45, underlines the importance of the drove route south from Onley in the 1600s.
- Northampton Mercury, 13 December 1879: "... Mr Lancaster, in reference to a grass road running from the bridge near Barby Wood, through the parish of Onley to the road leading from Dunchurch to Hillmorton, expressed a wish that the said road should be stopped altogether or be properly metalled. Mr. Cave, of Onley, said the road was no good to the public as a drift road, and it was scarcely ever used. It

- was resolved ... that Mr. Lancaster be allowed to stop up the road, leaving only a bridle road". The main drove road into Onley from the north (which led directly to the two large artificial ponds created at Onley in the late 1500s for watering sheep) would have been virtually unused for almost a century by 1879; the peak of the sheep trade at Onley was in the early to middle 1600s.
- The 1778 Enclosure map for Barby (see relevant section of the 1778 map in Fig.4 below, superimposed on the modern OS map) indicates that by 1778 the woodland, which had covered the entire hilltop and hillsides in the early 1500s, had been reduced to the small section of the hillside now comprising Fields 04, 06, 08, 10, 11 and 16 of the present project. Much of this remaining section was felled and cleared in the late 1810s Northampton Mercury records sales of 40 ash trees in Barby Wood in December 1815, 49 oak trees in Barby Wood in May 1817, and "upwards of 300 oak trees in Barby Wood" in March 1818. The small remaining section of a few acres directly above Barby Wood Farm was cleared within living memory in the 1960s.

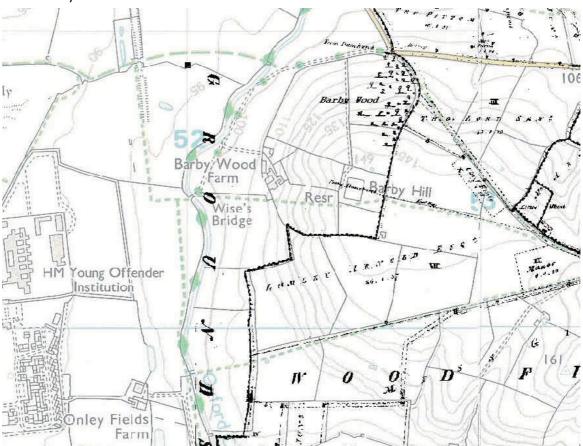
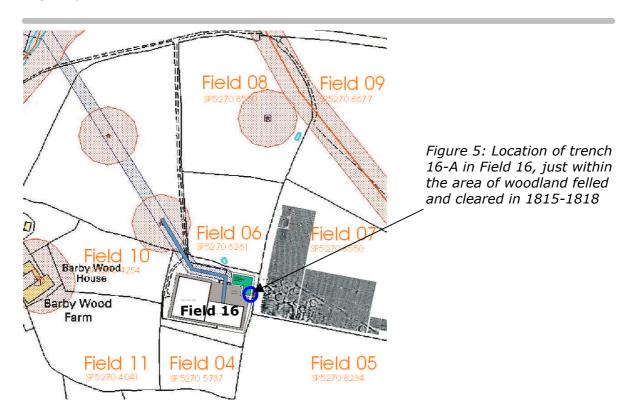


Figure 4: Extent of Barby Wood in 1778, superimposed on the modern OS map

Following clearance of most of the remaining section of the former Barby Wood in 1815-1818, the stumps left after felling would have been burned out, and the newly cleared woodland would have been ploughed and levelled. Subsequent reports in the Northampton Mercury of land sales and tenancies at Barby Wood Farm during the mid and late 1800s and early 1900s show that the land was converted to pasture and (except for Fields 06 / 08) it has remained as pasture since the clearance in the 1810s.

#### 2.1.3 Early 19th-century disturbance of Iron Age remains in Trench 16-A

The ploughing and levelling carried out in the 1810s, as described above, becomes a significant factor in relation to the excavation carried out in Trench 16-A in Field 16.



The excavation of Trench 16-A itself relates to the Iron Age period of the hill's history, and is therefore described more fully in section 2.3 below. However, the following anomalous facts were noted during the excavation, which do not fit into an interpretation of the Iron Age period:

- Towards the bottom of the trench, the excavation revealed a regular distribution of small charcoal fragments across the entire excavated area, just above the Iron Age occupation layer. This was not consistent with possible Iron Age hearth locations, but seemed rather to indicate burning of the entire hillside at some period.
- Apart from a couple of postholes, the Iron Age occupation layer of the trench was curiously devoid of the features which had been expected (based on the clear Iron Age features visible on the magnetometer traces for the adjoining Field 07 only 10m away from the trench, as indicated in Fig.5 above), and the soil at this low level also appeared to have been disturbed.
- Most tellingly, a few small lumps of pure lime were found mixed in with the Iron Age potsherds discovered in the Iron Age occupation layer of Trench 16-A. These were obviously not contemporary with the potsherds, and were typical of the lime granules that were very widely used as an agricultural fertiliser in the late 1700s and early 1800s (NB: surviving deeds of tenancy for this area in the late 1700s and early 1800s specifically request the spreading of lime as a fertiliser<sup>2</sup>).

The information from the newspaper reports in 2.1.2 above explains the situation. Burning out the stumps of the trees that were sold and felled in 1815-1818 (due no doubt to the economic depression that hit farmers following the Napoleonic Wars), combined with spreading of lime fertiliser, and subsequent ploughing to level and prepare the former woodland for agriculture, would have destroyed the details of earlier archaeology, broken larger potsherds down into small fragments and separated and distributed them, and deposited granules of lime fertiliser among the sherds in the Iron Age occupation layer; and this activity is closely datable from the news reports.

NRO document. ZA3772: 20<sup>th</sup> June 1788. John Moore of Kilsby leases of George Arnold of Ledgers Ashby the "White Hart", a farm of 38 acres in Kilsby parish, with home close adjoining, together with 33 acres of closes and meadows in Watford parish. Moore promises not to plough more than 20 acres of the land, with a penalty of £5/acre for any over-ploughing. Conditions are laid down regarding Moore's duties. For instance; to lime the land with Squarters per acre of good lime; not to raise crops for more than 2 years in every 3, save for turnips grown for eating on the land by sheep and cattle; to leave the fallow land sown with good grass seed in the 3rd year; etc.

#### 2.1.4 New finds of fireback, hammer-head, sherds etc in Field 01

Further metal-detection and field-walking in Fields 01 and 02, associated with the magnetometer surveys, revealed no finds earlier than the medieval period, and confirmed the original assessment, i.e. that the later finds represent manure scatter from the period after the main part of Barby Great Wood was felled (progressively, commencing in the late 1500s and continuing in the early to mid 1700s).

Two of the metal finds in Field 01 were of particular interest:

### a) A portion of a cast iron fireback (Fig.6)

Cast iron firebacks of the type from which this typical fragment came were increasingly common in vernacular architecture from about 1580 to 1700, after which they were gradually replaced. This fragment probably dates from 1634 (a portion of the figure 3 can just be deciphered on the far left) - which in turn suggests that it probably broke and was discarded during the 1700s. It probably came from the main house at Barby Wood Farm, which predated the present early Georgian structure and in the 1630s and 1640s was the property of Zaccheus Isham of Onley<sup>3</sup>, puritan priest and a cadet branch of the wealthy Isham family who at that time held the lordships of both Barby and Braunston.



Figure 6: Fragment of early C17 castiron fireback, east edge of Field 01

#### b) A blacksmith's hammer-head (Fig.7)

The absence of a shaft-hole, or other device by which the hammer-head could be fixed on to a striking shaft, suggests this may have been used as a blacksmith's "set hammer", i.e. a block held by tongs against the work-piece, against which the sledgehammer strikes, so as to direct the force of the blow very precisely. It may have found its way by accident into the farmyard midden — or perhaps it may have been used in the field and lost there.



Figure 7: Iron hammer-head, east edge of Field 01

#### 2.1.5 Initial examination of Field 15

Metal-detection and field-walking in Field 15 were of limited extent, and were focused on the crest of the hill in that field, together with some general initial prospecting around the remainder of the field. A formal programme of transect walking was not carried out at this initial stage.

In general, the finds were of late date, and there was nothing to suggest any early occupation during the Iron Age or Roman periods, despite the cache of Nene Valley sherds and late Iron Age fragments discovered nearby in Field 17 (see 1.2.2 above).

Two medieval coins were found near the south-west corner of Field 15 – see section 2.2 below.

The will of Zacheus Isham of Onley, dated 1650 (PROB 11/218) is one of a series of 556 transcripts of wills for this area over the period 1500-1700 by G.W. Hatton.

Meanwhile, documentary research had revealed that Field 15 had been used during World War II as the location of one of the so-called Sudden Fire decoy sites (abbreviated at the time as "SF", or "StarFish").

Most of these "StarFish" decoy sites were arranged to resemble airfields when seen from above at night-time, so as to decoy enemy bombers away from real airfield targets. The site at Barby Hill differed, in that its purpose was to resemble the night-time appearance of the goods yards at Rugby Station, which carried critical munitions and other essential wartime goods.

Figure 8 shows a 1947 overhead photograph of Fields 15 and 17. The remains of the wartime approach road into the decoy site in Field 15 are very evident (and present day examination of Field 15 revealed hundreds of lumps of granite hardcore in the area encircled in blue on the image - spread by subsequent ploughing, but still unmistakable). The likely area of the decoy site is indicated by the orange rectangle. According to reports from verbal local inhabitants, the site consisted of a distributed network of small metal crates filled with incendiary material (to simulate goods yard night-time lighting), together with an electrical system for rapid remote ignition from a central point in a nearby farm.



Figure 8: Fields 15 and 17, as shown in 1947 RAF aerial reconnaissance photographs

Also indicated on the photograph, by the small yellow circle, is the location at which the cache of Roman period potsherds was discovered (for details see Section 2.3).

#### 2.2 Medieval period

#### 2.2.1 Field 15

The two coins discovered in Field 15 (see also section 2.1.5) are probably both from the same general period.

The upper coin has been positively identified as a Richard I hammered shortcross silver penny (Class 2, 3 or 4a, most probably Class 4a), dating from the late 1190s.

The lower, more worn coin has resisted such definite identification, but is thought to be another penny, from the reign of King John and hence dating to the early 1200s. Both coins were probably lost during work in the field in the first quarter of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.



#### 2.2.2 Fields 01 and 02

A few additional sherds from the late medieval period were found in the east edge Field 01, in addition to a selection of early modern sherds. This indicates that the light spread of medieval sherds previously noted only in Field 02 in the first report, and interpreted as manure scatter, also extended into the east side of Field 01.

Consideration of the limit of the former Barby Great Wood at the time Parliamentary Enclosure in 1778 (see Fig.4), and the spread of medieval manure scatter seen through the east edge of Field 01 and in Field 02 (indicated by the blue shape in Fig.10), suggests in turn that the section of the wood that was left standing in the 1600s and early 1700s may have extended at least as far as shown by the orange outline in Fig.10.

Such an explanation might also account for the lack of early archaeological features in the magnetometer traces in the west side of Field 01; burning out of roots followed by deep ploughing would be likely to destroy all traces of any earlier archaeology.

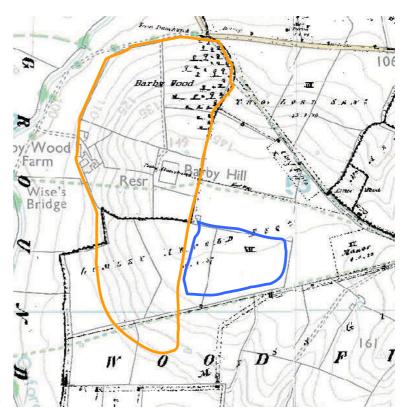


Figure 10: Possible interpretation of the late medieval manure scatter found in Field 02 and the east edge of Field 01

# 2.3 Roman period

The evidence for activity at Barby Hill during the Roman period remains persuasive, yet frustratingly elusive.

In addition to the small scatter of Roman-period coinage and a Roman-period brooch of local manufacture, discovered in and immediately west of Field 06, as listed in the first interim report on Barby Hill, a significant cache of about 150 well preserved Late Iron Age and Roman pot sherds unearthed by а local proprietor a few years ago during excavation of a fishing pond (the location of this find, in Field 17, is indicated in Fig.8 above).

Furthermore, as part of the preliminary work associated with a commercial project to develop a canal marina adjacent to the prison site at the south-west side of Barby Hill (to be known as Barby Pools Marina), a significant Roman-period site has been discovered near SP52373 69486. Initial magnetometer surveys of the site, together with surveys and trial trenching of the marina site, indicate the presence of a probable farming settlement of the Roman period. This site is being monitored by Cotswold Archaeology, who carried out the surveys and trial trenching, and it is reported in detail separately by them<sup>4</sup>. It is mentioned here because this site is only 700m south of the Barby Hill site.

Finally, preliminary work at the site of the Rugby/Daventry Crematorium (SP5193 7295) revealed evidence of cultivation there during the Roman period.

Rugby matori King Street Roman sherds cache Onley Barby Hill site arby Pools Marina

Figure 11: Other Roman-period sites near Barby Hill, also showing part of the line of 'King St'

This site is reported separately<sup>5</sup>, and is mentioned here, not only because of its proximity (1.8km north-west of Barby Hill), but also because it lies directly adjacent to the line of 'King Street', which then passes within 100m of the Barby Hill settlement.

Magnetometer traces for both the Barby Pools Marina and Rugby/Daventry Crematorium sites were incorporated into the Barby Hill project's electronic master map, to support long-term analysis of the area around the Barby Hill site.

<sup>4 &#</sup>x27;Barby Pools Marina, Onley Northamptonshire, and Willoughby Warwickshire, Archaeological Evaluation', Cotswold Archaeology, for J.Marine Limited, CA report 12023, February 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 'Proposed Rugby and Daventry Crematorium, Hillmorton, Rugby, Archaeological Evaluation Report', Oxford Archaeology, for WSP Environmental UK, July 2012, OA East Report No: 1380, OASIS No: oxfordar3-130121.

#### 2.3.1 Identification and classification of RB pottery at Barby Hill

About half of the cache was examined by the BHAP team during this phase of the work, and the sherds were sorted and classified. It has not yet been possible to obtain the finder's permission to examine the remainder of this cache, but efforts continue.

It is understood that the whole cache was discovered during excavation of a fishing pond, and that they were all in a single location, lumped together, at a depth of about 1-2m below ground, in extremely muddy and loose subsoil (ie, it is conceivable that they may originally have been deposited much closer to the surface).

The subset of fragments that has so far been examined is illustrated in Fig.12.



Figure 12: Roman and LIA sherds discovered in Field 17

The majority of the sherds are good quality, fine wheel-thrown Nene Valley wares, with a variety of simple but elegant wheel-inscribed patterning. Fragments 003, 004 and 005 are probable black burnished wares, and fragments 006, 007, 012 and 018 are rough hand-made wares, possibly dating from the Late Iron Age. The bone fragment appears to be part of a bovine leg-bone.

#### 2.3.2 RB potsherd comparison, Barby Hill, Rugby Crematorium, Barby Pools

Copies were obtained of the analysis tables for the potsherds from the Barby Pools and Rugby Crematorium sites, and these were compared with the tabulated data for the sherds from the Barby Hill site, as shown above. All Barby Hill sherds were classified using the standardised Pottery Fabric Classification employed by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Raunds, and at various other sites in Northamptonshire.

The summarised results of this comparison are set out in Table 1 below:

Site	Approx periods	Manufactories	No. of sherds	Total Wt. (gms)	Ave. Wt. (gms)
Barby Hill North	EC1-C4 Mainly C2-C3	Nene Valley + local (IA) + black burnished (Dobunnic)	71	931	13.1
Barby Pools	MC1-C4	Upper Nene Valley	9	123	13.6
Crematorium	C2-C4 Mainly C2-C3	Nene Valley + local (RB) + Mancetter Hartshill	172	1349	7.8

Table 1: Comparison of types and dates for sherds from Barby Hill and 2 nearby sites

#### Barby Hill North

The Barby Hill North finds had already been cleaned by the finder (not a member of the BHAP team), and no residues were left that might have assisted determination of usage. The scope of the assemblage – comprising a selection of relatively good quality wheel-thrown locally-made Nene Valley decorative table wares from a range of different vessels, plus fragments of some storage vessels, along with fragments of one or two native British vessels imported from further afield, and some large sherds from local hand-made storage vessels perhaps dating back to the Iron Age – and the fact that they were found all together, as though cast aside in a household midden – suggests a nearby small Roman period habitation, below villa status yet still aspiring to a relatively good standard of living, and in use over an extended period, peaking in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. The presence of vessels intended for display suggests an environment in which food storage, preparation and consumption were separate activities, each with their own appropriate vessels.

### Crematorium site (comments summarised from the OA report)

The majority of the Crematorium site sherds are utilitarian, mainly locally produced domestic sandy coarse wares, predominantly Sandy Grey wares. Where specific types could be assigned, the majority of sherds are from a small variety of jars and bowls. Several of the grey ware sherds are poorly made and most likely seconds, suggesting a possible kiln site near to the site of excavation. Sooting and carbonised food residues were identified on a small number of sherds suggesting that vessels were being used for both storage and preparation of foods. A small quantity of gritty oxidised ware was identified also – visually identical to 1st and early 2nd century Verulamium white ware, but known to have been produced into the 2nd and 3rd centuries in the Northampton area and at Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire. A single unsourced sherd of shell tempered ware of the type manufactured at the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire was also recovered, and a single fragment of Mancetter Hartshill white ware.

Dating approximately from the mid/late 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, the fabrics and forms are typical of a utilitarian domestic low order settlement. Only a single heavily abraded sherd of Oxford red colour-coat ware suggests continuation of use into the later Roman period. The small number of sherds recovered suggests the presence of an as yet unlocated Romano-British settlement or farmstead in the vicinity.

#### Barby Pools site (comments summarised from the CA report)

The Roman period finds on this site were from areas adjacent to that in which the only significant early archaeological traces were found (ie, no trial trenching was carried out in the most promising area, it was left intact for future examination). Consequently, only a very few sherds (9 in all) were found. Two of these were hard cream grog-tempered wares (late  $1^{\rm st}$  to early  $3^{\rm rd}$  century) and grey-ware jar fragments of similar date, together with oxidised grog-tempered wares of probable  $1^{\rm st}$  century date. There is insufficient material from this site as yet to venture opinions from the sherds alone.

#### 2.3.3 Research into the possible long-distance continuity of King Street

Documentary studies of the route of 'King Street' in the immediate vicinity of the DMV settlement at Onley<sup>6</sup> produced evidence that this route was already very old in the late medieval period.

Further research on this was therefore undertaken in the period covered by this report.

Between Rugby and Daventry, this route is a long-distance path that:

- runs wherever possible along ridge-ways and hill-crests, with excellent all-round long distance views at all times,
- crosses the Rainsbrook valley (which would have been less well drained in earlier times) at its narrowest point,
- passes within 100m of the Iron Age settlement on Barby Hill,
- heads directly toward the Iron Age settlement on Borough Hill, Daventry,
- and also forms a direct line linking a series of intermediate sites with Roman-period associations, as at Rugby Crematorium, Barby Hill north, Monksmoor, Middlemore (and Borough Hill itself)

In the wider context, it seems significant that the line of 'King Street' appears to converge gradually with that of Watling Street. Furthermore, if the line of Street', `King as it observed to run in the Rugby/Daventry area, extended into the wider region, it appears converge with Watling Street precisely at Towcester in the south-east, and precisely at Mancetter in the north-west, as illustrated in Fig.13.

A further long-term module of this project therefore involves ongoing study of map-based and topographic evidence along the line of this extension. The first step this study is acquisition of first-issue (1890s) 2.5":1mile OS maps covering the whole of this route, to allow more detailed examination based on the earliest fully reliable finescale maps.

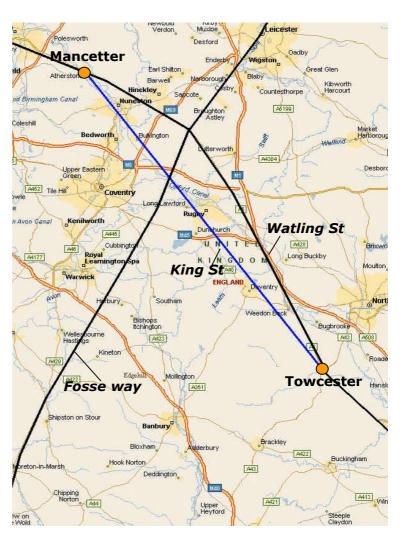


Figure 13: A conjectural long-distance extension of 'King Street'

Page 15

op.cit. 'The Medieval Settlement at Onley, Northamptonshire', G.W. Hatton, 2005

# 2.4 Iron Age

# 2.4.1 Further magnetometry results

The area of 44,800 sq.m. surveyed in the first year was extended by a further 63,200 sq.m., consisting of new surveys in Fields 01, 02 and 06, and extensions to the existing surveys in Fields 05 and 07. A total area of 108,000 sq.m. (just over 24 acres) of the hilltop has now been surveyed in detail. Many additional roundhouses and linear features were discovered, and it is now apparent that the settlement extended over a significantly larger area than was described in the first interim report.

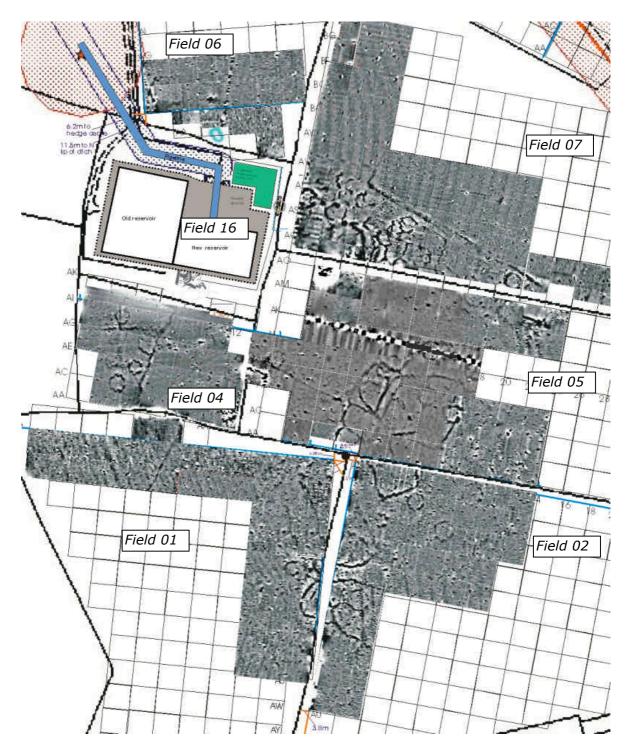


Figure 14: Overall results of magnetometer surveys (the grid squares are 20x20m)

#### 2.4.1.1 Pasture areas: Fields 05 and 07

The dense cluster of roundhouse features in the south-west corner of Field 07, first illustrated in the initial project report, is now seen to continue to the east of the field. There is also a long linear feature that may or may not be contemporary with the roundhouse circles – that can only be determined by excavation – and it may be significant that this linear feature runs approximately parallel to a similar long linear feature running across Field 05.

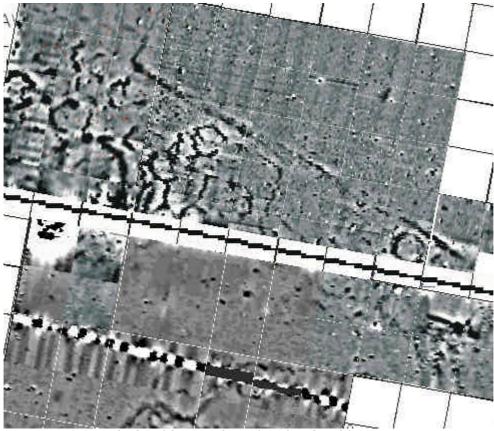


Figure 15: Detail of Field 07 and north side of Field 05.

A further notable aspect of the cluster in Field 07 is what appears to be a huge circular area about 30m across, near the south-west corner of Field 07. This is far too large to have been a roofed structure – but the ground in this area has been too much broken up by cattle in the last 2 years to allow more precise and careful surveys to be made from above in an attempt to detect possible postholes or other internal features, and a more detailed examination will require some excavation.

The probable reason for the sudden disappearance of roundhouse and other features on the north side of Field 05 has already been commented upon (section 2.1.1). It seems likely that the dense cluster of features in Field 07 actually continues into Field 05 but is masked by a post-medieval plough headland – this too must await confirmation by targeted trial trenching.

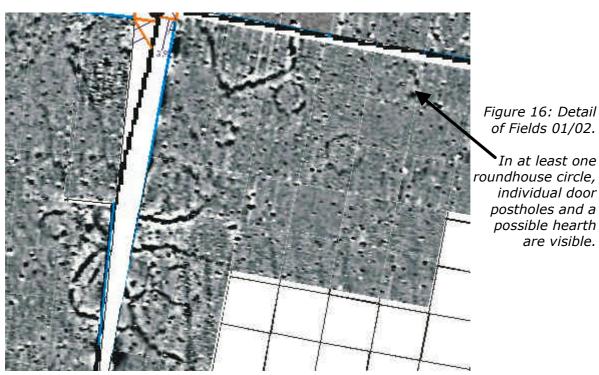
Finally, it is noticeable that the roundhouse features in Field 07 are clustered close to the north edge of the hilltop and aligned to follow the edge of the hilltop; furthermore, they are arranged both so as to command an excellent view northward along 'King Street', and so as to be strikingly evident against the skyline when viewed by anyone approaching the hill from the north.

# 2.4.1.2 Arable areas: Fields 01, 02 and 06

The burning-out of stumps and deep ploughing (inferred from several complementary types of evidence) that followed the extensive tree-felling in the late 1810s (see sections 2.1.2 and 2.1.3) has already been shown to account for the obliteration of earlier archaeological details in Field 16. It probably also explains the lack of archaeological detail found in Field 06. The dense coverage of Iron Age detail revealed in the magnetometer plots for Fields 07 and 04, and also in the trial excavation in the south side of Field 16 by Cotswold Archaeology, suggests that both Fields 06 and 16 would also have originally contained roundhouse traces, until that whole area was deep-ploughed and levelled in the late 1810s.

The same may perhaps be true of the western side of Field 01, where the signs of later ridge and furrow ploughing appear to be especially marked and the ploughing may have been relatively deep.

However, the eastern side of Field 01, and all of the area in Field 02 that has been so far surveyed, present a very different picture. A wealth of archaeological detail is revealed below the plough soil, and it is surprisingly well preserved. Fig.16 shows this area in greater detail.



The area contains more roundhouse circles and a series of both rectangular and rounded enclosures, partially overlaid on the southern side by north-south ridge and furrow that may be medieval but more probably dates from just after the first areas of medieval woodland were cleared in the late 1500s.

#### 2.4.1.3 Overall observations on the magnetometer surveys

As stated in the last report, no sign of defensive features was found in any part of the site, either on the top of the hill or on the slopes. The additional surveying in this second stage of work also confirmed this finding.

The linear feature in Field 07 does not at first sight appear to be a defensive feature – it is relatively short and discontinuous, and appears to turn downhill at its west end. To

determine whether this feature was co-existent with the adjacent roundhouse features will require further trial trenching.

The limited excavation previously made (2008-9, Cotswold Archaeology) of the roundhouse circles and linear features beneath the Severn Trent Water reservoir extension in Field 16 reported "in an area approximately 25m by 30m, at least six inter-cutting ring ditches, gullies and pits dating to late Iron Age and likely to represent walling trenches and drip gullies from roundhouses. Several of these features were cut by two later large and well-maintained boundary ditches of a similar date". This tends to suggest that the linear features and large enclosures seen in Fields 01, 02, 04 and 05 may have been a part of a continuous pattern of occupation of the settlement – though from the overlapping of many of these enclosure features it seems clear that they were modified and moved around over a period of time.

### 2.4.2 Initial trial trenching, Field 16

An excavation area was selected in Field 16 (see Fig.17), located midway between two areas of the site that had been shown (from BHAP's previous magnetometer survey in adjacent Field 07, and also from the previous excavation in the south part of Field 16 by Cotswold Archaeology) to contain dense concentrations of roundhouse circles.

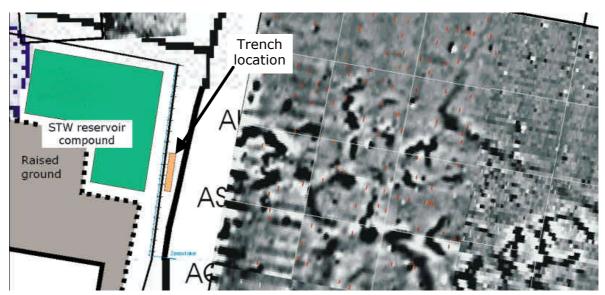


Figure 17: Trench location, Field 16

The site was also chosen because it was conveniently located in a disused narrow strip of land, between the boundary fence of Severn Trent Water's reservoir compound and a pre-existing farm hedge, so that work could continue without disturbing operations either at the reservoir or on the farm.



Figure 18: Clearance and preparation of the area

Hedges and vegetation were cut back to prepare the site (Fig.18 above), and a  $15m \times 1.5m$  trench was excavated by hand.

Excavated subsoil from construction of the reservoir had been spread over this area, so that it was necessary to work down almost 1m, through layers of the over-site backfill, to the Iron Age occupation level, and finally to the natural. The various soil layers above the Iron Age occupation layer are shown in Fig.19.



Figure 19: Trench 16-A, main context levels



Figure 20: Trench 16-A during excavation

The Iron Age occupation layer was carefully examined. All find-spots and contexts were recorded, finds were conserved, listed and identified, the occupation layer of the trench was mapped and photographed, and then the trench was covered with protective geo-permeable sheeting and back-filled, and the ground surface was restored.

A total of over fifty small fragile sherds were collected — all crude and hand-formed, locally made, from the pre-Roman phase of the Iron Age. It is difficult to attempt a more precise dating, but they may perhaps be early rather than late in this period (ie perhaps up to 200BC or even a little earlier).



Figure 21 (above): Some of the best preserved of the pot sherds, including an identifiable rim fragment.

Figure 22 (below, right): Part of a sheep's jawbone and a separate sheep's tooth, found among the pot sherds.



Regarding Fig.22, a sheep's age is assessed by its front teeth, and the teeth in this example are back teeth. However, they do not appear very worn down; and since a sheep chews the cud with its back teeth, this was probably a young animal.

Due to significant disturbance of the subsoil in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (for a detailed explanation, see 2.1.3 above), the Iron Age occupation layer had been seriously compromised, and any possible features such as hearths, drip gullies, remains of walls etc had been mostly obliterated.

The only traces that could be detected were two postholes, the distributed fragments of at least two small pots, a few small animal bones, one or two small flint "wasters", and a scatter of a significant number of small stones in some areas of the trench. These were all recorded and mapped, as shown in Fig.23 overleaf.

Recognising that post-medieval plough activity has undoubtedly broken up and distributed the evidence, it is reasonable to assume that both the distributions of pot fragments and the distributions of stones, as excavated, probably relate to more concentrated original positions, at or near the central foci of the locations at which these objects were discovered. These foci are indicated in the drawing overleaf. If

these assumptions are allowable, this would suggest the presence of a possible hearth (or perhaps a food-preparation area) close to the two posthole locations, and at least two small pots placed at or near this location.

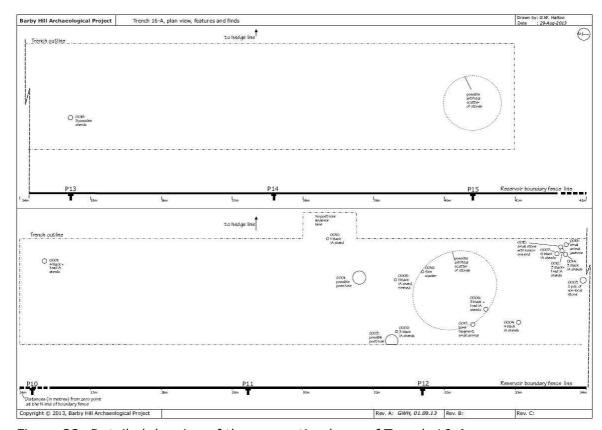


Figure 23: Detailed drawing of the occupation layer of Trench 16-A

(A larger A3 copy of this drawing is included in Appendix 1)

Field 16 will shortly be subject to further disturbance, as the Severn Trent Water reservoir at Barby Hill is due to be extended within the next 2 years.

However, it is apparent that most of Field 16 (and also Fields 06 and 08) was subjected to such thorough deep-ploughing in the early 1800s as to obliterate features at the Iron Age occupation layer – and Field 16 has also had a thick layer of waste soil dumped and spread across it as a result of the construction of the water reservoir. Therefore the original plan to carry out magnetometer surveys within the STW compound was abandoned. It is essential to obtain further dateable evidence in order to establish a chronology for the settlement, but this can best be achieved by excavating other parts of the site.

#### 3. Interpretation

# 3.1 Modern period

The small medieval settlement at Onley (which at its peak in the late 1400s and early 1500s probably numbered about 70-100 inhabitants) was gradually abandoned between about 1570 and 1610.

The process commenced<sup>7</sup> with an initial development in the 1570s of about 20 hectares of the land immediately south of the medieval settlement at Onley, as new sheep pastures (Rawdykes). This land, being low-lying, was (and still is) poorly drained, and unsuitable for tillage – so Richard Reve of Onley was granted permission to develop the land under a 21-year lease from Lord Zouche. A direct drove route from Barby down into these new pastures was created at the same time (along the line of modern Elkington Lane); contemporary property deeds for Barby record it in the early 1600s, and this C16th drove route is still preserved in the lines of Enclosure hedges (which indicates that the same route was still in use at Enclosure in 1778).

Large-scale clearance of the medieval oak/ash woodland on and around the hilltop probably commenced in the years of successive poor harvests in the mid-1590s – failed harvests and epidemic disease had led to diminished returns for landlords, and a sale of mature timber was a useful alternative source of income, albeit a one-off option. A large enclosure (Burndhill, 76 acres, 34 hectares) was cleared and enclosed from Barby Great Wood in the period 1585-1605. From documentary evidence, Burndhill did not exist in 1583, but was in existence by 1610.

(NB: Fieldwork evidence from the Barby Hill project indicates that during the period 1600-1780 the fields on the flat top of the hill – i.e. Fields 01, 02, 05 and 07 – underwent intermittent periods of open-field-style ploughing alternating with periods of pasturing, in what historians have dubbed 'up and down cultivation' – an alternating regime used for working relatively poor soils and periodically allowing the land to recover, prior to the C19th introduction of modern fertilisers. This in turn implies that this was part of the area 'Burndhill' that was cleared in the 1590s. It was evidently ploughing at this relatively late period that formed the shallow ridge and furrow still visible in Fields 05/07 and the plough headland referred to in section 2.1.1.)

The temporary repeal between 1594-98 of the laws prohibiting conversion of arable land into pasture also allowed Zouche and his lessee Isham to convert other areas of the Onley land to pasture at this time – Isham was convicted of illegal enclosure under the Inquisition on Depopulation of 1610 (which the government was forced to convene so as to appease major anti-enclosure rioting by thousands of armed villagers in 1607 at Hillmorton, Cotesbach and other local villages), but successfully managed to ignore the court's order to him to break up the enclosures and reconstitute the ploughland.

It was probably at this same period, 1590-1610, that the small stream through the Onley settlement was diverted to feed two large shallow new ponds that were excavated to provide watering for much larger flocks. In parallel with this, the mid-1590s were characterised by a succession of failed harvests – and these were followed in the early 1600s by virulent outbreaks of plague in the Rugby area; the settlement at Onley became untenable as a result of all these factors, and was finally abandoned between about 1595 and 1607.

Between about 1607 and the early 1700s, the newly enclosed pastures at Onley and the newly cleared land on Barby Hill was the base of a large sheep-logistics business. In essence, young animals were brought in from the north and east, reared and shorn

Interpretation of this period is based on the results of fieldwork and documentary research recorded in 'The Medieval Settlement at Onley, Northamptonshire', G.W. Hatton, 2005, augmented by ongoing fieldwork and documentary research as recorded in this present report

in the Onley pastures, and the fleeces were sent to the cloth-processing centre at Coventry while the beasts were driven further south towards the London markets.

An additional drove route into the Onley pastures was probably created at this time, from the east via what is now the east-aligned section of Onley Lane (a section of this drift road was defunct by the early 1800s, and was finally closed in 1879, see section 2.1.2 above). Outgoing routes from Onley led west to join the main highway at Dunchurch, and due south via Woolcote, crossing the modern A45 road at what was evidently then a busy crossing point, since an inn was established at the crossroads (the 'Old Swan', mentioned in a newspaper account of the 1800s), probably in the early to mid 1600s.

By the mid-1700s the sheep trade was in decline. By this time, the remaining woodland on Barby Hill was confined to a relatively small area of about 25-30 hectares at the western tip of the hill – and this was further reduced by felling in the immediate post-Napoleonic period, 1817-1819, see section 2.1.2 above.

The land at Barby and Onley was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1778.

#### 3.2 Medieval period

During the late medieval period, virtually the whole of Barby Hill was covered by mixed deciduous woodland, chiefly comprising oak and ash timber trees, and Barby's southeast open field was known as Woodfield. Documentary evidence indicates that the woodland was felled progressively over the period 1590-1820.

It is tempting to speculate that the woodland may have been deliberately planted as a post-Conquest seigneurial initiative, since it does not appear in the Domesday survey, and since a wood established in (say) the C12/13 period would be mature and ready for harvesting by the 1500s – but there is no direct documentary evidence to confirm this. There is documentary evidence, via wills, of woodsmen working in the woodland in the early 1500s; and the records of the lords Zouche (lords of Barby for most of this period) indicate careful attention to woodland management – amongst other honours, the Zouches were hereditary wardens of all royal forests south of the Trent.

There are clear signs of ridge and furrow up the southern slopes of Barby Hill – the south side of the hill would probably have been the best location for ploughland – suggesting that this area was probably cultivated throughout the medieval period.

The settlement at Onley (always administered as a sub-unit of Barby parish), is first mentioned in documents of 1272, and was progressively abandoned and converted to sheep pastures between about 1590 and 1610. Between these extreme dates there is documentary evidence of a modestly thriving community, which probably reached its peak in the period 1450-1550 with a population of about 80-100 individuals, clustered around a small stream and with about 390 hectares of territory ("13 virgates in villeinage" in 1272) of which the northern half was mainly ploughland and the lower lying southern half was probably mixed ploughland and pasture (the documentary evidence attests what was probably a two-field system, the north field being known as Shawfield). Poll tax records of the 1520s indicate about 13 families, probably living in about 14-15 relatively substantial tenements, and including a few labourers who were probably living alone in small huts. There appears to have been a small chapel, though it was not located in the centre of the settlement, and it may in fact have been a drovers' chapel, perhaps established when the settlement itself was already in decline.

The land at Onley, bordered as it was on one side by Barby parish and Barby Wood and constrained on the other sides by the Warwickshire/Northamptonshire border, was incapable of further development, and this effectively limited the population of the community to a level that could easily be displaced by adverse circumstances.

# 3.3 Roman period

As yet there is insufficient evidence to clarify this period of the history of the hilltop and its surroundings.

- Finds of about a dozen assorted coins and a brooch, in and near to Field 06, dating
  right through the Roman period (see details in the first Interim Report), together
  with some evidence of field-ditches cutting through roundhouse circles, suggest
  that the hilltop area may have been under cultivation during this period.
- The find of a cache of good-quality local pottery from the Roman period at the north-west side of the base of the hill (see this report, section 2.3.1) suggests the existence of a nearby Roman-period dwelling, possibly in continuous occupation for at least 200 years, but as yet other evidence for this dwelling has been elusive.
- There is evidence of what is probably a Roman period farm settlement at the Barby Pools site, about 700m due south of the top of Barby Hill. The Roman period metal finds on the hilltop may perhaps have originated from this site but it is unlikely that the cache of pottery can have originated from the Barby Pools site.
- Evidence from other nearby sites at Crick and Barby Nortoft, Borough Hill etc., tend to suggest that the Iron Age settlement on the top of Barby Hill may have been abandoned at an early stage during the Roman period and replaced by a cultivation system based on the Roman pattern of small rectangular fields.
- The original hilltop population may have been absorbed into the new arrangement, or may have migrated for example, closer to the line of the Watling Street with its increased opportunities for trade.
- Abandonment of the hilltop settlement at this time might also indicate the
  possibility of a transition period, during which a possible previous Iron Age route
  along King Street may have been gradually displaced in importance by the new
  Watling Street route.

#### 3.4 Iron Age

The earliest major occupation of the hilltop site may have been between about 200-250BC and the early Roman period, and to have comprised a settlement of probably somewhere between 12 and 25 roundhouses with a population level of roughly 70-200 individuals at any given time, together with their herds and flocks and livestock enclosures, some horses, a few hectares of managed timber and coppice (to provide hilltop windbreaks plus essential sources of construction materials and fuel), the associated animal pastures, and perhaps one or two hectares of land under tillage.

At present it is not clear whether this was a single large settlement or a smaller settlement that may have migrated around the hilltop from one location to another over an extended period.

However, there are some signs of what might be a logical overall pattern formed by the various different areas that have been mapped, with several clearly demarcated areas of apparently different function (eg a heavily settled main area; several lightly settled peripheral areas; some open spaces between these areas; and a central area dominated by livestock enclosures), and this tends to suggest that it may have been a single large settlement.

The basis for this summary statement is explained in greater detail in section 4 below, together with some initial speculations as to the possible function and purpose of the settlement.

#### 4. **Detailed discussion of the Iron Age settlement**

Interpretation and characterisation of the pre-Roman settlement on Barby Hill is dependent on many very different factors, most of which are as yet imperfectly and incompletely understood. The following comments contain a great deal of speculation, and are intended merely to provide a focus of possible ideas and serve as a basis for more detailed interpretation as work on the site continues.

#### 4.1 Estimates of roundhouse numbers as a guide to settlement size

Counting the numbers of individual roundhouse circles (including intersections where relevant) can be used as a coarse measure of the degree of occupancy of the site.

In the areas surveyed in Fields 01, 02, 04, 05 and 07 by BHAP, plus the small area previously surveyed in Field 16 by Cotswold Archaeology, it is possible to distinguish:

An estimated maximum<sup>8</sup> of approximately: 120 roundhouse circles An estimated minimum of approximately: 70 roundhouse circles

In addition, account should also be taken of the areas in Fields 01, 06 and 16, in which it is probable that C18/C19 deforestation followed by burning and deep ploughing has destroyed traces of earlier roundhouse settlement. Account must also be taken of the area in Field 05 where traces of earlier archaeology are obscured by an early-modern plough headland. The allowances for these areas are necessarily very approximate, but they can be based on the respective settlement densities observed in adjacent areas, to produce the following estimates:

•	Field 16:	maximum	25,	minimum	10
•	Field 06:	maximum	15,	minimum	7
•	Field 01:	maximum	15,	minimum	6
•	Field 05:	maximum	<u>15</u> ,	minimum	<u>7</u>
•	Total 'obscu	red' circles	70		30

These figures, added to the above basic totals for Fields 01, 02, 04, 05 and 07, result in the following overall estimates:

Maximum sum total of roundhouse circles: 190 Minimum sum total of roundhouse circles: 100

Given that a typical Late Iron Age roundhouse probably had a useful lifetime of at least 30-40 years if continuously occupied (based on experimental evidence from the Iron Age reconstruction research site at Butser), and applying this lifetime range to the above minimum and maximum numbers of roundhouse circles, results in the following totals for the settlement:

A maximum of 5700-7600 roundhouse-years A minimum of 3000-4000 roundhouse-years

The unknown factor is the length of time for which the hilltop was occupied. In terms of possible extremes, it may have been as little as about 150 years<sup>9</sup>, or as much as 500 years. Applying these extremes of possible duration to the above totals gives the following order-of-magnitude estimates for the possible size of the settlement:

Assuming occupation for a 500 year period, the average number of roundhouses at any given time would be:

Maximum 13-15 Minimum 6-8

The estimates of both maximum and minimum numbers were made by careful visual observation of the magnetometer traces. The maximum estimate allows for ALL possible circles including relatively faint traces, the minimum estimate allows only for traces that are clear and unambiguous.

This seems a reasonable figure for the minimum possible period, since the excavations by Cotswold Archaeology revealed 3 or 4 intersections of roundhouse circles, suggesting typically 3 or more phases of reconstruction on top of the original structure.

 Assuming occupation for a 150 year period, the average number of roundhouses at any given time would be:

Maximum 38-52 Minimum 20-27

Further assuming that an average roundhouse may typically have sheltered a family group of 6-10 persons, approximate population levels for the settlement would be:

Assuming 500 year settlement lifetime: 50-150 people at any time
 Assuming 150 year settlement lifetime: 120-500 people at any time

Based on what is currently known of the dating of other nearby Late Iron Age hilltop settlements, the most likely scenario is that the site was occupied for about 300 years, from about 200-250BC to the early Roman period. From the above calculations, this would imply an average settlement of somewhere between 12 and 25 roundhouses and a population level of 70-200 at any given time during that period, together with associated flocks and herds and livestock enclosures, a few horses, some managed woodland and coppice, plus a hectare or two of ploughed land and a much larger amount of pasture. One factor limiting the natural size of the settlement would have been the supply of water, and the above estimate of 70-200 individuals plus livestock seems reasonable for what could have been sustained by the various springs on the north and south faces of the hill, supplemented by the brook in the valley below.

### 4.2 Positioning and function of the Barby Hill settlement w.r.t. King Street

The specific location and arrangement of the Barby Hill settlement appears in several respects to be closely related to the alignment of 'King Street':

- The first and most obvious point is the close proximity of the settlement to the alignment of King Street as it ascends the hill and continues south-eastwards toward Borough Hill Daventry and Towcester.
- The main concentration of roundhouse circles is focused on the north crest of the hill, directly facing the alignment of King Street to the north-west of the hill. There seems to have been a deliberate attempt to make the settlement appear large and dominating, to anyone approaching the hill from the north-west along King Street.
- There appears to have been no such concern about the approach along King Street from the south-east the settlement is open to surprise attack from that direction, by contrast with the care taken to monitor the approach from the north-west.

A hilltop settlement at this point – and the evidence gathered so far suggests that this was a long-term settlement, but an undefended one – may have served several roles:

- A relatively secure location from which to control the surrounding territory
- A safe location in which to raise and manage livestock
- An excellent lookout point onto the territory to the north, west and south
- A possible advance lookout station for tribal groups based further east and south
- A possible trading post, and perhaps a border post, on a long-distance trade route

#### 4.3 Inter-tribal relationships

The Corieltauvi and Dobunni tribes were relatively long-established groups, who appear to have achieved a balanced co-existence prior to the Roman period, with a territorial border relatively close to the area of this settlement, and they had probably developed long-term mutual trading links.

By contrast, the Catuvellauni appear to have penetrated this area relatively late in the pre-Roman period, and this must have caused some disturbance of the previous established pattern. Recent scholarship has suggested that the Catuvellauni may have seen their own role as trading entrepreneurs:

- "The finds at the Sheepen site show that the Catuvellauni had developed an almost insatiable desire for Roman goods ...
  - "... The potential power that control of trade would bring may have been what brought the Catuvellauni to the Trinovantian capital in the first place, rather than a desire for territorial conquest which just happened to give them a lucrative spin-off by way of imports. By the first century AD they were importing a broader range of goods, and the spread of these items widened, covering a larger area. It may be that the Catuvellauni were entrepreneurs in trade themselves, since the Dobunni, further to the west, clearly liked the pottery that they made ..." <sup>10</sup>

Southern also comments on the possible subjection of the Dobunni to the Catuvellauni – and this too may be a relevant factor in interpreting the comments in Section 4.2 above about the purpose and function of this site.

A further factor, later on in the first century AD, would be the long-term effects of the Boudican rebellion and its suppression, and the forced disarming of the native tribes.

### 4.4 Location of pottery kilns in the Nene Valley, and at Mancetter

In discussing the possible relevance of long-distance pre-Roman trade routes to the location and function of this sites, account should also be taken of the comments made above in Section 2.3.3 with regard to the possible extended route of 'King Street'.

A suggested long-distance route of 'King Street' is shown in Fig.13. The Roman period pottery kiln sites at Mancetter are illustrated in Fig.24 below, and it will be noted that the line of the kilns extends very closely alongside the supposed route of 'King Street'.



Figure 24: Romano-British pottery kilns at Mancetter on Watling Street

This may of course be mere coincidence – or on the other hand it may be supportive evidence for the existence of King Street as a long-distance trade route before the arrival of the Roman legions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>0</sup> "Roman Britain: A New History 55BC-AD450", Patricia Southern 2011, p52

# 5. Proposals for ongoing work

#### **Priorities**

Clarify the extent of archaeology hidden by the headland in Field 05 Obtain further dating evidence from other areas of the site Continue plotting the extent of the settlement Examine the possible water sources

#### Detail

Profile survey in Field 05 to establish the post-medieval profile Further trial trenching in Field 02 to obtain dating evidence etc. Further trial trenching in Field 05 to obtain dating evidence etc. Eventual trial trenching in Field 07 Possible further magnetometry in Fields 02 and 05 to extend the survey

