

Mitchell Field Nook Farm Dig

Day 1 19th October 2019

Trench 1



The group were invited to excavate an evaluation trench on a feature visible on LIDAR. The land where the trench was excavated is owned by Mr and Mrs Law of Mitchell Field Nook Farm, Stacksteads. The site was discovered by Kevin McDonald, who has been metal detecting in the area. He has also been studying LIDAR images. There seem to be several sites of interest in the area.



Looking towards Mitchell Field Nook Farm

The earthworks are visible on the ground as a platform and ditch on one side of the footpath, and a ditch in the field where excavation took place. The feature is divided by a footpath, which perhaps follows the route of an original roadway.



Footpath dividing the feature



Bank

Ditch

Ditch in excavated field

A 2m x 4m trench was opened over the area of the ditch. After removing the turf, the trench was trowelled. Having reviewed the trench, light mattocking was used. At the end of the day two areas were beginning to be visible – a more sandy context which could be interpreted as the edge of the bank, and a darker, looser soil which was interpreted as the ditch. At the end of the day, small pieces of chert (which is not natural to the area) was beginning to be found.

The trench and spoil were surveyed with a metal detector.



View of the trench with Whitegate Farm in the background



Removing the turf



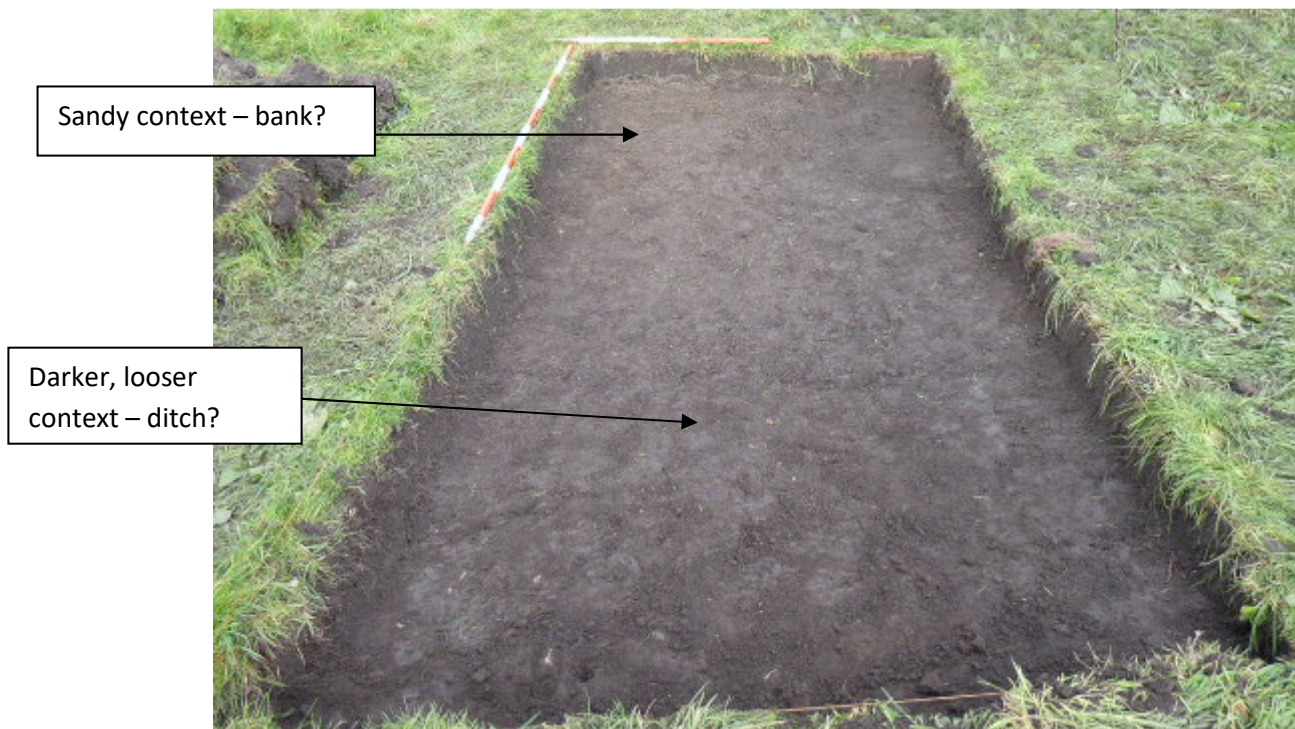
First trowel



Mattocking



Metal detector survey of trench



Trench 1 at end of day 1

Finds

Metal detecting finds from the East of the field



Worn coin – possibly 1880s halfpenny



Metal ring

Other finds



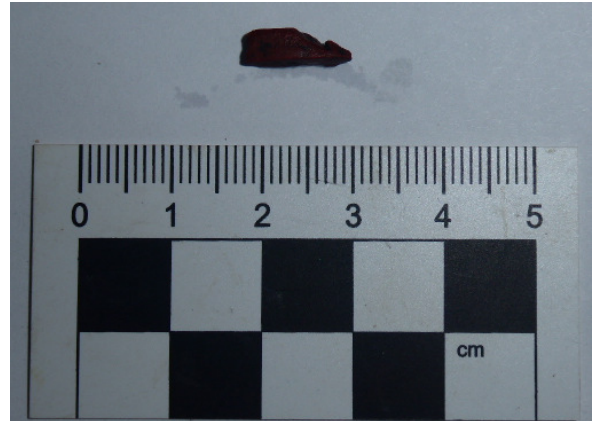
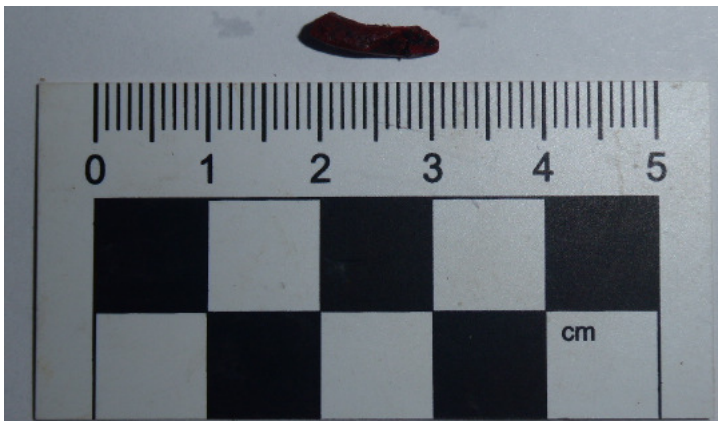
Cream glaze pot



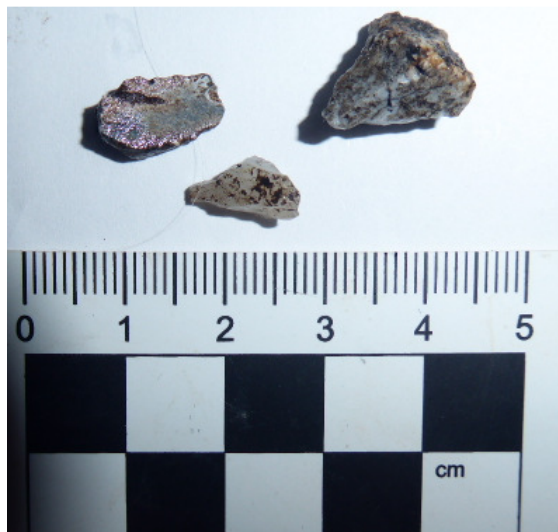
Bolt



Brick, plastic and transfer print pot



Small sherd of red pot



Flint and quartz fragments



Badly degraded bone found in East of trench at the top of the ditch context