PART 3

Field 13; SK 774 258 and Field 15; SK 773 262

Many pieces of Bronze Age flint and sandstone tools lie close to the broken-down estate wall which defines the northern boundary of this huge L-shaped field; further into the field the flint-work scatter is generally sparse although it yields simple arrowheads, a few scrapers and some large flint pieces which could have been used as digging tools. In the south-east corner, the land is rather damp and boggy but contains some well-worked flints including many arrowheads; the latter might suggest there had been a pond here in the ancient past which attracted hunters (also just over the hedge is the small Romano-British site in field 12).

Westwards, the field slopes down towards the edge of the Scalford brook's valley and along this edge-strip lie a small number of mainly Neolithic flints. Around the south-west corner at SK 772 256 is a sandstone (burial?)

scatter, and close by at SK 77195 25691 was a cluster of about a dozen pointed sandstone 'tools' interpretted as a cache of diggers possibly used in the burial preparation. Within the sandstone scatter itself, at SK 7723 2563, was a further pointed object, 11 cms long, made of slate-like material :-

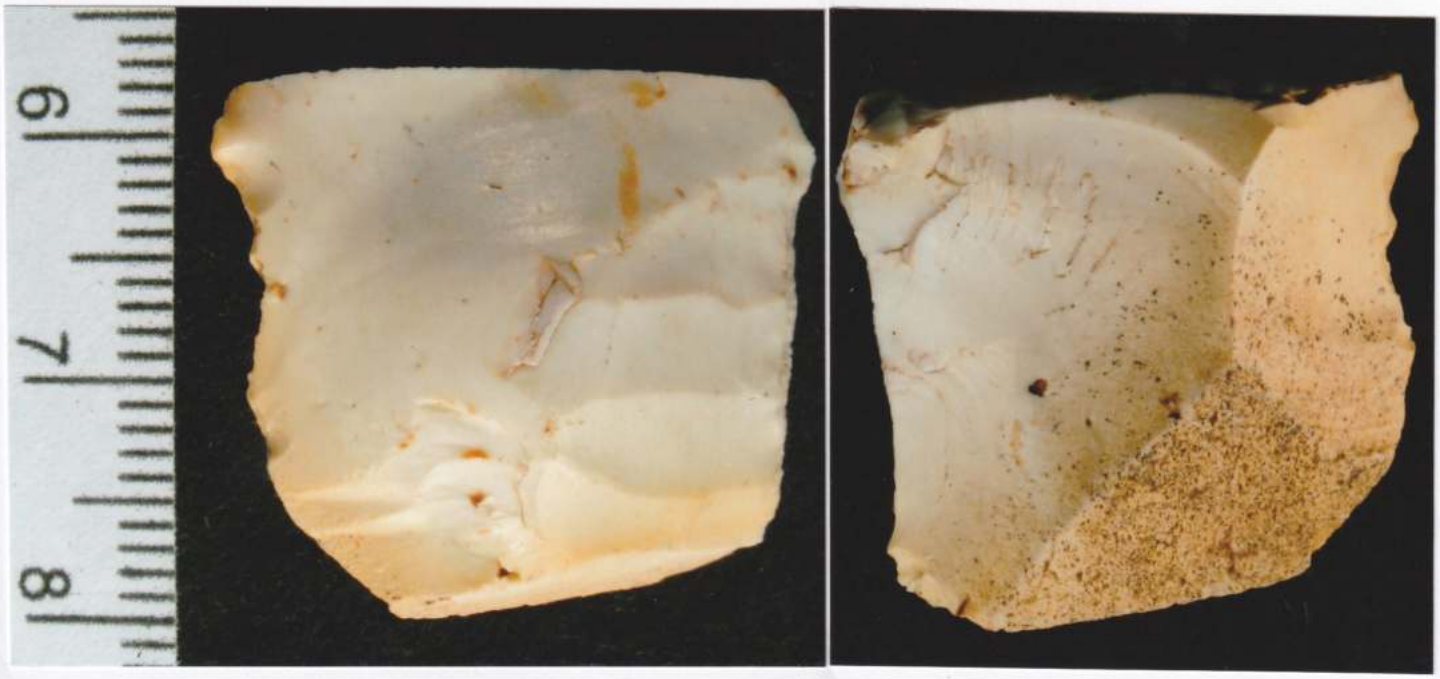
On the aerial photograph of field 13 is a feature (arrowed) which runs roughly north - south ; when viewed on the ground, the feature turns out to be a low, raised 'bank'. When hedges are removed from the landscape they sometimes leave similar lines on aerial photographs because the unploughed hedge-line is slightly higher than the rest of the field. Maps

from the late 1800's show many hedges in this area which are now missing — but no hedge was shown along the line of the photograph feature. This fact raises the possibility of the low 'bank' being an old road heading towards Goadby Hall Lake.

aerial photograph

Worked flints occur right up to the northern edge of Field 13 so it is frustrating that the adjacent fields on Goadby Hall Farm are in pasture, and are to remain so

according to the farm manager. However, a narrow strip of land, here labelled Field 15, has been opened up to plant pheasant forage and cover. As expected, there are worked flints present which probably date from the Bronze Age; no patinated tools were found.



SK 7715 2582

Field 14 (SK 772 259)

Aerial photographs taken in 1991 show this field had a well defined ridge-and-furrow system with a feature similar in shape to a bell barrow on the western boundary overlooking a deep valley :-

Looking west from the "barrow" site

The field has since been ploughed totally flat and was in pasture when I first searched for the barrow-like feature. Luckily the ridge-and-furrow system had been uniquely preserved as an alternating linear pattern of dense nettles (originally the furrows) and grass (originally the ridges). By counting the number of ridges and furrows on the aerial photograph and comparing them with their "fossilized" remains on the ground, it was possible to place the centre of the

"barrow" at SK 77113 25967. Although it is again in pasture, the field was ploughed and cropped in 2004 and 2005 so allowing the surface soil to be thoroughly searched around the burial site and in the field in general.

In December 2004, a superb barbed-and-tanged arrowhead was discovered lying on the surface at SK 7709 2595 within inches of a, then, newly erected wire fence used to define the field's western boundary more clearly for horse-riders. The arrowhead is in perfect condition; the shorter barb is not broken because its tip has been worked:-

1.9 inches long; rather big for an arrowhead

SK 7709 2595

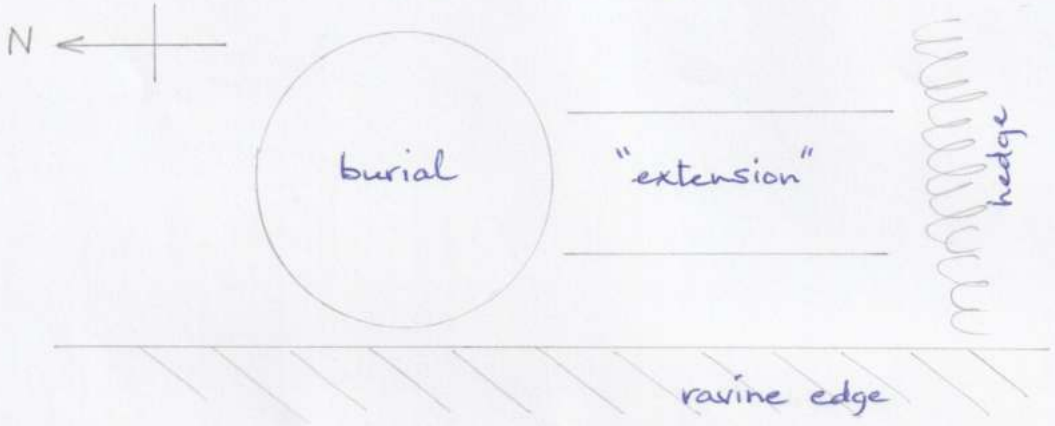
Whether this asymmetry was deliberate (to make the arrowhead an "unusable" grave offering) or whether the barb snapped during fabrication is unknown.

The Burial Site in Field 14

The first time I met John Woolley, who farms this field, he said it was about time that archaeologists took an interest in his land! He then took me to where he remembered the burial site to be (SK 7710 2596) overlooking the steep bank of the ravine. His description was of a very large circular mound and surrounding ditch all of which he had ploughed out only a few years ago. (Incidentally, John gave me permission to walk over all his land and to use a metal detector if I so wished. He said he had an old map of the area which showed it was possible to sail from Goadby Marwood to Melton Mowbray, and that there was a ford at the village of Scalford).

N.B. SK 7710 2596 → large scatter of big stones

FLAG - member Matthew Bradwell carried out a resistivity survey of the burial site which showed the expected circular shape but with a linear "extension" running south, parallel to the ravine edge.



After cultivating field 14 for a couple of seasons, Mr. Woolley put it down to pasture again in 2007. I walked over the burial area just as the grass was becoming established and found many sandstone lumps in a band three or four yards wide extending south from the burial site; presumably this sandstone scatter is closely connected with the linear feature

noted by Matthew in his GeoPhys survey. Although there are some well-worked flints along the ravine edge and top hereabouts there is no pottery to suggest any extensive historical activity — therefore we have to assume that this "southern extension" is of similar age to that of the burial.

View from the burial site looking west over the ravine towards the fields of Bellemere Farm

Non-flint "Tools" in Fields Around Scalford

Neither granite nor pale-coloured, shelly sandstone are natural components of Scalford soils and hence have been transported to the area by man. Rupert Birtwistle and Dr Ben Chan confirm that at least some of the granite peices bear clear signs of having been knapped. This suggests that sandstone and granite "tools" of very similar shapes were used by man even if natural forces were the agents responsible for forming those of sandstone (as has been suggested by some archaeologists; in which case they were picked up ready-made and taken to Scalford!). It further follows that all "shaped" sandstone, granite and local ironstone objects had their use (for whatever tasks) in prehistory.

There is a scatter of large sandstone lumps around the burial site some of which are part of a band of debris leading towards the south-west corner of the field. Within this burial debris are a considerable number of oddly-shaped, sandstone objects. Unlike the main debris which is in the form of jagged, amorphous lumps these latter objects have a smooth surface as though they were rubbed or ground into shape; some are quite tiny whilst the larger ones could have been used as digging implements. It is not clear what these shaped pieces represent and, interestingly, Dr Clay does not report finding any similar ones at his excavation of the Bronze Age burial on Piper Hole Farm. It was something of a surprise

five examples of the smaller shaped sandstone objects; actual size

to find several old iron nails when the area close to

the centre of the "burial" was searched using a metal detector.

The flint-work in field 14 is mainly Neolithic and early Bronze Age and includes cores, blades and scrapers; a few exceptions were some patinated blades (1½-2 inches long) around SK 7715 2590 possibly from the Late Upper Palaeolithic. An exciting find at SK 77223 25945 was a fragment of a ground and polished axe made from beautiful pinkish flint which has cream figuring like agate :-

SK 77223 25945

Such axes are thought to originate from Scandinavia. Several later visits to the find-spot failed to recover any further pieces of the axe.

The neck of a bellarmine (or greybeard) wine bottle. This one probably dates from the latter half of the 1600's and was found in field 14.

A large, rather crudely made borer or router found in field 14 at SK 7725 2599

Field 16 ; SK 766 269 .

The western boundary hedge of this field lies up against the Scalford - Eastwell road, almost opposite the entrance to Hill Farm. It is at this end of field 16 that one finds many curious flint objects which look like normal discarded cores except they have been quite badly battered in places; they range from the size of a hazel nut up to somewhat larger than a golf ball. The position of the battered areas, and the small size of several 'cores', seem to rule out the impact damage having arisen from the use of these flints as hammer stones: these objects were battered deliberately (?). Could these items have been damaged by cart-wheels ?!

The field immediately to the north shelves quite rapidly to form a huge hollow. Although worked flints lie at the edge of this field, the hollow itself contains only natural flint and pebbles. Is it possible the hollow was flooded in prehistoric times and that the battered

cores found in field 16 were used as sinkers for fishing nets and fishing lines?

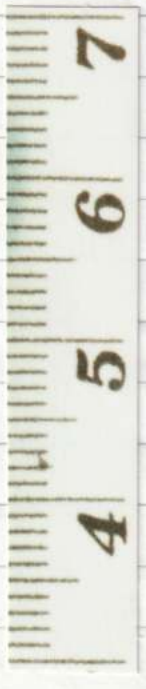
Pointed sandstone and flint "diggers" are present among the battered cores while further east, as the field slopes slightly towards the brook-valley, are a small number of scrapers, blades and cores. In the area where the downward slope begins is a largish scatter of sandstone debris perhaps representing the remains of a burial site.

Field 17; SK 764 273 and Field 18; SK 765 274

These two fields were checked to see if the unusual battered flint 'cores' found at the western end of field 16 were also present on the other side of the Scalford-to-Eastwell road: they weren't! In fact, flint material was rather thin on the ground considering both the nearby (excavated) Bronze Age burial site at SK 762 266 and the wealth of tools found in field 19.

During one search of the area, a piece of what appeared to be brown plastic was noticed propped up against a lump of soil: closer inspection showed it to be a very large scraper:

SK 7614 2748



Field 19 (SK 762 278)

The ironstone mining carried out in the northern half of this field around the end of the nineteenth century probably destroyed a considerable amount of stone-age archaeology because over 2000 flints have been found in the undisturbed southern end. Some of the blades and cores are heavily recorticated and probably date back to the early Mesolithic or Late Upper Palaeolithic.

In contrast, the large flint and sandstone digging tools which are spread over much of the unmined area are much younger and are assumed to belong to the Neolithic. At their working end these diggers are usually pointed, though the workmanship used to achieve this shape is often rather poor. Many of them seem fashioned to fit the hand comfortably and hence may have been used without any form of hafting. If handles were fitted, the tools could be secured at right-angles to the shaft to form an adze, or

fixed parallel to be the sharp ends of digging sticks.

brown stone
angle 77°

two diggers shown actual size

hard Sandstone
angle 77°

Well over 170 blade cores have been found of which 40 were either blue or white from recontication, and two had been re-used as hammer-stones; one of the latter was bruised at both ends. Some of the other hammer-stones can be very large, as with this example which weighs well over half a kilogram.

SK 7631
2797

actual size

Only a few of the 130 piercers/borers show signs of recortication, one being this example made from a primary flake:

The only fancy arrowhead so far found in this field is particularly interesting in being similar to the tanged one shown up in the body X-ray of 5000 year-old Ötzi, the Ice Man found trapped in an alpine glacier; it also seems to have been slightly damaged by fire. A number of nearby flints carry black, tarry deposits from a modern fire

so the fire-damage suffered by the arrowhead is also probably recent rather than ancient.

SK 762
278

The western edge of field 19 falls away sharply forming the escarpment of Belvoir Edge while the steeply-sided gully of Piper Hole protects the southern end making that part of the field a safe haven. The name "Piper Hole" is intriguing since it suggests a cave was once present, most unusual in this sandstone area; was the gully formed when the "cave"

roof collapsed? If so, it is just possible that deep excavation of the gully and its entrance onto the escarpment might reveal Lower or Middle Palaeolithic material.

A small, heavily recorticated flake from field 19

Field 20 (SK 775 269)

This field, which lies alongside the northern boundary of the Goadby Hall estate, has a wide and quite deep hollow cutting across its centre in an approximate north-south direction. Archaeology at the eastern end was destroyed by mining in the 1950's but, luckily, Robert Abbott summarized some of the Roman-British discoveries in the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society for 1956 (volume 32, p.17-35); in total, perhaps as many as 30 acres of the Roman occupation site were lost to mining. The large quantities of slag show that iron smelting and smithing were being carried out (from the second to the fourth centuries judging from the wealth of pottery mainly from the later period but which including earlier samian ware). In one of the eleven wells, revealed as the miners stripped back the surface, were two human skeletons; these lay head downwards suggesting they had been thrown in as some catastrophe overtook the community in the fourth

century. Three of the wells lay in the south-eastern corner of field 20.

Mr. Abbott makes no mention of any stone-age material being found during the mining operations. Undoubtably there would have been such material around because Neolithic flint-work exists in a narrow tract of land running alongside the footpath from Goadby Marwood to field 20 (the path is shown in orange on the map). This small area had not been dug up and serves to show just how much stone-age heritage has been tragically lost to mining.

How far into field 20 did the miners advance? Maps seem to show that they reached as far as the hollow but in September 2003 a group of seventeen grey tesserae were discovered before the hollow was reached, at SK 77799 26959, SK 77789 26960 and SK 77785 26952. The fact that these tesserae lie so

close together suggests that it is extremely unlikely they were deposited there accidently when the field was reconstituted after mining ceased. Therefore mining did not reach this spot — and a building with a mosaic floor must lie beneath the surface! Furthermore, as one enters field 20 at the south-east corner, Neolithic blades, scrapers and cores lie in a wide strip of soil alongside the Hall boundary hedge; presumably the miners did not dig here either although Robert Abbott's sketch shows two wells uncovered near by.

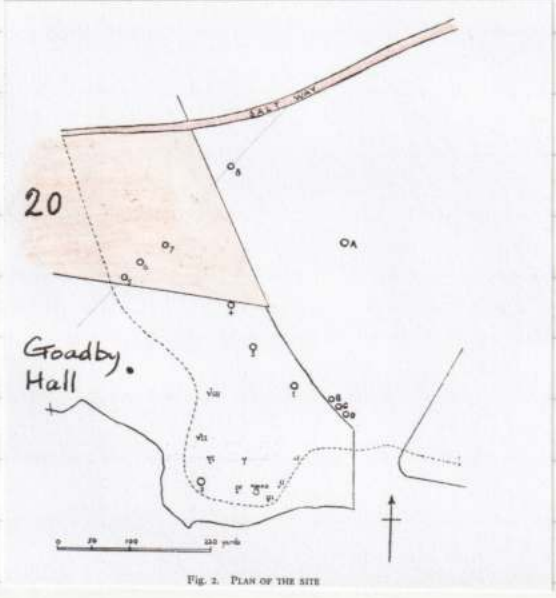
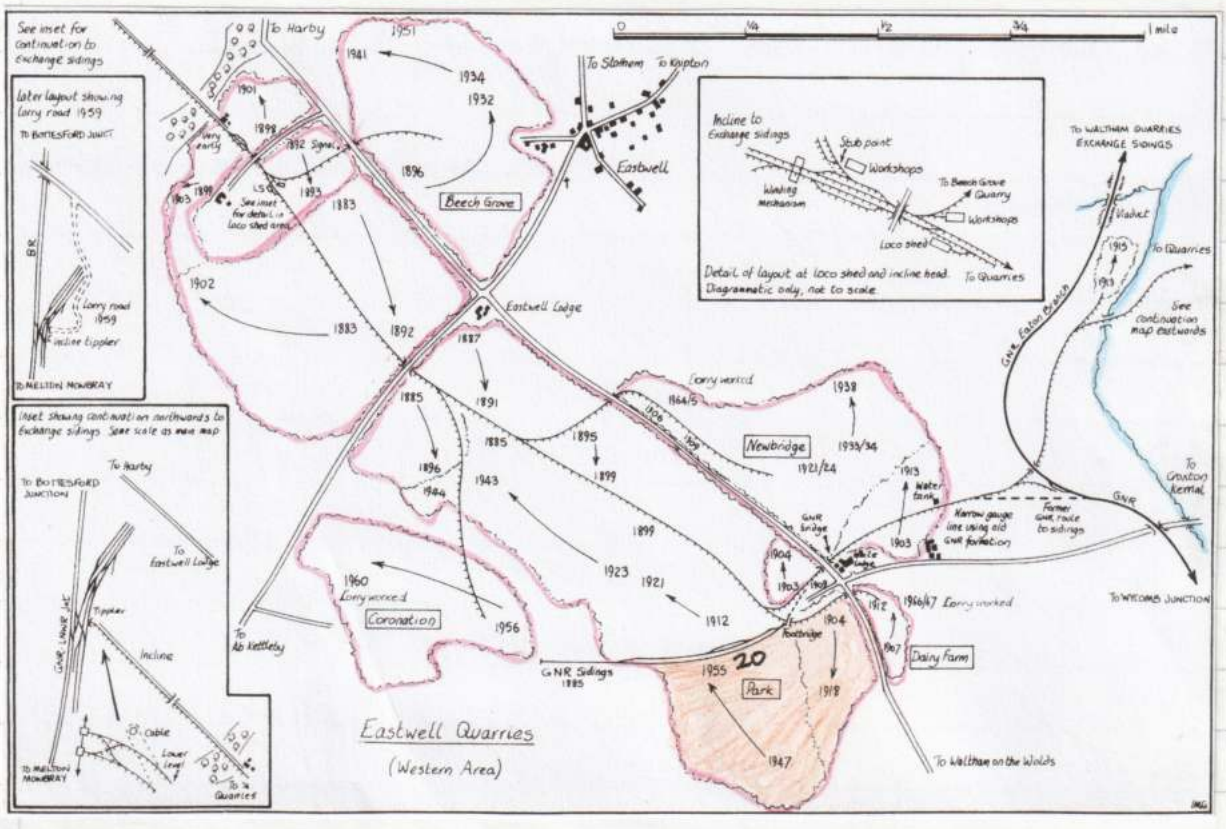


Fig. 2. Plan of the site

wells shown as circles; the dotted line gives the extent of mining; wells 5, 6, 7 and 8 lie on a straight line suggestive of a road leading to the Salt Way.

The amount of archaeological damage probably caused by ironstone mining in the Eastwell district can be

appreciated from Eric Tonks' map in his book "The ironstone quarries of the Midlands : Part IX ; Leicestershire" which is reproduced below. The mined areas are outlined in red with the operations around Goadby Marwood highlighted in orange. Field 20 is shown to have its northern edge defined by a railway siding, but a tumbledown shed is all that remains from that era. The siding itself lies on part of the Salt Way, an ancient trackway which joins Green Lane at White Lodge farm (see Robert Abbotts map on the previous page).



large

In field 20 opposite the siding-shed is a large amount of SK 775 270 sandstone debris. At first, this was thought to be connected with the railway workings but within the debris are a few worked flints and many pieces of sandstone which have been deliberately shaped into pointed "digging tools". Similar sandstone tools, and flint "diggers", are found in the rest of the field west of the hollow; along the top edge of the hollow is a further sandstone scatter, its prominent position by the Salt Way perhaps suggesting a ploughed-out burial mound. Clearly, much archaeology remains to be excavated in this field.

Michael Holmes, who owns the land, explained that the next field to the west (shaown in red on the main map overleaf) once had huge furrows in it which were twenty feet or more deep, making cultivation impossible; in the 1950's the miners were asked to fill in the furrows and the field is now pasture. Local folk-lore suggests

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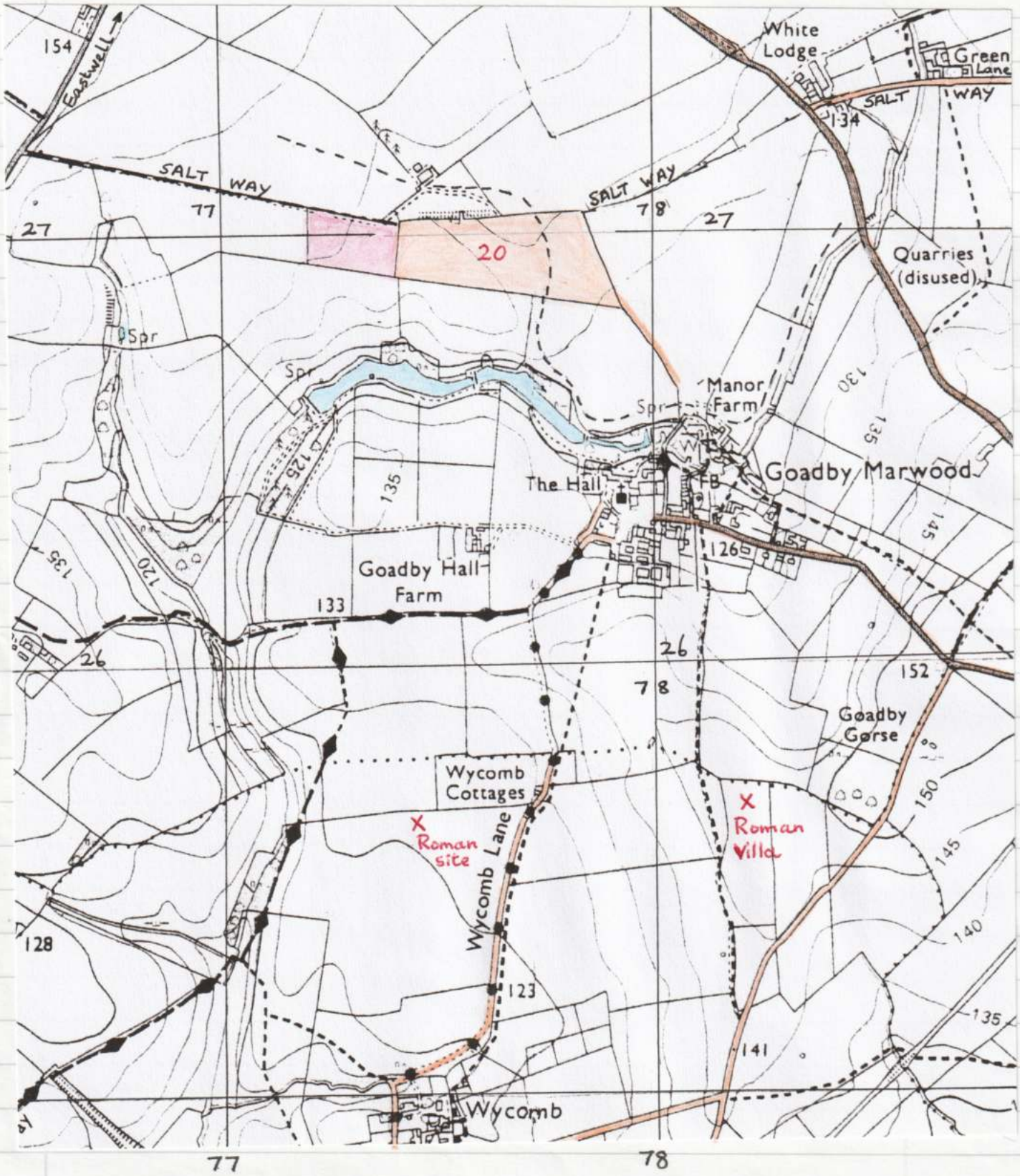


An unusual find was this fragment from a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead picked up close to the northern boundary of field 20:

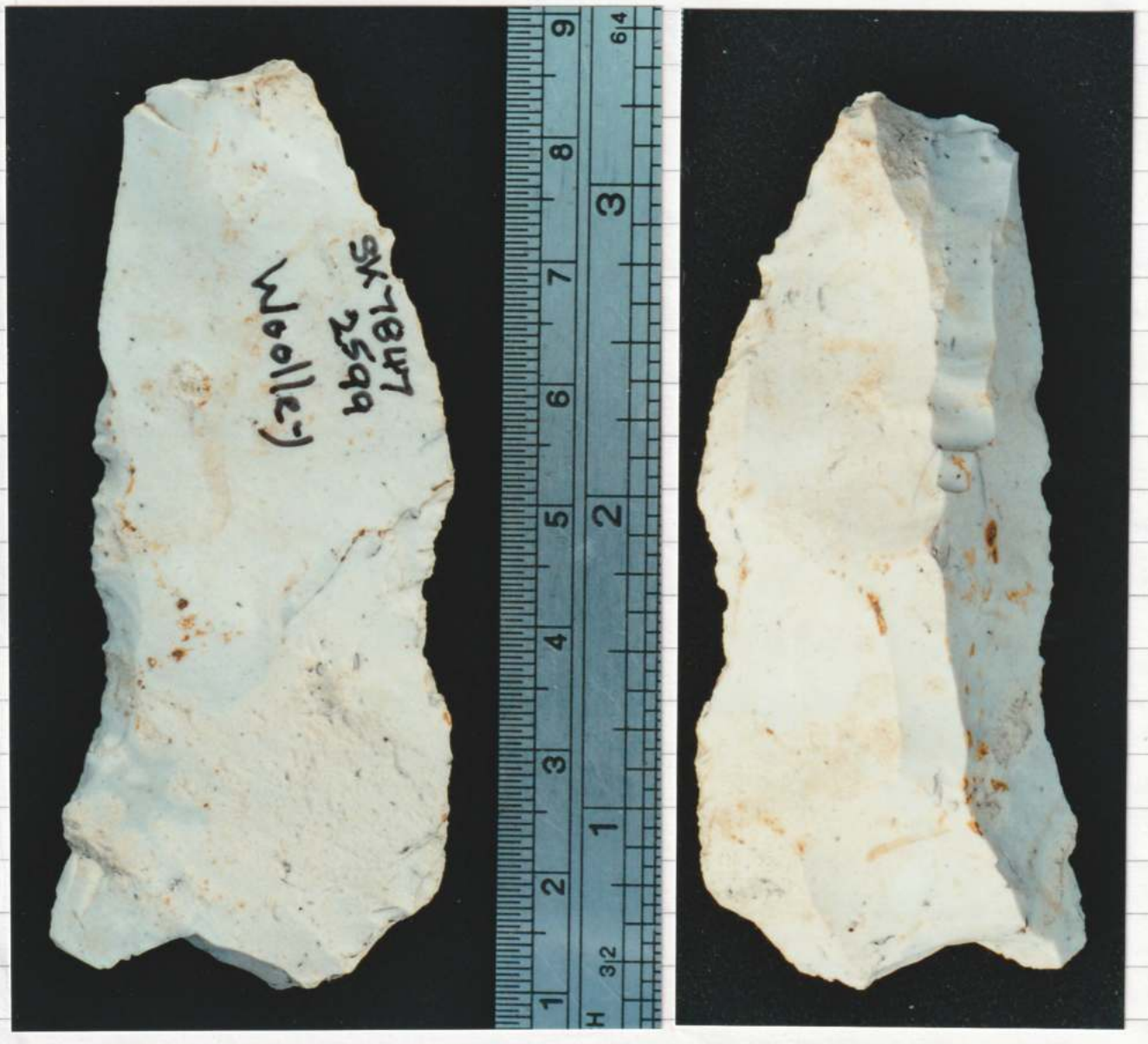
Five of these tiny barbed-and-tanged arrowheads have so far been found in the Vale and all are damaged, being in sharp contrast to the many simple arrowheads shown at the end of this Report which are intact. The find-spots of the five broken arrowheads are: SK 728 246; SK 7674 2513; SK 7721 2558; SK 7763 2702 and SK 814 246.

Field 21 (SK 785 260)

The main reason for searching this large field, which lies directly below the Goadby Gorse villa complex, was to check for the presence of Romano-British artefacts; most surprisingly, not even one potsherd was found.

The field slopes downwards from east to west and has a small pond lying on the 140 m contour near to the northern boundary which is fed from a spring further up the

incline. Rather little flint-work is present and only 31 pieces were collected, several being close to the 140 m contour. A broad blade, 7 cms long, and some corticated flakes with prominent bulbs of percussion may be rather old. The surrounding fields coloured brown on the map contained very little or no worked flint.



Field 23 (SK 777 246)

I was informed of this field by Kevin Shields who is a local field-walker. The northern boundary is defined by the bed of a dismantled ironstone rail-track which once led to the old Wycomb Junction. At the slightly elevated southern end is a substantial scatter of sandstone within which is Romano-British pottery, iron-smelting debris and lumps of metallic iron. Almost certainly, this material defines a "site" whose source of water may well have been the pond which is situated close by on the very edge of the field. (A dredging excavation of the pond's contents might yield votive objects from the Roman period).

Worked flints in the form of scrapers, cores and blades occur over most of the field with the highest density lying in a roughly north-south band across the middle; the largest core, of black flint, was found by Kevin and is about the size of a cricket ball.

A very large core of black flint found in Field 23 by Kevin Shields; about half size.

SK 777 246

When field 23 was walked in mid-May 2007 only the eastern half had been ploughed and planted with maize. The generous spaces left bare between the young plants allowed virtually the whole soil surface to be searched. Most of the struck and worked material was made from good quality dark flint quite unlike the usual pale flint-with-inclusions used in the Vale. The workmanship in general is rather poor and it was difficult to discern what some of the artefacts would have been used for. This fact, and the lack of blades,

suggests the field had been used mainly in the Bronze Age although Kevin Shields found a fine pecked and ground stone axe in the neighbouring field to the east. On this visit ninety-two flints were collected which included two piercers (see photographs), a couple of arrowheads, a scraper affected by fire at SK 7781 2470, and several broad-nosed 'borers'. One of the latter was unique in that an edge of the cortex left on the nose had bee worn quite smooth (see photographs) — presumably through use rather than by deliberate grinding. This is the only instance of such heavy wear I have seen on a borer; although the cortex of a pebble is softer than the underlying flint it is still a very tough material.

Kevin Shields' Axe.
129 mm long
SK 779 248

Field 20 (SK 775 269)

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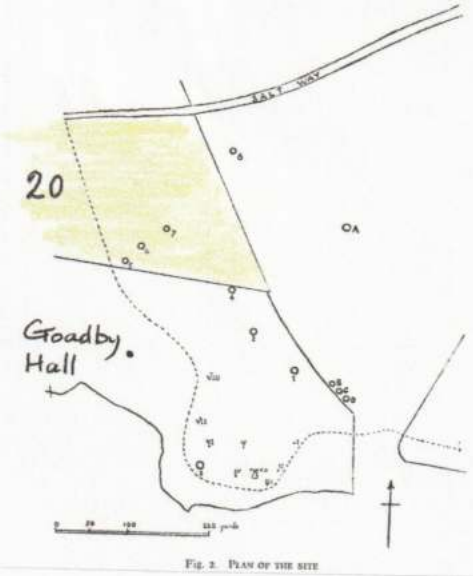

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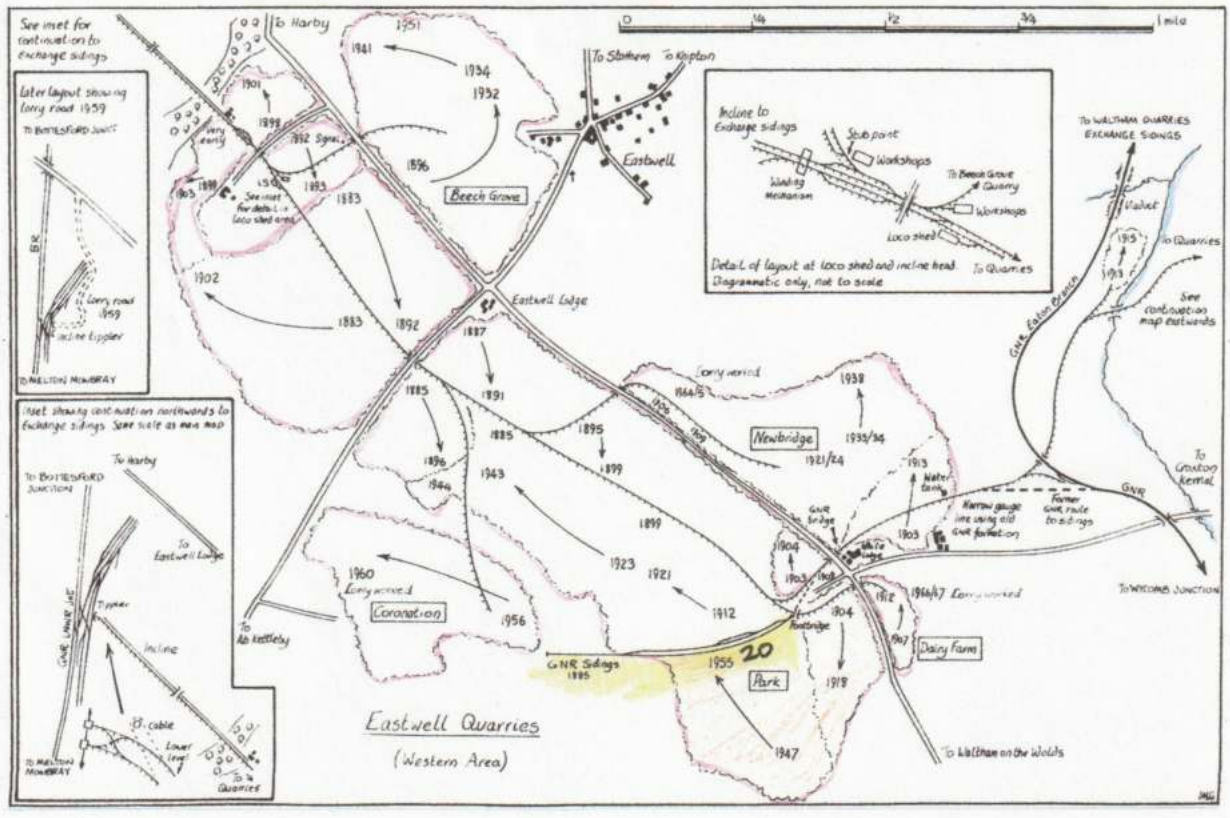

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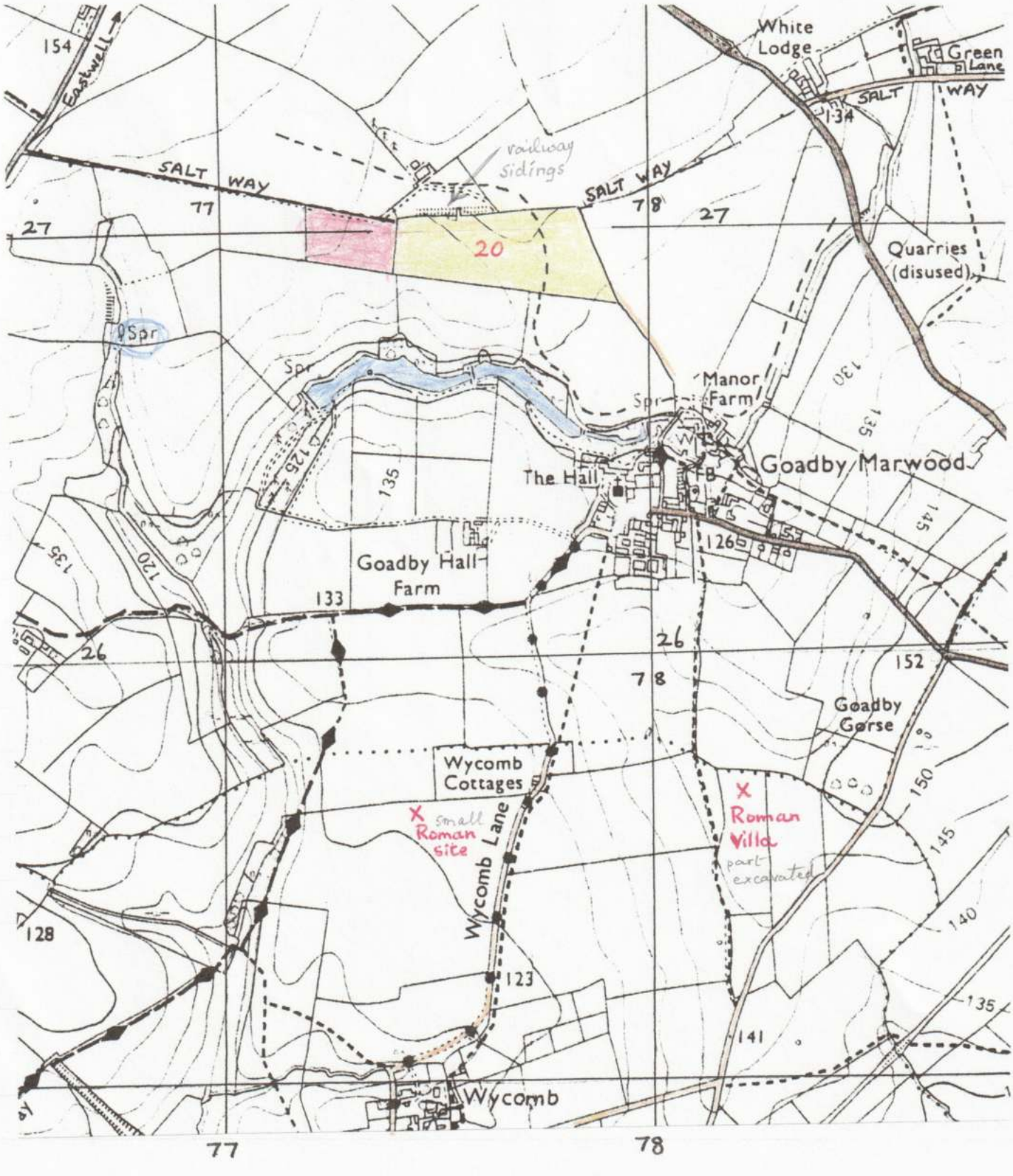


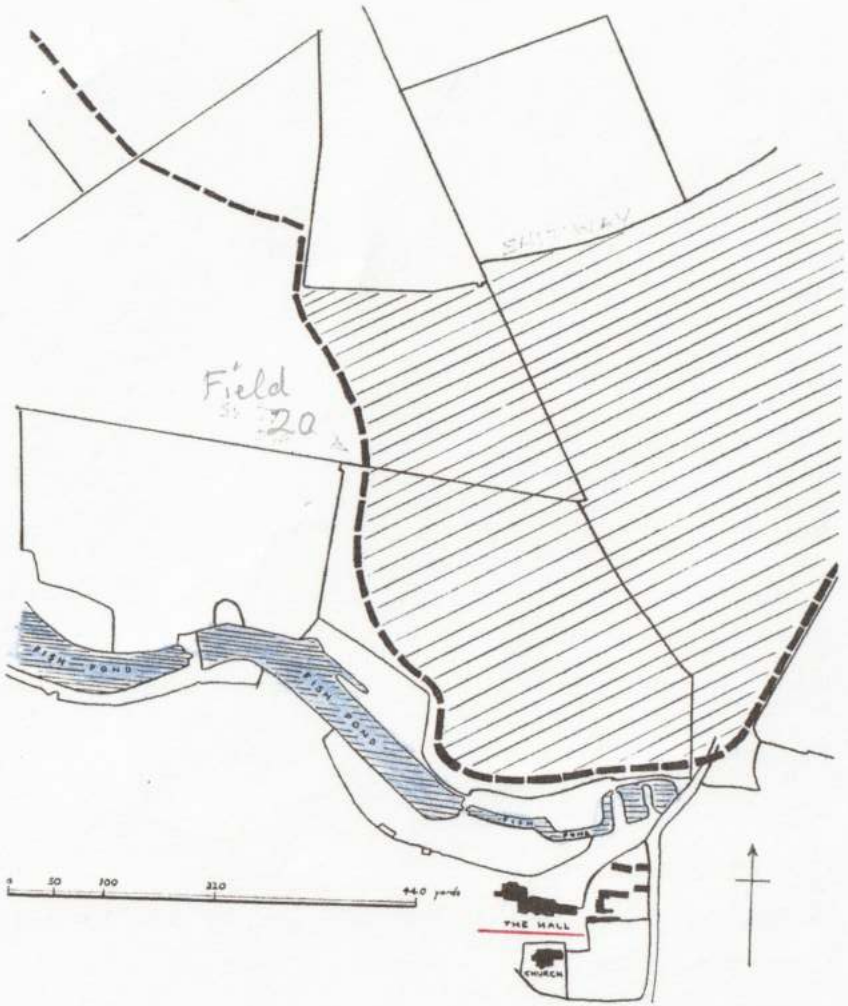


Fig. 1. Map of area showing the limit of the present ironstone quarrying indicated by a broken line and with the area which has produced Roman material shaded

away. These pits in almost every instance contained a layer of calcined stone and slag from the smelting of the ironstone. Two similar pits had been floored with roughly shaped slabs of limestone.

Structurally the most important features revealed were eleven wells sunk deep into the ironstone. Four of these (A, B, C, D on plan, Fig. 2) were found before the nature of the site was realised and were not examined, but the other seven ranged in depth from 9 ft. to 21 ft. With one exception these shafts were extremely well built, the upper 4-5 ft. being constructed

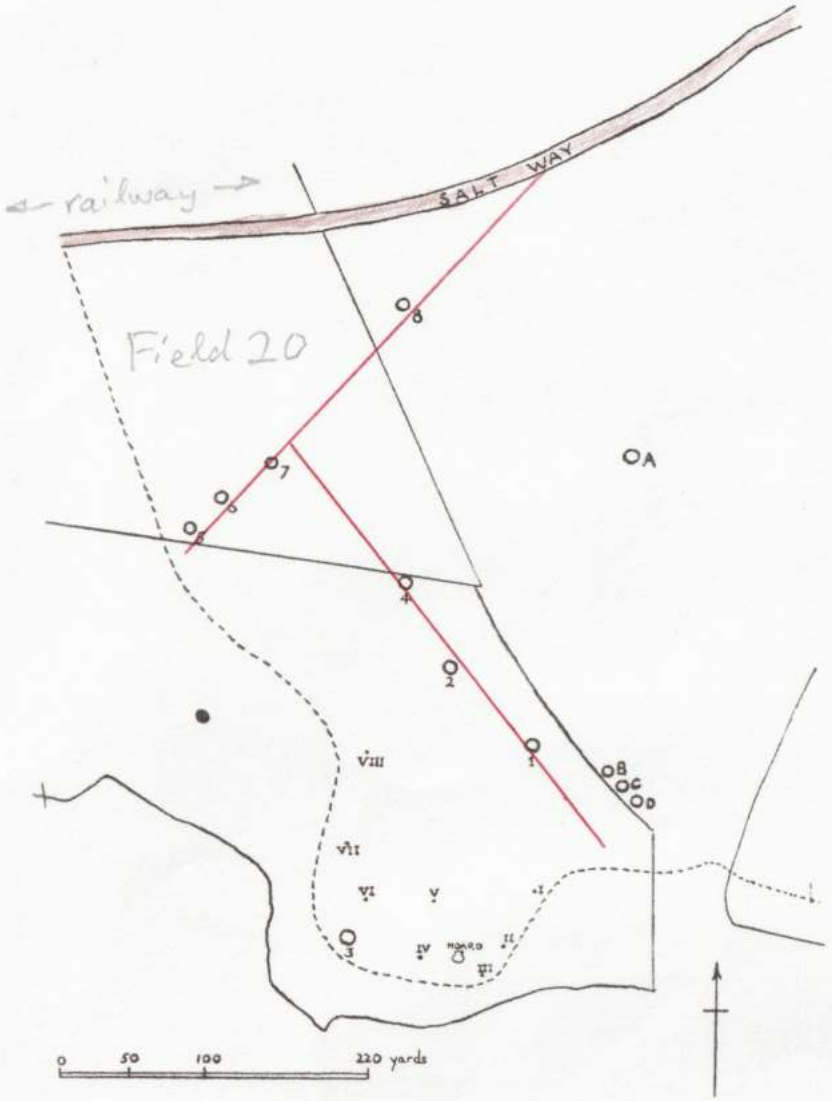


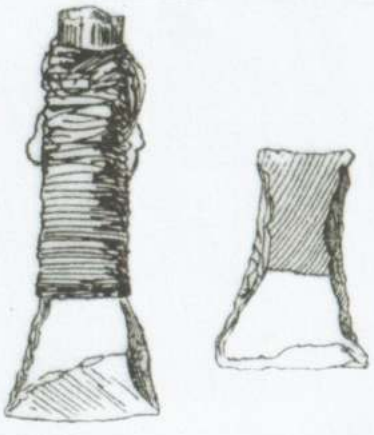
Fig. 2. PLAN OF THE SITE

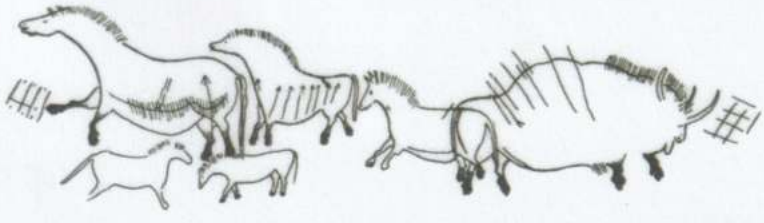
of carefully dressed blocks of limestone and ironstone to form a circular flue-shaped opening. Below this depth the sides belled out to form a vertical-sided chamber going down through the rock. The entrance to the shafts varied in diameter from 1 ft. 9 in. to 3 ft. 6 in. It is of interest that similar wells have been found at other Roman industrial sites in the East Midlands, notably at Winteringham, Lincs.,[4] where three were found within a very small area, and at Colsterworth, Lincs.,[5] where one was found close to the site of the Roman blast-furnace.[6]

Not all arrowheads had sharp points.

Some hunters liked to use arrowheads with a chisel-shape at the end; we now call these transverse arrowheads.

Archers hunting a herd of deer depicted in a rock picture at Valtorta in eastern Spain.





A group of wild horses and bison in the Lascaux Cave in southern France. The group is some 4.5 metres (15 feet) long.


SK7695 2547
SK7694 2556
SK7705 2561
SK7679 2557
SK7679 2559
SK7679 2554
SK7698 2540
SK7672 2564

Fire-damaged flints

SK			
1	7671/4	2514/2	Very crazed
2	7708	2568	traces of black "oil"
3	7683	2521	very crazed (small flint)
4	7671/4	2514/2	blue flake (not heated; see 1 above)
5	7673	2515	very crazed (tiny flint)
6	7760	2551	crazed
7	7720	2553	many cracks (possible fire)
8	7731	2550	very crazed; white patches
9	7757	2548	small blade, pink (no crazing)
10	7757	2548	very crazed
11	7727	2520	very crazed
12	7727	2520	pebble, damaged, tiny chips lost
13	7680	2505	crazed, badly damaged
14	7674	2497	very crazed
15	7674	2497	very crazed
16	7680	2505	crazed

Fire-damaged flints

SK			
17	7720	2539	flint turned pink (no crazing)
18	7696	2553	crazed; small pebble core
19	7697	2554	crazed; small blue core
20	7688	2512	crazed; small core
21	7712	2541	crazed
22	7747	2512	badly damaged; scraper?
23	7651	2512	sandstone, part red, sooty
24	7765	2464	cracked flint, turned red by heat
25	7738	2564	flint; "oil" on one corner
26	7689	2514	crazed flint
27	7689	2521	crazed flint
28	76884	25108	v. crazed flint
29	7692	2516	crazed
30	7687	2518	crazed
31	7696	2520	crazed
32	76821	25040	

Fire-damaged Flints

SK			
33	7694	2518	very crazed short blade