Witney Area Excavations

Late Iron Age Material from Ducklington

By R. A. Chambers

Three ditches and one pit were exposed in the drainage ditch on the northern side of the Ducklington bypass area, centre SP 35350772. These features were planned (Fig. 9), and several pieces of coarse pottery and animal bone fragments were found in the sections.14

F1 Ditch, E.-W., approx. 0.5 m. wide, 0.75 m. deep below topsoil surface. Cut by F1.

F2 Ditch, E.-W., 3 m. wide, deeper than 1 m. Dark, layered loamy soil fill with charcoal and ash. Cut by F1.

F3 Ditch, N.E.-S.W., 2 m. wide, 1 m. deep, trapezoidal cross-section. Dark, layered loamy soil fill with charcoal specks. Cut F4.

F4 Pit, over 3 m. diam., over 1 m. deep. Dark loam fill. Cut by F3.

The pottery came chiefly from F2 and F3, and included two rim fragments from Belgic-style necked bowls15 (below) accompanied by several coarsely calcite-gritted body sherds with two in a hard grey ware suggesting a late Belgic date.16

A single rim sherd of coarsely made pottery may belong to pre-Iron Age times. (Fig. 10)

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14 The site records and finds will be deposited at the Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. P.R.N. 10, 734.
16 Ibid., 121.
1 Hard, fine, orange/buff fabric with grey core, high rounded shoulder with slight cordon at base of neck.
2 Coarsely gritted, firm black fabric, slightly pimply inside surface, exterior smoothed by burnishing.